



17 April 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share several important updates for the year ahead and for the new academic year 2026/27. These include recent guidance from the Department of Education regarding Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship, information on the new PE uniform options for 2026–27, and the school holiday dates for the next academic year.

1. Department of Education Circular – Withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship

The Department of Education has recently issued updated guidance confirming that parents may request for their child to be withdrawn from RE and/or Collective Worship. This may be a full withdrawal from all RE teaching, or withdrawal only during specific topics or lessons.

It is important to note the following:

- If a pupil is withdrawn, **no alternative teaching, tutoring, or work provision** will be offered in place of RE.
- Pupils who are withdrawn will be **supervised in a designated space**.
- During this time, pupils may complete homework/coursework or **engage in quiet reading**.
- In order for us to plan appropriate supervision and staffing, we require parents to indicate their preference for the coming academic year.

Here is a link to all of the topics which are undertaken in years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12;

[RE Curriculum Years 8 -12](#)

Those pupils who select RE as a GCSE subject cannot withdraw from specific units within the course as this would result in them failing their GCSE course.

Please complete the form at the link below to confirm whether you wish your child to be withdrawn from any or all aspects of RE teaching and / or Collective Worship:

[Form to withdraw from RE/Collective Worship](#)

Your cooperation will help us ensure appropriate supervision arrangements are in place.

2. PE Uniform Update for Academic Year 2026–27

Following a parent survey and discussions with pupil focus groups, the College has sourced a new PE kit provider which will be available through our usual retail outlets.

To reassure families:

- **There is no expectation to replace the current PE kit immediately.**
- There is **no set timeframe** for phasing out the existing kit; pupils may continue wearing it for as long as needed.
- Multiple purchase options will be available to suit different budgets:
 - **Branded Nendrum PE kit** supplied by Macron
 - **Unbranded Macron kit** (same quality, without the school logo)
 - **Economy PE-kit options** from a chain supplier without branding or logos

Compulsory Items Only

To simplify requirements, the only compulsory items from 2026–27 onwards will be:

- **Boys:** Plain black shorts/track bottoms & plain green T-shirt
- **Girls:** Can choose between either plain black leggings, plain black tracksuit bottoms, or plain black shorts & plain green T-shirt

Additional optional items will be listed on the link provided for those who wish to purchase them.

Current PE Kit:

If your child continues wearing the existing PE kit, the **white PE top may still be used**; there is no need to replace it.

Quarter-Zip Option:

A new quarter-zip top will also be available. Pupils will be permitted to wear this **during winter months under their blazer**.

Full details and ordering options are available here (click on link): [New PE Kit Options 2026-27](#)

3. School Holidays – 2026/27 Academic Year

The school holiday schedule for the next academic year has now been finalised. You can access the full list of dates here: [Term Dates 2026/27](#)

Please review these dates carefully when planning family commitments.

If you have any questions about any of the information above, please do not hesitate to contact the College office. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



A Walker
Principal