

12 February 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

This term, our community has focused on the attribute of Resilience. Despite the cold and very wet weather, both staff and students have demonstrated this in abundance—although we are all certainly ready for the half-term break!

Throughout the term we have been focusing on further improving and raising standards as we build up to the formal examination period for years 11 and 13, now only eight teaching weeks away. When I, and other staff, visit lessons we consistently see high standards in action, and see students fully immersed in their learning. This term we also introduced “Fun Fridays,” which have brought enjoyable moments into the school week.

In education we frequently get caught in our own bubbles of school culture; it is always reassuring to visit other local secondary schools and see that the standards we strive for are not only comparable but, in many cases, areas of our practice at Theale Green School are even stronger.

#### Extra-curricular offer

I was so impressed with our school production, *Les Misérables*. If you are aware of the West End production or film, it is an incredibly technical production requiring multiple high-quality solo performances. Most schools would not attempt to embrace such a challenging production, but Mr Lambert and Mrs Coombes knew better and the performance was breath-taking. From the high-quality singing to the dramatization, set production, musical production, the entire performance was of the highest quality. As always it was wonderful to see such a cross-section of students represented on the stage, whilst also having a lot of fun. Bravo to everyone involved – many memories were created through the process.

There have been significant sporting successes across the term with our Sports Leaders supporting our Primary School events. Equally we have had success across all year groups for both genders across a variety of sports this term; I always enjoy supporting from the sidelines. Last Friday we had some of our year 10 girls involved in the “FA Girls Go Coach” & FA Girls Go Referee courses which may lead to some exciting career prospects.

Our very successful Duke of Edinburgh programme is now in full flow for years 9 – 11. Staff love seeing the teamwork, discipline, and enthusiasm students show as they develop new skills, volunteer in the community, and prepare for their expeditions. As our students say: “Get involved—it gives you the chance to try something new and make good friends.”

#### Personal Development

We recently had an external review of our Personal Development programme undertaken by ALET Trust colleagues. The review offered an opportunity to get under the bonnet of our wider curriculum, including RSHE, and explored the opportunities available to students beyond the traditional academic curriculum. As part of the process Trust colleagues were able to speak to students from all year groups, as well as staff.



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#### Schools

- The Bicester School
  - Theale Green School
  - UTC Heathrow
  - UTC Oxfordshire
  - UTC Reading
  - UTC Swindon
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The feedback from the report was very strong saying “the school has established a strong and inclusive culture, underpinned by clear values, consistently positive relationships and high expectations. Pupils demonstrate respect for one another and for staff, which contributes to a calm, orderly environment where pupils feel safe, valued and supported.” The extra-curricular opportunities previously mentioned formed a core strength of our school and should rightly be celebrated. Students were able to identify that the RSHE curriculum helps them feel ready for the “real world”, and that the careers support enables them to be well informed for their next steps. I am really pleased with this strong validation of our wider curriculum offer, and excited for our students how it supports them as they continue their education journey.

### **Mobile phones**

In January, the House of Lords backed a legal ban on the use of smartphones by pupils during the school day. We all know that time away from screens is a good step for children to avoid the distractions of social media. At Theale Green School, our approach is simple - mobile phones should be switched off and at the bottom of school bags from 8:30 until 3:15 (or when students leave school site). The vast majority of our students comply with this rule seamlessly, and they tell staff that they value a strong level of trust school staff show them to make the correct choices. If a student chooses not to comply with our school rule, and is seen using their mobile phone during the school day, then after half term we are going to be increasing the level of sanction to ensure our community is protected.

As a helpful reminder of our approach towards mobile phone usage within the school day.

- Years 7 – 9 - students do not use mobile phones at all during lesson time. Our SSAT staff training has shown us that there are better assessment methods that do not require mobile phones.
- Years 10 and 11 - revision opportunities may arise whereby students are directed by their teachers to use apps such as GCSE Pod. However, this is used sparingly and only when it clearly supports learning.
- Sixth Form – most lessons mobile phones are not used, but there may be a research requirement or revision opportunity that may require these.

### **Unifrog**

Over recent years students have explored using the [Unifrog careers platform](#) to build their CV, find apprenticeships, take online courses, and explore career options. I am pleased to share that parents also have access to Unifrog by registering through the email the school has for you, allowing you to view your child’s progress and use a ‘dummy student account’ to see the same tools and courses. We encourage you to explore the platform, and the careers team is available if you have any questions - [careers@thealegreen.wberks.sch.uk](mailto:careers@thealegreen.wberks.sch.uk).

### **Parent Kind**

At the start of January, we were delighted to be awarded the Parent-Friendly School status from the charity Parent Kind. This accreditation marks the hard work we have undertaken to act as a Listening School, and to continually act on feedback to improve the school experience for our students. We have continued to hold our termly Coffee Mornings and families who attend these have appreciated the open channels of communication. Feedback from our most recent event was around the rich GCSE offer available to our students and the clear focus on raising standards. In many cases parents who attend these have children at other schools and have not experienced this open approach; please do look out for new dates in term 4 and come along to see the school and our students in action.

### **Term 4**

As we look ahead to the five-week term after our break we will be looking to further strengthen our leadership opportunities, by appointing our new Year 7 Student Ambassadors. I have been really impressed by how our



student leaders have effected change both for their year groups and for younger years with Prefects & Senior Student Ambassadors working with the Heads of Year to shape the experience for their year group and leave a legacy for future students. In term 4 we have lots of fun events including Pensioner's Tea Party, Year 7 Awards evening our Primary Headteachers' afternoon tea where year 7 will have the opportunity to meet their old teachers and share stories about life at secondary school. We look ahead to transition with Open Mornings for year 6, and new student buddies who will be working with year 6 to support them through the transition process; if any TGS parents would be interested in meeting new parents, we would be interested in hearing from you.

Our School Council have been invited to attend a Youth Panel working in conjunction with Reading Buses to ensure their views are heard. This will involve our students working alongside from students from Leighton Park with the intention to improve users' experience, with a focus on sustainability. I look forward to seeing where this might head to and how our students are able to effect change on behalf of their community.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support. We know our greatest strengths are our students and you, their families, and we are grateful for the feedback we receive from the Parent survey and Parent's Evenings – has shown the overwhelming support and trust you have in our school. Every Child Matters.

Yours sincerely

Charlotte Badarello  
Headteacher

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