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Headteacher Mrs Rachel Kelly BA (Hons)

Dear Parents and Carers 3 September 2026

I wanted to take the opportunity before the beginning of the new school year to introduce myself as the Raising Standard Lead for Year 11. I am very much looking forward to working with the students and guiding them through the final year of their secondary education.

The new year is a time for all students to focus on having positive outcomes at the end of their journey through secondary school. During year 11 we have the huge events of mock exams, colleague and sixth form applications and finally, the GCSE exams themselves. As such it is really important that students make a positive start to the year with high attendance, maximum effort and being organised and punctual in order to give themselves the highest possible chance of success.

I also wanted to issue a reminder that all students must ensure that if they bring a mobile phone into school, their mobile devices and other smart technology e.g. Apple watches etc. are turned off and placed directly in their locker before attending tutor time. On Thursday 3 September, students who have not yet been provided with their locker key should go straight to tutor time and they will be given their key then. Here is a link to the letter Mrs Kelly sent last term:

Mobile_Phones_Smart_Devices__Student_Lockers_-_Letter_from_Headteacher_July_2026.pdf

Finally, I would also like to share some key dates below for this year for your diary:

Tuesday 15 September: Dreams2Reality Evening 5:30pm in the main hall

This follows up on assemblies and student workshops which have taken place during the day. The session is run by an independent speaker and focuses on supporting students in developing good habits through year 11

Thursday 24 September: Post 16 Options Evening 5:00-7:00pm in the main hall and heartspace

There will be a brief speech in the main hall on supporting Year 11 students through their GCSEs. Following this there will be the opportunity to meet representatives from local sixth form and colleges to allow students to ask questions about their post 16 options

Thursday 14 January: Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Evening 4:00-7:00pm

Thursday 24 June: Prom at AFC Sudbury (TBC)

Thursday 19 August: GCSE Results Day 9:00am

Please also note that mock exams will run from approximately the last week of November to the middle of December. Dates will be confirmed closer to the time, but it is important that students attend these exams and have full attendance. We are aware that college interviews often take place around this time and we fully understand that these cannot be avoided. Therefore, for those students, we will arrange catch up exams wherever possible.

Yours faithfully

Mr Sims
Raising Standards Leader for Year 11