

16 July 2026



Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we approach the summer break, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your support of the College and to acknowledge the excellent work of staff and students alike.

Recent events

Our students have enjoyed various opportunities over recent weeks. Sports Day was really successful, with the majority of students getting involved and demonstrating their ambition and resilience. Years 7 to 9 have experienced a day of STEM activities and several trips and visits have taken place, with Year 7 having a great day at Woodlands and our incoming Year 12s getting stuck into a day of orienteering at Haldon Forest. Several students participated in a trip to Berlin and Poland and our current Year 12 experienced a really busy residential in London. This week we are celebrating some of our students' many successes in our prize giving assemblies; students are being rewarded for excellent work and attitudes to learning. As ever, our students show themselves to be talented, hard-working and brilliant ambassadors for the College, for which I thank them. We will end the term with our inaugural Summer Festival on Friday. I am sure I speak for parents and students, too, in saying a huge thank you to all the staff who have made these many events possible.

Staff changes

We are sadly saying goodbye to some members of staff. They are:

Jake Adderley
Braedon Harris
Chloe McKenna

Lou-Marie Basson
Saskia Holman
Shirley Peak

Tashi Gool
Katherine Hurst
Charlotte Sparrow

Michael Hardy
Alice Hutchings

I would like to thank each of them for all their hard work and wish them every success for the future.

Mobile phones

You will be aware that the government have now made a mobile phone ban in schools mandatory. This means schools have a legal requirement to be a mobile-free environment. The Spires College has held this expectation for several years so this should not require significant changes. Students are permitted to have a phone with them if parents feel this is necessary for the journey to and from College but they must be turned off and stored out of sight. I would remind parents that we enforce the mobile phone ban with strict confiscation rules to ensure it is taken seriously. This can include weekends and holidays, so we ask parents to reinforce the importance of keeping phones switched off and out of sight so this does not become an issue.



Attendance

As we know, regular school attendance is essential if students are to achieve their full academic potential. We have seen slight improvements in attendance at the College again this year. Thank you to all parents and carers for working with us to ensure all children are in school, learning, as often as they possibly can be. School absence should be a rare thing for most students and we all need to hold that expectation if children are to gain the full education to which they are entitled.

Uniform

In September, we will return to full uniform, including blazer and tie. Please can I ask that you use the summer break to replenish uniform and equipment so that all of our students return to College looking smart and are ready to learn in September. Obviously time that staff spend addressing any uniform or equipment issues is time that could be used for teaching and learning and so we are very grateful to parents and carers who ensure that our students are fully prepared for College each day. The online uniform shop is open and able to process orders over the summer. The collection dates for new uniform orders are on the College website.

The College tries to maintain a stock of good-quality second hand uniform. If you do have any items that you no longer need, we would be grateful if you could drop them into Reception so we can find them a new home.

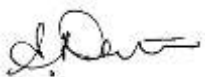
We do not permit any facial piercings in Years 7-11. Students may wear one pair of stud earrings (in their ears) only: no other piercings are allowed. We do not permit plastic retainers either. I therefore ask for your support in ensuring that students do not use the holiday as an opportunity to have such piercings, as they will be asked to remove them in September. No exceptions will be made. Similarly, please do not wait until the last minute to remove any temporary hair colourings because often this proves more challenging than anticipated! Hair should only be coloured a 'natural' colour, i.e. no pink, green, blue etc...

Summer events

We still have events ahead of us this summer. Our incoming Year 7s will be joining us for a week's summer school in August and our older students will be collecting their GCSE and A level results, for which we wish them every success.

Please have an enjoyable, restful and safe summer and we look forward to welcoming students back to College at 8.25 am on Wednesday 2 September.

With best wishes



Alex Newton
Principal