

19th December 2025

Dear Families,

Merry Christmas! We've had a fantastic term, with our students really focused on their learning and continuing to impress us with their kindness, curiosity and determination. Beyond the taught curriculum, our students have continued to excel on the sports field, in the performing and creative arts, in their leadership roles and with their support of charities.

We've also had school trips to theatre productions, employers, universities, concerts, competitions and events; visitors from BBC Bitesize, Everyone's Invited, author Alastair Chisholm, and a huge array of employers and education providers at our Careers Convention. That's before we get started on the Christmas Concert, Dance Showcase, Spelling Bee, Vocabulary Competition, GCHQ languages competition, Junior Chef, inter-house table football and indoor rowing and House Matches...and that's barely scratching the surface!

Settling In Survey

We were grateful to Year 7 and Year 12 families for their responses to our "Settling In Survey", which helped us to evaluate our transition process for students joining the main school or the sixth form. This nationally benchmarked survey showed a very high level of parental satisfaction compared to the national average:

- 89% of families feel their child has a good experience of school at Churchill Academy & Sixth Form, compared to 75% nationally - a 14% difference!
- 92% of parents said it was easy to contact the school, beating the national benchmark by 10%.
- Our responses to families scored 11% higher than the national benchmark
- Satisfaction with the amount of communication received from the school is 18% higher than the national benchmark

We also received a lot of helpful feedback to help us continue improving the experience of students and their families as they navigate the transition from one phase of education to the next. For more details, please see the [story on the Academy website](#).

This survey underlined our commitment to continue to work closely with families, as recognised in the achievement of the [Parent Friendly School](#) kitemark from the national parent charity, ParentKind. We know that successful education relies on partnership working between home and school, and we are so grateful to our community of parents and carers for all the support you give to our work.

Parents' Evenings

With this in mind, we have decided that all parents' evenings for the remainder of this year will be held **in person at the Academy**. We have continued with some online meetings since the pandemic, but it has become increasingly clear that face-to-face conversations are much more productive and helpful. We look forward to welcoming families into the Academy to meet with us throughout 2026 as follows:

- Year 11: Thursday 8th January 2026
- Year 13: Thursday 22nd January 2026
- Year 9: Thursday 29th January 2026
- Year 12: Thursday 5th March 2026
- Year 8: Thursday 26th March 2026
- Year 10: Thursday 14th May 2026
- Year 7: Thursday 4th June 2026

Legally Blonde is coming!

If you attended the Christmas Concerts, or if (like me) you've been listening to the [Performing Arts podcast](#), you will know that *Legally Blonde - the Musical* is coming to The Playhouse, Weston-super-Mare, in February 2026. The cast, crew, band, and backstage team have all been working incredibly hard to put the show together, and we can't wait for curtain up! Tickets are on sale now! Check our weekly newsletter for details.

Finally, let me wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Thank you again for all your support of the Academy; I look forward to seeing
our students back on Monday 5th January 2026, for a timetable week 2.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hildrew', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Hildrew
Headteacher