

PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

7th September 2026

Dear Parents,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to a new academic year. As always, I am genuinely excited about all the things we are going to explore together with our students and all the things we are going to achieve together with them. Each and every day I find myself both inspired and humbled, not just by what our young people do, but the manner in which they go about undertaking it - with commitment and passion but also with a consideration and maturity much beyond their age. It is such a joy to be a part of their story.

Settling in

For new students, the first few weeks can feel a little bumpy emotionally, especially for those living away from home for the first time. Nearly all students will experience some degree of “homesickness” at some point and, even if they are unaware of it, this can lead to them responding emotionally or dramatically to a particular trigger or situation. If you have a conversation with your daughter or son and they tell you that everything is awful and the world is falling apart, it probably isn’t and is almost certainly a symptom of them feeling anxious about being away from home and being away from you. If you find yourself in this situation, please don’t assume that everything is exactly as they might have communicated it, but please get in touch with the relevant person and discuss it with them. We can then unpick whatever is going on and make them (and you) feel much better very quickly. We do need to know if you hear anything that gives you cause for concern or anything you think we ought to be aware of. When feeling insecure or anxious, a young person might tell us that they are fine but then be more honest with you about how they are feeling. So please pass on any information we might find useful.

Communication

The Parent Handbook has a very handy directory that details who to approach if you need to discuss a particular issue. We can respond much more quickly if questions, queries and concerns are addressed to the right person at the start. If in doubt, the House Staff or main

School Office staff will always be happy to advise. We always try to respond within 48 hours but may then need some time to investigate this issue or discuss it with the student or colleagues. It is important that you allow us the time to do this - sending a follow up message 20 minutes after the first does not help us resolve the issue any more quickly!

Driving on Site

For those who drive onto the school site, and particularly those who enter the school by the main entrance and use the internal road round to Avison, please observe the 5mph limit. The blind bend by my house is particularly treacherous and we have had a number of “near misses” where parents have been driving much too fast. Please remember that it is very likely that a child (including your own child) will be navigating the site when you are arriving, so please drive accordingly.

Parent Code of Conduct

I am delighted that in general the School’s relationships with its parents are very strong and very positive. The School will always take your concerns seriously and will always do its best to resolve concerns constructively, within policy, and within the parameters of what is practically achievable. We also have a series of processes in place to enable those who feel that their concerns have not been adequately resolved and can progress these concerns for further consideration. We expect and encourage parents to share any concerns with us openly and dispassionately. The Parent Code of Conduct outlines how we can best manage our ongoing relationship and I would encourage you to read it through. As well as having a duty of care for your children, I also have a duty of care for my staff and I need to be clear that the School will not tolerate any form of aggressive, threatening or abusive behaviour towards its staff, either in person, in conversation or in writing. Whilst we understand that sometimes parents may feel upset or anxious about a particular situation, this does not give them the right to be abusive to school staff.

“New Year” Organ Gala: Wednesday 9th September, 7pm, CP Hall

As has become traditional, I have the pleasure of giving the first public concert of the academic year on Wednesday evening. All boarders will attend this concert. Day Students are also very welcome to attend if they wish to and, if so, are welcome to stay for supper. The concert is not compulsory and I will not be in any way offended if they do not want to come along! If any Day Student wants to stay for supper and the concert on Wednesday, please let

their Houses know by Tuesday evening. The concert will last about an hour and you are also welcome to attend, if you wish.

If I haven't seen you over the weekend, I look forward to catching up at a concert or event very soon.

With all good wishes for an exciting year,

Paul

Paul Bambrough

Principal