

8 July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: 'Thank you!' (July 2026)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support, trust and partnership you have shown throughout the year. Schools are strongest when families and staff work together in the interests of young people, and I am grateful for the role you have played in helping us move forward as a community.

This year has been one of growth, reflection and development. Together, we have continued to strengthen the foundations of our school, ensuring that the improvements we make are not only effective today but sustainable for the future. We have refined key aspects of our work, particularly around behaviour systems, teaching and learning, and the consistency of students' day-to-day experiences. These changes are often incremental rather than dramatic and will take time to embed and see their full impact, but they are important steps in building a school where every child can thrive.

Alongside our educational priorities, we have also worked hard to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the school. Schools across the country continue to face significant financial pressures, and it is increasingly important that we are careful stewards of the resources entrusted to us. Our focus has been on making thoughtful decisions that protect the quality of education and opportunities available to students, while ensuring that the school remains well-placed to invest in its future. Financial sustainability is not simply about balancing budgets; it is about creating the stability and capacity necessary to continue improving outcomes for young people year after year.

As I reflect on the past twelve months, it is the students who stand out most vividly. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know so many of the remarkable young people who make up our community, from our youngest learners at four years old through to our oldest students preparing for life beyond school at eighteen. They are a constant source of delight, energy and inspiration. Their curiosity, character, humour and resilience remind me every day why our work matters.

As important as academic progress and school improvement are, schools are also about creating memories, broadening horizons and providing opportunities beyond the classroom. This year has been rich with experiences that have brought our community together and enriched students' lives. From educational visits and residential trips to performances, sporting events, competitions and celebrations, our students have embraced opportunities with enthusiasm and maturity. Events such as the inaugural CCSFest showcasing the creativity, talent and spirit that make our school community so special, while the many trips and enrichment activities throughout the year have helped students develop confidence, independence and a deeper understanding of the world around them. These moments matter because they often become the experiences that students remember long after they leave school, helping them develop not only academically, but as well-rounded young people.

On a personal level, I can honestly say this is the best job I have ever had. Like everyone working in education, there are days when the pace and complexity of the role can seem relentless. At times, it can feel as though there is always another initiative, another demand or another priority competing for attention. Mission creep is certainly a reality within modern education. More than ever, we must remain focused on the main thing: providing the very best education for our students and ensuring every decision we make improves their chances of success.

What has sustained me throughout the year has been the professionalism, dedication and genuine joy of our staff. They care deeply about the children and young people they serve, and having worked in a number of schools, most in senior leadership capacity over 25 years, I have found their commitment to be extraordinary. One of the sounds I value most when walking around the school is laughter in corridors and classrooms. Schools should be places of ambition, challenge and high expectations, but they should also be places where young people and adults enjoy being together. Hearing laughter is often a sign of strong relationships, a sense of belonging and a healthy culture.

As a parent myself, with children in both Year 6 and Year 11, I understand the mixture of excitement, challenge, anticipation and, occasionally, anxiety that different stages of education can bring. Whether your child is beginning their school journey, moving into a new phase of education or preparing for examinations and future destinations, I appreciate how important these moments are for families. It has been a privilege to share many of those milestones alongside you this year.

I have also greatly enjoyed visiting schools and meeting colleagues from across Northamptonshire. Those conversations have reinforced my belief that schools achieve more when they collaborate than when they compete. By sharing ideas, learning from one another and working together, we can create better opportunities for all children and young people across our county.

Looking ahead, our next phase of development will be shaped by a clear commitment to 'Belonging and Inclusion'. During 2026/27, we will focus on ensuring that every child and young person feels known, valued, seen and understood in our community. We want all students to experience a profound sense of belonging, regardless of their background, need, ability or starting point. We believe that when young people feel they belong, they are more confident, more engaged and more likely to flourish academically, socially and emotionally.

While there is still much work ahead, I am pleased with what we have achieved together this year and optimistic about the journey still to come. The foundations are becoming stronger, our direction is clear, and our ambition for students remains as high as ever.

Thank you once again for your continued support. It is a privilege to serve this community and to work alongside such wonderful students, families and colleagues.

I wish you and your family a restful, safe and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Bishop
Principal



(PS. Please accept my apologies that this is longer than the usual one-page letter... I wanted to express my gratitude properly!)