



24th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

End of Term 6 July 2026

Message from Mr Prebble, Headteacher

Another year has passed and we have so much to celebrate. The school continues to grow in popularity and we will be welcoming once again the largest cohort of Year 7 students into the school in September since we joined the Swale Academies Trust.

Our Student Leadership teams continue to grow with many of them achieving the Bronze Swale Academies Trust Leadership Award this year. Two leaders have stood out in particular this year. Lemar and Isabel in Year 11 have received the Silver Award. We also have Harry, who will be in Year 11 next year, who has secured the role of Kent's representative for the Youth parliament. We hope that next year we will have representatives for the inaugural Gold Award for our most accomplished student leaders across the trust.

It was a pleasure to see so many of our students involved in the Sports Awards evening. We have so many talented and committed students and we are so proud of them. Students who were given the opportunity to speak on stage did so to such a high standard. It is pleasing to see that oracy is developing into an area of strength for our students.

Start of Term 1 September 2026

Tuesday 1st September	Staff INSET Day – No students in school
Wednesday 2nd September	Year 7, 11 and 12 back in school
Thursday 3rd September	All year groups in school
Friday 4th September	Individual school photos

ParentPay - Message for Year 7 on Wednesday 2nd September

All new Year 7 students should be provided with a packed lunch on their first day of term (Wednesday 2nd September). On this day all students will be set up on our cashless catering system. Please can I remind all parents who have not already done so, to activate ParentPay and add funds to their child's account with the ParentPay activation letter that has previously been sent home. Students will be required to bring a packed lunch until the account is activated and funds are added to the account.

Sports Overview - Mr Amos

We have had yet another incredible academic year when it comes to sport at Holmesdale. Our students have shown amazing passion, grit, sportsmanship and it has been a total joy watching our young athletes grow, whether they were braving the rainy fixtures, stepping up to take on new leadership roles, or simply supporting one another on and off the field.

A member of Swale Academies Trust

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

Registered in England No. 07344732



Headteacher: Mr G Prebble BEd (Hons) NPQH



This year was packed with stand-out moments - we were lucky enough to host coaching sessions from Chelsea FC that helped our players reach exciting new heights, while our budding referees and student leaders stepped up to run local primary school events with maturity and pride.

Our students also took on some fierce competition across the county, lifting cup trophies with their local clubs, testing their skills internationally, and earning accolades in everything from motorsport and dance to track and field.

Throughout the year our teams took home tournament silverware, trying their hand at new sports like pickleball, and bringing home individual championship titles across Netball, Rugby and Football.

We wrapped up the year by celebrating all of this hard work at our Sports Awards evening, recognising students across all year groups for their dedication, teamwork, and outstanding sportsmanship.

I would like to say a huge thank you for being such a massive part of our sporting community this year and supporting all those involved across the year.

Community Scores & Report - Mr Mallett

Building on the successful launch of our community system last year, we are immensely proud of how our staff and students have continued to support both the school and the local community this academic year.

Alongside our weekly mini-challenges, our seasonal competitions have brought the entire school together for some wonderful causes. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our students, staff, and local business partners, we delivered Christmas hampers in Term 2, collected Easter eggs in Term 4, and gathered vital food bank donations this term. These efforts have made a genuine, positive impact on local people.

Throughout the year, students have been eagerly earning points for their communities. The race has been as close and competitive as ever, but I am delighted to announce that Twickenham are our overall Community Champions for 2025–26! Congratulations to **Twickenham, champions for the second year running**, and a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year such a success.

Careers Successes

This year has seen some outstanding achievements across our careers provision, starting with an incredibly successful Careers Fair. Featuring over 40 stands, the event offered a fantastic new variety of pathways for our students to explore, with a particular focus on trades and artistic careers. Our students also excelled during their work experience, earning phenomenal feedback from local employers. A massive well done must go to two of our Sixth Form students who successfully completed the highly competitive Future Skills Academy. Finally, we are delighted to have recorded another year of overachieving on every audit, and we look forward to supporting other schools with their own careers programmes next year.

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Reminders for September: Mobile Phones/New Ties

Mobile Phone Policy: To ensure a calm, focused learning environment, all phones and smartwatches must be switched off and kept out of sight in school bags throughout the school day. Any devices seen or heard will be confiscated and held at reception for safekeeping (with Sixth Form privileges limited strictly to the Sixth Form area).

New Community Ties: Starting in September, our new community ties are a compulsory part of the school uniform.

Uniform & Old Tie Donations: If you have any spare uniform, blazers, skirts and old-style school ties in particular, we would be incredibly grateful if you could donate them back to the school when we return in September. This will help us maintain a helpful stock of spare items for students to borrow when needed

Uniform and Equipment Expectations

We believe that an excellent uniform is part of setting high academic standards and encourages students' self-confidence. Upon return to school in September students' uniform should be worn correctly both in and out of school. **Under no circumstances should false nails, false eyelashes or jewellery be worn.** Students will remain in the Inclusion room until the offending item is removed (exceptions are items which are worn for a medical need).

Uniform

- Black blazer with school badge (if blazer is not purchased from Pages, a school badge can be purchased from Pages)
- Black trousers or pleated plaid skirt (purchased from Pages)
- School tie - Community Colour (purchased from Pages)
- Black blazer with the school badge
- Pleated plaid skirt (note skirts must not be rolled up) or plain black trousers (must not be boot-cut, skinny legged, tight-fitting, jeans etc.)
- Belt buckles must be moderate, plain and without logos
- Plain black socks (to be worn under the knee and with no embellishments such as bows) or black tights
- Plain white shirt with collar (long or short sleeved)
- School tie - Community Colour (that conceals top button)
- Plain black V-neck jumper (optional)
- Plain black leather shoes (not plimsolls, canvas shoes, trainers, sandals, or boots etc.)
- Sensible dark coloured coat (no hoodies, tracksuit tops or jumpers allowed)

Equipment

Students are also expected to be equipped for school with the appropriate stationery. This includes a minimum of two black or blue pens, a green pen, a pencil and a ruler.

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Nut Free School

I would like to remind you that The Holmesdale School is a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**. We do have students and staff who have a severe nut allergy. We respectfully ask that you do not send your child into school with any products which contain nuts.

Safeguarding Reminders

There is a 'Worry Button' on the school website that directs students to the safeguarding team for any support they may need over the summer holidays.

Need help? For non-emergencies which you'd usually report to a teacher, call 101, or report incidents using their online form at www.kent.police.uk

Prefer to stay anonymous? Report crime, concerns or issues online at www.fearless.org If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for help.

School Police Officers will be patrolling popular hotspots frequented by young people to offer their help and support, and to tackle anti-social behaviour during the break. Feel free to approach them and chat if they don't look too busy!

Going swimming? Make sure to educate yourself before you hit the beach or are planning to go open water swimming by visiting the RNLI website www.rnli.org/safety

Need support for your mental health? Check out our wellbeing booklet on our website – link below:
<http://www.holmesdale.kent.sch.uk/download/get/wellbeing-booklet-255377098/42>

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to welcoming all students back in September for what will be another exciting year at The Holmesdale School.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Prebble
Headteacher

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