

18 September 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

re: **Welcome back**

As we're now settled into the new academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to welcome everyone back to our College community and thank you for all your support in ensuring our students returned to College with the correct uniform and equipment. Having those things in place really does make a big difference as it allows us to start the school day on a positive note and focus on the academic progress that our students are making.

### **Summer news**

I'd like to publicly congratulate the outgoing Year 11 on an amazing set of GCSE results. 52% of students achieved a grade 5 or above in both English and maths, which is 6% above the national average. Nearly 20% of all grades were 7-9, (A-A\*\*), which is testament to the hard work of both the young people and their teachers. Our Sixth Form students also achieved some brilliant outcomes, and all applicants successfully gained a place in higher education. I wish them every success and happiness as they head off to universities all across the UK and beyond.

It was great to see so many of our new Year 7s at Summer School. The week was enjoyed by students and staff alike and the year group are settling in really well to their secondary school.

Over the summer we had an extensive redesign of our Sixth Form Centre, including a new library and café. It looks fantastic in there and the Sixth Form are making good use of the facilities. I'd encourage parents and carers of Years 10 and 11 to come and see the new-look Centre on our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 13 November.

### **Attendance**

I cannot overemphasise the importance of school attendance. There is a direct correlation between the percentage of time a student is present in school and the exam grades they achieve. As colder weather approaches, we will likely see more colds and coughs so we do ask that students try to attend when they have minor ailments so they do not fall behind.

### **Clubs**

A huge part of life at The Spires College is all the opportunities that young people get outside the classroom. Our annual Clubs Fair was very well attended and once again we have a wide range of clubs and activities for young people to enjoy. At the moment Year 8 are in the lead for club attendance but I'm sure other year groups will be trying to overtake them soon! We encourage all students to get involved so they can explore wider interests beyond the classroom.




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## New staff

We have several new staff joining us this term, and I wish them all a very warm welcome. They are:

Jake Adderley	Sports Coaching & PE Technician
Sally Blagg-Newsome	Head of Year and Teacher of Science
Ruby Blake	LSA
Josh Collett	Teacher of RE and History
Murray Dorrans	Data Officer
Braeden Harris	Teacher of Science
Simon Hobson	Examinations Officer
Olivia Mullen	Teacher of Science
Michael O'Connell	Teacher of MFL
Julie Scotting	Teacher of MFL
Lynn Shepherd	LSA
Daniel Smith	Head of Design and Technology
Paul Tearle	Teacher of PE
James Thomas	Primary to Secondary Transition Teacher
Christine Tucker	LSA

## Bike Safety

Several of our students ride bikes to school and we provide bike-racks for secure storage. However, we do ask that students wear cycle helmets if they are riding to school. Unfortunately, we have seen some unsafe behaviours on bikes in the locality of the school. Students who are not using their bikes sensibly and safely will not be permitted to store them on the school site.

## Key dates

Our website shows key dates for the year ahead as well as a downloadable version of the term dates, with weeks A and B demarcated. Below are some important dates for the term ahead:

- ▲ Tutor Evening: Thursday 16 October, 4 – 7 pm:  
This is **in-person for Year 7 parents**, to familiarise you further with the College, and **on-line for all other year groups**. It is an opportunity to meet your child's form tutor and gain some early insight into how the term has started.
- ▲ Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 13 November, 6 – 8 pm:  
For Students, Parents and Carers from Year 11 and Year 10, this evening provides a valuable opportunity to explore post-16 options, gain advice and begin the Sixth Form application process. We will also host an Open Morning for the Sixth Form external applicants who do not already know the College. This is on Monday 20 October.
- ▲ Year 11 Parents' Evening:  
Thursday 4 December: Full parents' evening for Year 11, in-person at the College.
- ▲ Sixth Form Parents' Evening:  
Thursday 11 December: Full parents' evening for Years 12 and 13, in-person at the College.

I look forward to meeting you all at events across the coming months, and wish you and your children a happy, successful year.

With best wishes



**Alex Newton**  
**Principal**