

February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we continue our journey of improvement, I want to take a moment to reflect on the very real and positive changes taking place across our school.

When I speak to prospective parents or visitors, my standard response is simple: “Come and see for yourself.” I say this with confidence because what you will see is a school operating calmly and purposefully, with clear systems and routines that are consistently followed by our whole community.

Visitors who have known the school for some time frequently comment on the marked difference in the building. They speak about the warmth of the welcome they receive, the politeness of students who smile, say hello, or hold doors open, and the calm, purposeful atmosphere in lessons and corridors. That culture did not happen by chance. It has been built deliberately since we began this phase of improvement in September 2024.

There is still more to do, and we are not complacent. However, the direction of travel is very clear.

Attendance has improved significantly. This matters enormously. Attendance is not simply a statistic — it reflects a commitment from students and families that education is valued. It also tells us that students feel happier and more settled in school. When students attend regularly, they achieve more, build stronger friendships and develop a deeper sense of belonging.

With improved attendance has come a significant shift in behaviour. Positive behaviour is increasing, and poor behaviour has reduced notably. Suspensions have reduced substantially, and I am confident that both the improvements in attendance and the reductions in suspensions will be recognised as some of the most significant improvements seen nationally.

Locally, the change has been particularly striking. Within Knowsley, we have moved from being at the bottom of the attendance tables to now being one of the top two schools based on attendance measures. The same is true for suspensions. We have moved from being at the bottom locally to now being amongst the strongest performing schools. That progress reflects the collective efforts of staff, students and, crucially, families.

Young people will occasionally get things wrong — that is part of growing up. What matters is that good schools have clear systems to recognise positive behaviour and to address negative behaviour fairly and consistently. We have those systems in place, and they are embedded.

## OUR VISION

WE ARE COMMITTED TO NURTURING WELL-ROUNDED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ACADEMICALLY PREPARED, SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE, AND EQUIPPED WITH THE SKILLS TO THRIVE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD



Proud member of The

**Heath Family**  
Trust

## **Mobile Phones**

I would also like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the school's position on mobile phones. Mobile phones must not be seen or heard at any point during the school day. They should be switched off and kept in students' bags at all times while on the school site.

So far, I have resisted introducing a system where all students hand their phones in at the start of each day. Many schools have implemented this approach. However, I want to be clear that if phones continue to be seen or used, we may have to move to a stricter policy where devices are handed in daily and stored securely.

We ask for your full support with this. Please do not call or message your child during the school day. If there is an emergency, contact the school office and we will ensure any urgent message is passed on promptly. A common reason given by students when phones are confiscated is that they were responding to a message from home. Regardless of the reason, phone use during the school day is not permitted.

Phones must not be visible in the school building before school, during lessons, at break or lunch, or after school while still on site. Students may use their phones once they are fully clear of the school building and site at the end of the day.

This is about focus, safety and maintaining the calm environment we have worked hard to establish.

## **Attendance support.**

Some families have recently been invited to meet with Heads of Year where attendance remains a concern. These meetings are not about blame; they are about partnership. We want to work together to ensure every child attends school every day and benefits fully from what is on offer.

## **Uniform and equipment**

Every student in Years 7–10 has been issued with a whiteboard and pen. These are used daily in lessons as part of our assessment approach, allowing teachers to quickly check understanding and respond to misconceptions. It is essential that students bring their whiteboard, along with a suitable school bag and pencil case, every day. Being properly equipped signals readiness to learn and helps maintain the high standards we expect.

To sustain the improvements we are seeing, I ask for your continued support with uniform and equipment. All students must attend in full school uniform and bring a suitable bag that can carry an A4 folder, along with a pencil case containing pens and pencils. These expectations are not about appearance alone; they are about readiness, pride and belonging.

We have also invested heavily in improving the environment for our students. Our new library, opened in September, is already well used at break, lunch and after school. Reading

and quiet study are becoming a visible and valued part of school life. Alongside this, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities (listed below), giving students further opportunities to develop interests, friendships and confidence beyond the classroom.

We are proud of how far the school has come. The culture continues to strengthen. With your ongoing support, we will continue to improve and ensure every child benefits from a school that is calm, ambitious and welcoming.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr M. Reynolds**  
**Principal**

**Key Dates:**

Last Day of Term: Friday 13 February 2026 3.05pm

Return: Monday 23 February, normal time

Year 9 Parents & Options Evening: Thursday 26 February 2026, 4-6pm

Year 9 Immunisations AB/Men (1<sup>st</sup> session): Tuesday 10 March 2026

Year 10 Parents Evening: Thursday 12 March 2026, 4-6pm

Year 11 Mock Exams: Monday 2 March to Friday 13 March 2026

Year 11 Parents Revision Information evening Tuesday 19 March 2026, 4pm

Year 9 Immunisations AB/Men (2<sup>nd</sup> session): Tuesday 24 March 2026

**Please take a look at this Term's NEWSLETTER:**

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/PTBXYeuYfoE1raMF?ref=Link>