

22nd July 2026

Dear Families,

End of year update

It's been a fantastic year for the Academy. We started off on a high with the best-ever GCSE exam results in our history, as well as topping the North Somerset table for English and Maths results for our disadvantaged students - and then we just kept going! Highlights for me included the fantastic performances of *Legally Blonde: The Musical* at the Playhouse, the tremendous run of our girls' cricket team, and a nail-bitingly close sports day. It was also great (and timely!) to complete the air-conditioning project to ensure that classrooms in Hanover and Windsor join those in Stuart, Lancaster, Science, Technology and IT as cool oases in the heat of summer! However, in the year that marked ten years for me as Headteacher of this wonderful school, the thing that I celebrate the most is the consistent determined effort and dedication of our students and staff in their lessons, every single day. It has been a privilege to be a part of it.

The year was also marked by sadness with the death of Elise Green, one of our Year 11 students. This tragedy tested all of us, but I am so proud of the resilience and determination of all those affected. Student fundraising enabled us to make a donation to the Grand Appeal at Bristol Children's Hospital in Elise's memory, which we presented to her family at the Tudor House Celebration of Success event, and we will be planting a pink-blossoming cherry tree in the Academy grounds in Elise's memory to ensure that she is always remembered at Churchill.

House Cup

Today we awarded our remaining inter-house trophies and cups. Earlier this term, Lancaster House won the Sports Day Trophy, and Hanover House won the Tug of War Cup. Today, The Head of House Challenge Cup, awarded for extra-curricular and inter-house competitions, went to Stuart House. The

Academics Cup, awarded for the house with the best attendance and conduct points score, was also won this year by Stuart House. And finally, the House Cup, which combines all elements of inter-house activity, was won by Hanover House for the first time since 2014 - many congratulations!

We also held a celebration event for those students who had won a "Golden Ticket" with attendance above 95% and positive conduct points for the year. Students who achieved this threshold enjoyed inflatables and games on the bottom field in the summer sunshine - a great end to the year! See our e-newsletter for pictures and a full report on the end-of-term celebrations.

Staffing update

I am delighted to confirm that we have made excellent recruitments, and we are fully staffed for September. I have been delighted with the calibre and quality of applications we received. We are really looking forward to working with our new colleagues. The following new staff are joining us, or have already started:

Staff name	Role
Mrs H Baldwin	Teacher of Maths
Mrs R Davies	Teacher of Science
Miss A Gordon	Teacher of Food & Nutrition
Ms A Homewood	Teacher of English*
Miss C McPhee	Teacher of Science
Mr T Starr	Teacher of PE*
Mrs N Waters	Teacher of History
Mr L Watson-Hart	Teacher of Science
Mr A Ball	Site & Facilities Assistant
Mrs L Day	Finance Manager
Mrs N Pearce	Librarian
Mrs T Peters	Headteacher's PA*

*Maternity cover

We also have a number of staff moving to new roles or taking on new responsibilities within the Academy, as follows:

Staff name	New Role
Miss K O'Malley	Senior Assistant Headteacher - Inclusion and Transition
Ms A Innalls	Assistant Headteacher - Designated Safeguarding Lead*
Mrs J Turner	Careers Leader
Mrs C Phippen	Student Services Coordinator
Ms V Bogonosov	Leader of Learning for RE and Sociology
Mr R Carpenter	Coordinator for Criminology
Mr N Waller	Early Career Teacher Mentor
Miss S Matter	Early Career Teacher Mentor
Mrs J Smith	Early Career Teacher Mentor

*Maternity cover

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to a number of colleagues at the end of this term. We say farewell to:

- Miss K Jones (to Nailsea School)
- Mr J Redclift (to apprenticeship)
- Miss A Carter-Bradley (to teacher training)
- Mrs E Hamill (to the LSP Central Team)
- Mrs Y Belcher (to Backwell School)
- Miss M McIntyre (to North Somerset Council)
- Mr C Newell (to Chew Valley School)
- Miss G Hunt (relocation)
- Mrs C Coman (retirement)
- Mr A Winstanley (retirement)
- Mr P Linnitt (retirement after 20 years at Churchill)
- Mrs L McKay (retirement after 22 years at Churchill)
- Mr C Cooknell (relocation after 26 years at Churchill)
- Mrs S Dibble (retirement after 28 years at Churchill)

We thank them all for their contribution to the Academy over their time with us and wish them all well in the future.

Arrangements for the start of term: September 2026

Finally, a reminder about the arrangements for the start of term in September 2026:

Date	Details
Friday 4th September	INSET day for staff only. Academy closed to students.
Monday 7th September	Term starts for Year 7 and Year 12 students only.
Tuesday 8th September	Term starts for all other students.

Dates for the diary

Over the course of September, we will be holding a parent information evening for each year group. These evenings are designed to provide you with detailed information about the curriculum, outline the expectations and offer an overview of the year ahead. Staff will also make suggestions on how you can support your children and the Academy throughout the year. Please save the date for your child's year group:

- **Year 7:** Thursday 8th October: "meet the tutor" 4:30-5:30pm, information presentation 5:30-6:30pm.
- **Year 8:** Tuesday 15th September, 6-7pm
- **Year 9:** Monday 21st September, 6-7pm
- **Year 10:** Tuesday 8th September, 6-7pm
- **Year 11:** (including revision and exams guidance session for parents): Monday 14th September, 6-7:30pm
- **Year 12:** Wednesday 23rd September, 6-7pm
- **Year 13:** Tuesday 29th September, 6-7:30pm

We will send out a further reminder about these dates when we return in September.

A full list of term dates and INSET days can be found on our website here: <https://www.churchill-academy.org/Information/Term-Dates/>.

With thanks for all your support over the past year. On behalf of all at Churchill Academy & Sixth Form, we wish you a restful, relaxing and happy summer break.

Yours sincerely,

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

Chris Hildrew

Headteacher