

July 2026

Dear Families,

Strategic Plan 2026-2029

The Local Governing Body of Churchill Academy & Sixth Form has been working hard over the past year to plan the strategy for our school over the coming three years. Following that work, the governors have now finalised our new strategic plan, which you can read on our website at the link below:

[Read the Strategic Plan 2026-2029 here](#)

This new plan begins at an important inflection point for Churchill Academy & Sixth Form. In 2025, the Academy was graded “Good” in all areas by Ofsted following an inspection in May; in August, Year 11 students received the Academy’s best ever GCSE results, with disadvantaged students achieving the best results in North Somerset for GCSE English and Maths at both grades 5+ and 4+. This new strategic plan, therefore, begins from a strong position and seeks to enhance the Academy’s position still further.

The plan also sets out to navigate a changing educational, social and economic landscape. The report of the Curriculum and Assessment Review in November 2025, [Building a world-class curriculum for all](#), laid out a pathway of evolution for the national curriculum and assessment system; the Department for Education’s White Paper, [Every Child Achieving and Thriving](#), lays out ambitious plans for widespread reform to the education system, especially for students with SEND; and Ofsted’s inspection framework, launched in November 2025, shifted the emphasis for schools away from headline grades and towards inclusion and achievement for all. Beyond education, seismic changes in the spheres of technology, society and the economy provide an unstable and unpredictable backdrop for our school, our staff and our students as we look ahead towards the end of this decade.

As we step forward confidently into this future, we are determined that we will keep our students at the heart of our planning, remembering what it is that makes our Academy's community so special. To succeed and thrive in this rapidly developing world, our students will need to be adaptable, resilient, and creative; this is why we have placed creativity at the heart of our plan for the next three years. We are determined that, by 2029, our Academy will be a local and national centre of excellence for creativity, with all of our students thriving in an ambitious and inclusive curriculum, so that they can go on to make a positive difference to the world of the future.

I'd like to thank the governors for their thoughtful insight and hard work in putting this plan together. Our governors are all volunteers, and give their time and expertise willingly in the service of the students of Churchill Academy & Sixth Form; they do a fantastic job, and we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and expert local governing body.

Survey results: significant strengths

The governors' planning was informed by the results of the parent survey, which was open during April and May of this year. We received 162 responses, the second highest across the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, and it was really helpful to receive this engaged feedback from our families.

It was heartening to see that families continue to endorse the work of the Academy, with some significant areas of improvement since last year's survey. For example, the proportion of parents who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: "My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed" rose by 15% from last year, to 71%. This is 8% above the LSP average, and a great endorsement of the work we have done over the past year to improve our inclusive practice and ensure that children with special educational needs and disabilities have the best possible provision at Churchill.

In line with this improvement, the proportion of families "would recommend this school to another parent/carers" rose by 10% on last year, to 81%. It is fantastic to see this endorsement of your confidence in our Academy - although, of course, we will not rest until that figure is 100%!

There was also helpful feedback in the written comments from families. We received comments such as:

- "Teaching staff are all really lovely and approachable"

- “Celebration of pupil achievement. Excellent value put on performing arts and music - very inclusive and supportive/nurturing. Activities week and travelling abroad opportunities are amazing.”
- “When I have had minor concerns, staff have been quick to call/email back.”
- “Good communication through email, with timely responses to any questions raised...Pupils encouraged in their areas of interest.”
- “The vertical tutoring creates good relationships across the school, and tutor time seems to provide the needed pastoral support for the children.”
- “I’ve always found the teachers communicative and constructive when I’ve needed to contact them, and feel very supported by the school on the handful of occasions when I’ve needed to raise concerns. SLT are very willing to step up and be involved if needed, and I’ve always felt listened to.”
- “Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the education of the whole person and for modelling to students the values of the school.”

And many more besides!

There were, of course, also areas for improvement raised for our attention. Particular common threads were around:

- The need to increase the emphasis on celebrating children who are doing well to create positive incentives for engagement, rather than avoiding the “threat” of behaviour points
- Variations in consistency (for example in responsiveness to communications, or in classroom practice)
- A desire for a firmer line on mobile phones
- Some concerns around school food and toilets

This valuable feedback has helped shape the strategic plan and the priorities for the school over the coming year.

Key priorities for the year ahead

Stemming from the Strategic Plan, we have developed a series of priorities for the year ahead. The overarching theme of this work will be to emphasise the importance of *belonging*. We want to ensure that every student in the Academy feels valued, feels part of the Academy community, feels seen, and feels their voice matters, every day. We want to ensure that every student can talk confidently about the adults in the Academy who care about them and value their contribution to our community. We want to foster belonging

through the joy of education, and the fun of being in schools. We want to succeed with a smile on our face, accentuating the positive, and celebrating the successes of our wonderful school.

Some specific priorities include:

- **Creativity and Artsmark:** we will be beginning our work to join up the work we already do to develop students' creativity, to ensure that this is systematic and coherent, as we begin our journey towards assessment by the Arts Council of England for the Artsmark Award.
- **Celebrating success:** we will be improving the "rewards" section of the Academy's Behaviour Policy and shifting the emphasis of our approach even more towards celebrating and modelling excellent behaviour. We will continue to review and develop our behaviour policy to ensure we get the very best out of all our students.
- **Introducing mobile phone pouches:** following visits to Backwell and Gordano Schools, where mobile phone pouches have been successfully introduced, we are well advanced in our planning to introduce a similar system at Churchill Academy & Sixth Form. We will provide more information early in the new academic year, before we roll out this system to prevent students having access to their devices during the school day, in line with the enhanced government guidance.
- **Working to tackle misogyny:** our students, families and staff are concerned about the rise of the "manosphere" and online influencers leading to a rise in misogyny in society. We are committed to tackling this head-on, and we will continue to work with partners including *Everyone's Invited*, our local MP Tessa Munt, and the wider community to ensure that we provide our young people with the tools and knowledge to address this issue.
- **Developing our work with parents and carers:** this year we have achieved the kitemark for being a "Parent Friendly School." Over the next year, we want to push this work forward. The Academy has not had a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for a number of years, and we will be exploring whether there is an appetite amongst parents to work with us to support the school and fundraise for specific improvement projects. If you would be interested in hearing more about this, or potentially being involved, please register your interest [via this Google Form](#) - with no obligation at this stage!

These priorities sit alongside the work we will continue to do to promote attendance, refine our curriculum, enhance our inclusive practice, develop our teaching and learning, improve reading fluency, and further strengthen our

sixth form provision. Beyond the classroom, we will be developing a new strategy for school food, based around the proposed [new school food standards](#); improving our toilet facilities; and preparing for the next major site project, which is the replacement of our 3G pitch with a new, modern, all-weather surface.

It will be a busy time, but we are excited about the next steps for our school as we seek to go from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hildrew', with a stylized, flowing script.

Chris Hildrew
Headteacher