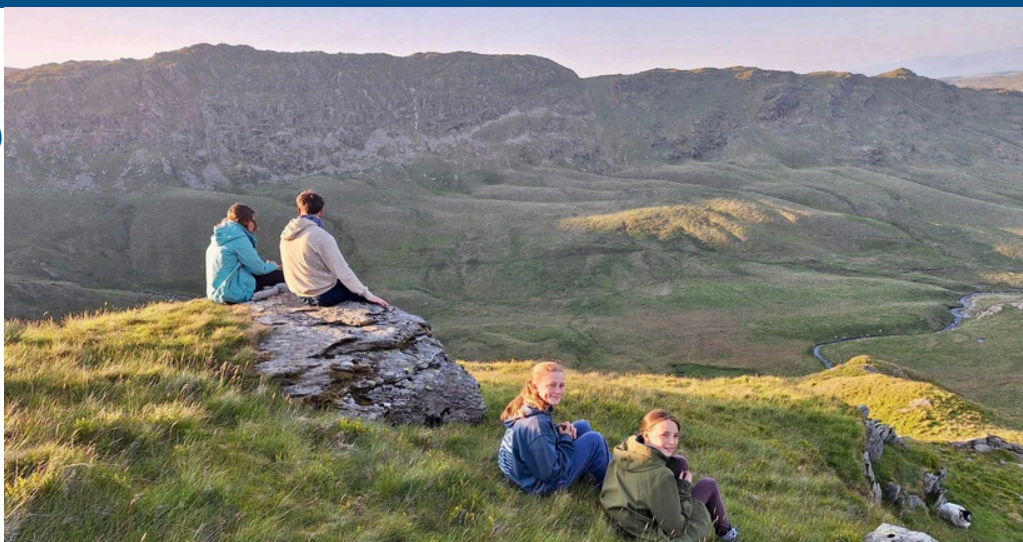


HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM WEEK 7,
13TH JUNE, 2025



Dear Parents

I write to you today with the sun beaming through the window of my Study as another busy week draws to a close. With our Year 7 and Year 4 pupils having been out last week on their respective residential trips, it has been the turn of Year 8 to spend the week away from school as they have enjoyed the beauty (and challenge) of the Lake District. This is a stand out milestone in the Year 8 Town Close experience when they undertake a range of brilliant activities including caving, ghyll climbing, waterfall walks, canoeing and an overnight wild camping trip on Harter Fell. An incredible adventure to experience together and a fitting celebration of their time at Town Close and all they have achieved and learnt. A huge thank you to all of the staff who accompanied them. For our Year 8 pupils it marks the start of their transition on to pastures new and I look forward to sharing their hard-earned Common Entrance results with them when they return this afternoon. They are a truly fantastic year group and whilst we still get to enjoy their company for a few more weeks they will leave behind big shoes for the current Year 7 pupils to fill next year – a challenge that I am sure that they are more than up for. To help support our Year 7 pupils to become the pupil leaders that we know they will be, we welcomed Mike Crossley, an ILM Level 7 executive coach and mentor and qualified Senior Mental Health Lead, to host a 'Wellbeing Ambassadors' workshop with our Year 7 pupils. With over 30 years experience working in Prep Schools at the highest level, Mike is an experienced educationalist as well as an MHFA Youth Instructor, thus perfectly placed to help our pupils understand and recognise the signs and symptoms of poor mental health and to discuss possible coping strategies for themselves and others. We want to empower our Year 7 pupils with the training, guidance and support to be 'Wellbeing Ambassadors', appreciating the importance of the essential life skills of 'listening' and 'supporting' each other and their younger, less experienced peers. All of the children were incredibly interested to learn more about the subject and participated in the group activities with enthusiasm and maturity. We have also commenced with our process to elect Year 7 pupils into positions of responsibility for next year and I have been hugely impressed by their enthusiasm for this.

One of the highlights of the week has been peaking out of my window to see pupils practising for upcoming Sports Day events and I am very much looking forward to Pre Prep Sports Days next week – fingers crossed that the weather is like this week. Continuing on a sporting theme, it was great to see success at the East Area Athletics meet in Bedford at the end of the week; Huge congratulations to Coco S for her incredible throws in the shot put, deservedly winning her the gold medal and a place in the National Finals. There were also top ten finishes for Isla S in the long jump, Theo F in the high jump and Archie G in the 1500m - well done to everyone who represented the School. Our swimmers who qualified for the National IAPS Swimming Finals at the London Aquatics Centre also put in a great performance with the Year 8 boys: James M, Hayden C, Patrikas G and Riccardo DM qualifying for U13 boy's 4x25m IM relay and besting their entry time to finish fifth in their heat and twelfth for their age group. Patrikas G (U13) and Year 7 pupil, Daniel M (U12) qualified for the boys 50m backstroke. Daniel M finished seventh in his prelim heat qualifying for the finals, beating his entry time and achieving a personal best. Patrikas G, also, had an excellent race, improving his national age group ranking from sixteenth to fifteenth overall. Meanwhile, Riccardo DM qualified from prelims to finals for the boys U13 50m freestyle. With very little recovery time, he was able to sustain his national ranking of 10th place and his sub-thirty second personal best in his age group final. Daniel M then re-swam the 50m backstroke in what was an incredibly tight final race. All ten finalists finished within 1.90 seconds of each other with only 0.80 seconds between Daniel M in seventh and second place. Not only was Daniel M able to sustain his ranking of seventh place nationally, he was able to deliver a second personal best of the day. All those who took part should be exceptionally proud for managing themselves so maturely and calmly throughout the event, as well as looking after one another poolside, demonstrating great support and team spirit, encapsulating the Town Close Way.

It was great to see our Nursery pupils learning all about snails including Mrs Alexandre's own giant African snails and also harvesting their own produce in the Nursery garden including lettuce, broad beans, tomatoes, carrots and radishes. Also, whilst I type, our Year 7's are currently enjoying a walking tour of our fine city, visiting various sites linked to their geography and history curriculum including the Norwich Market, Blackfriars, Norwich Cathedral, the old hospital, Dragon Hall Norwich, Norwich Lanes, Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery, the historic city walls and Goldsmith Street.

Next week there is lots to look forward to including our pupils finding out their new classes for next year on Tuesday and the Year 6 production of the Tempest later in the week, which I am sure will bring a fitting end to a fantastic year of exceptional school productions.

I hope that you enjoy a sunny weekend.

