



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the festive season approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the past year and extend our warmest wishes to you all. This is a year where we have achieved so much as a community – from mock examinations, to fundraising, our successful Careers Fair, school trips, sporting success and everything in the middle – we have grown together. At staff briefing on Monday, I shared a quote from Virginia Woolf that summarises how we all play our role in shaping the young people around us *“What is the meaning of life? The great revelation perhaps never did come. Instead, there were little daily miracles, illuminations, matches struck unexpectedly in the dark; here was one.”*

School culture

Jo Harper, CEO of ALET, visited Theale Green School in December. She undertook lesson observations, met with staff and students, as well as observing at social interactions at lunch time. Ms Harper confirmed that she saw that “the school is making good progress against the priorities identified in the Academy Improvement Plan. The commitment of staff and the positive culture are evident throughout the school.” This is important feedback for me to share with you. Back in November, as part of our cycle for school improvement, we welcomed senior leaders from the Cambrian Trust to review the culture within our school. They undertook a similar programme to Ms Harper, highlighting the following key strengths:

- Staff and pupils clearly have built positive and respectful relationships.
- Students are well mannered, demonstrated by doors being held open for adults.
- Students acknowledge the improvements that have been made in the school.

As part of our commitment to continually strive to make our students’ school experience the best it can be, I was recently part of an external school improvement team for a school within the Cambrian Trust.

Christmas fun

Alongside maintaining high standards within the classroom, I have been delighted to see staff and students alike engaging in Christmas festivities over the last couple of weeks. [Congratulations](#) to Erin Farley for winning our Christmas Card competition; we have used Erin’s design to share with our community. Our Sixth Form team have led on fund raising for Reading Family Aid as well as supporting with the Holy Trinity Church’s food drive – thank you for your contributions to these important initiatives that support local organisations. I have loved seeing students getting involved in the fun and joy of Christmas, and we have run a series of Christmas activities ranging from the Theale Green School Bake Off (with our very own celebrity judge!), to the festive pet competition, featuring my own dog. Equally we were amazed by how many students received tokens from their teachers for Respect, and we have enjoyed distributing these prizes in lessons. I know students are looking forward to seeing staff in the pantomime on the final day.



Parent Partnership

I was pleased to meet with the Parent Partnership Group earlier this term. This is the group of volunteers who will continue to meet with me on a termly basis providing feedback on their window in to school life. There was a strong sense of synergy to the group, and the feedback we have received has helped shape further next steps for us as a school. All parents, unprompted, could articulate the improvements that have been seen over the last three years which in turn I have been able to feed back to our staff. We have hugely appreciated the positive feedback from parents in relation to the assessment revision resources they have received ahead of the upcoming assessments. I would urge you to come and see these improvements for yourself, please do look for dates of the Parent Coffee Mornings in the New Year.

Student Leadership

I have been very proud to see our student leadership opportunities multiply over the last two years. In addition to prefects in year 11, and Student Ambassadors in years 7 & 8, we have recently appointed our year 10 students to the roles of Prefects and Senior Student Ambassadors. These students will work with senior staff, including me, to shape the school experience that they have as well as younger students. It was a very proud moment taking their photo outside reception, feeling the support from students of each other, but also knowing how proud our staff are of their achievements.

I met with the School Council earlier this term and was pleased to hear their plans for the Sustainability component of our Academy Improvement Plan. More on this in due course.

Attendance

Thank you to parents for supporting your children to have good school attendance as we understand the strong link between strong attendance and good outcomes. Year 7 are leading the way with outstanding attendance that is significantly better than national average. In spite of the headlines we have seen regarding seasonal flu and some schools having to close, at Theale Green School we have actually seen significant improvements in attendance in the run up to Christmas.

Staffing

For 2026 we have some changes to our staffing. I am pleased to share that Ms Allwood has returned this week following her maternity leave, further strengthening the English team.

- Sandra Eaton - Office Manager is retiring after 21 years of service to our school. Many of you will have come to know Sandra well through parents' evenings and other events – we know we will continue to see Sandra in some form in 2026 and beyond. Ms Hadrill is excited to be taking on the role of Office Manager from January onwards.
- Mrs Downing will be moving from reception and is joining the Pastoral Leadership Team as a Student Engagement Manager. We are delighted that Ms Lagden will be joining our school in January as our new receptionist.
- We have two further appointments with Mrs Craddock joining the school as a Learning Mentor, and Mr Wise joining as ELSA and Positive Engagement Manager.

We say goodbye to Ms Kidd and Ms Ferrier who are leaving Theale Green School following many years of service. They go with our very best wishes and I am sure we will be in touch. Mr Tatum will be taking over as Head of Year 9 from January onwards and we have communicated that with those parents.



Our community

It is an impossible task to summarise all the different ways our students support our community both within the school gates and beyond. However, I recently received a wonderful message which I think best sums up the spirit of our community.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to a group of Theale Green sixth formers who recently came to the aid of my elderly father who was stranded near Sainsbury's. He had taken a bus but when he came to make his way home, he discovered the buses had been cancelled. Without any means of contacting home and family, he told me that a group of Theale Green sixth formers took pity on him and called a taxi for him to get home. How kind!

Please could the situation be used as a great example of community spirit and a memorable random act of kindness, which meant a lot to my father and the whole family.

Finally, I saw this thoughtful challenge for the Christmas period to promote positive mental health – we have many beautiful open spaces right on our doorstep, it might be worth exploring: <https://www.bbowt.org.uk/news/unwrap-wildlife-trusts-winter-challenge-and-let-nature-bring-you-joy>

The Christmas season is a time for celebration, reflection, and spending quality time with loved ones. I hope that you have a joyful and restful holiday period, filled with laughter and cherished moments. There is a strong sense of community spirit both within and outside the school gates – thank you for the support you have given, it is hugely important.

As we look forward to 2026, I am excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead and confident that, together, we will continue to achieve great things.

Warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Badarelli
Headteacher

