



19th June 2026

A very warm welcome to our school community

It has been a week full of energy across the school, not least sparked by the World Cup and spurred on by England's victory over Croatia. It has been wonderful to hear students talking passionately about matches, players, and, importantly, the countries involved - with many students sharing their own connections to different countries in this competition. I have really enjoyed conversing with our young people and discussing performances, players but most importantly, the spirit of togetherness that these events can bring. The value of this event includes promoting curiosity about different cultures and creating shared moments of excitement. These conversations, often unplanned, have been a real privilege to have with our students and staff and I look forward to many more over the coming weeks.

You may also have seen recent government announcements regarding restrictions on social media use for under-16s. As a school, our focus continues to be on supporting students to develop healthy relationships with their devices and creating the resilience and responsibility to find an appropriate balance with technology. Our "phones off and away" approach has been a positive step in reducing distractions and supporting learning, while also encouraging more face-to-face interaction. We will continue to monitor national developments closely and reflect on our own practice, always with student wellbeing at the heart of our decisions. Should we look to make any changes to our expectations on phone use in school, we will of course communicate clearly with families.

Looking ahead, the weather forecast suggests a particularly hot week. We are therefore reminding all students to stay well hydrated by bringing a refillable water bottle and making use of refill points during the day, including break and lunchtime. Students should continue to wear summer polos, and for next week as a temporary change, we are proposing that students may wear their PE shorts alongside their polos to help keep cool. Please read the separate letter regarding this from the school, but we trust this temporary accommodation to our uniform expectation will support comfort in the hot weather. We also wish to remind families that students should come prepared with appropriate sun protection, especially if they have PE or spend their lunch and break time outside.

What has happened at SNHS this week

Year 11 Leavers' Day

On Monday, we marked our Year 11 Leavers' Day with a brilliant assembly full of laughter and reflection. From first day photos to tutor awards and a number of hilarious anecdotes, it was a fitting celebration of a fantastic year group. What stands out most about this cohort is their kindness and their strong moral compass. They have consistently shown care for one another, integrity in their actions, and a maturity that sets them apart. We are incredibly proud of them and wish them every success for the future.

Year 10 RSE Day

Year 10 engaged thoughtfully and maturely in their Relationships and Sex Education day this week. Staff supported students through a range of important topics with care and professionalism, and the students themselves approached the day with respect and openness. It was a very positive experience for all involved.

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Governors Meeting

On Thursday, we welcomed our Governing Body for their latest meeting. We are very grateful for their continued support, challenge and accountability. Their work alongside school leaders is vital in ensuring we provide the very best for our community, and we thank them for their ongoing commitment and contributions.

House Sport & Sports Day Preparations

Excitement is building as we approach House Sport and Sports Day. House competitions return in the week beginning 29th June, with Sports Day taking place in the final week of term. Our four houses — Barnes, Hardy, Raleigh and Thornhill — will once again come together in spirited competition, demonstrating our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. We cannot wait to see the energy, teamwork and pride on display.

Year 7–9 Assessments

Assessment processes for students in Years 7–9 are ongoing. Many of our younger students are experiencing formal assessments in the hall for the first time, and they have approached this with resilience and responsibility. These assessments are an important opportunity not only to practise these key skills but also to receive valuable feedback that supports further progress.

Safer Schools Assembly

We were pleased to welcome our Safer Schools Policing Team, who delivered an informative assembly to Year 7 students this week. Their input focused on making safe and informed choices, and we thank them for their continued support in educating and safeguarding our students.

Attendance Matters

- Year 7: **96%**
- Year 8: **91.4%**
- Year 9: **91%**
- Year 10: **89%**

A huge well done to **Year 7**, who continue to lead the way with excellent attendance — a fantastic achievement.

It is also pleasing to see **Year 8 and Year 10** making positive steps this week, with a slight improvement in their attendance figures. This is encouraging, and we now need to maintain this momentum and continue to build further.

As always, we are very proud of the many students who attend school consistently each day. Strong attendance is fundamental to success — every lesson counts — and we will continue to work closely with families to support all students in attending regularly.

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What's coming up at SNHS next week

Year 6 Meet the SLT Event (Wednesday)

We are looking forward to welcoming our incoming Year 6 students for the opportunity to meet the Senior Leadership Team. This is an important part of the transition process, allowing us to begin building strong relationships, share key information, and ensure every student feels known and supported ahead of joining us in September.

Year 13 Prom (Thursday)

Thursday evening brings the Year 13 Prom — a highlight of the Sixth Form calendar. We are excited to celebrate this wonderful group of students as they mark the end of their journey with us. It promises to be a joyful and memorable evening, and while it will be bittersweet to say goodbye, we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved over the past two years.

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Weekend

Our Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh students will be heading to Wiltshire for their expedition. This is always a fantastic experience involving teamwork, resilience, independence and plenty of fun — from navigating routes to setting up camp. We wish all participants the very best of luck as they fully embrace this challenge in the spirit of our school values.

SAST Leaders Conference

Leaders from across SAST will gather at The Gryphon School for their summer conference. This is a valuable opportunity to collaborate with colleagues across our network of schools, sharing best practice and learning from one another as we continue to strengthen our provision for all students.

With the weekend ahead, I would also like to take a moment to wish all of our fathers, father figures, and grandfathers in our community a very warm and joyful Father's Day. We hope you are able to spend some quality time together and feel celebrated for the important role you play in the lives of our young people.

I wish all families a restful and enjoyable weekend, and we look forward to welcoming students back for another busy and exciting week at SNHS. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards

Mr M Motteram
Headteacher

