

15 May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: 'External reviews, inclusion, and exam readiness – a busy term!' (May 2026)

The summer term is always a busy and purposeful one in schools, so I am pleased to share some of the continuing developments, alongside updates on our focus on improvement and excellence for all.

A key priority for me remains strengthening our links with other schools and the wider educational community. This half term, we have continued to welcome senior leaders from other settings to review our work and provide an external perspective. These visits are invaluable in helping us refine our practice and ensure that we remain outward-facing, reflective and ambitious.

As part of this work, we commissioned an external review of reading. This highlighted a number of strengths, including the clear and highly structured approach to reading in the primary phase, where provision is both purposeful and carefully sequenced. It was also very encouraging to see that students across both primary and secondary phases demonstrate genuine enthusiasm for reading, with personal reading evident in classrooms and shared spaces. Strong practice was noted in a range of subjects at Key Stage 3, alongside effective strategies to support vocabulary development, inference and analytical thinking. The review also identified helpful next steps, including extending opportunities for reading across the secondary environment, developing further opportunities for reading aloud and strengthening targeted support for those students who need it most. These insights will directly inform our whole-school reading strategy so that reading is at the heart of learning and enjoyment.

I am also pleased to say that we had another external review of SEND provision this term. This represents an important milestone in our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every student, regardless of need, is supported to thrive. I would like to thank our staff, students and families for their contributions to this process. Actions will follow from this review that we will share at a later date once received.

What a pleasure and privilege it was to welcome back Tony Downing, the founding Principal of CCS, this term! His visit gave an opportunity to reflect on how far the school has come since it started. Tony commented on the strong sense of community and the emphasis on wellbeing that now underpins school life. He noted the collaborative learning taking place across classrooms, the positive and respectful relationships between staff and students, and the vibrant learning environments. He also reflected on the way our environment and culture emphasise community, opportunity and participation, rather than simply compliance. His overall impression was of a 'school that has grown and matured, while staying true to its core values: valuing young people, prioritising wellbeing and encouraging engagement'. This was both affirming and inspiring for us as a staff team.

Finally, it is important I recognise the excellent attitudes shown by students in Years 6, 11 and 13 as they began their external examinations. They have approached this important period with maturity, focus and determination. I am so humbled by the way they are conducting themselves and the resilience they are demonstrating. I wish them every success over the coming weeks and know they will do themselves proud.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Bishop
Principal

