

13 February 2026

Dear Parents/Families,

As we reach the end of February, I would like to celebrate another fantastic half term filled with significant individual and collective achievements.

Firstly, a huge well done to our Year 11 students, who have successfully completed the first two weeks of our new after-school revision initiative, 'The Power Hour.' My thanks go to the staff members whose hard work and support has made this launch such a success.

Next half term brings the final trial exam window—a vital benchmark for success in the summer. We encourage all students to build on this strong momentum by setting aside dedicated revision time over the break.

Over the past few months the DfE updated its performance tables. I am thrilled to share that our 2025 GCSE outcomes for students achieving a strong pass in English and Maths combined placed us in the top five schools in the county and the highest in the Mendip area. Furthermore, I was pleased to receive a letter from Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson, congratulating us on the exceptional outcomes achieved by our Pupil Premium students, which places our school among the very best nationally.

Our focus on positive praise and recognition continues to be a bedrock of our day to day approach. I am delighted to report that the school has now surpassed 280,000 'On Track' points, eclipsing previous yearly totals in just 20 weeks. I look forward to seeing this total grow as we continue to celebrate student success in all its forms.

It has also been a pleasure to welcome so many of you to our recent Parents' Evenings. These evenings have been exceptionally well-attended and characterised by supportive, constructive discussions. Working in partnership is essential to a child's success, and we deeply value your input and feedback.

Since January, our enrichment offer has continued to thrive. Students have benefited from:

'Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership'

- The DfE Bronze Scheme.
- The introduction of LAMDA sessions.
- Collaborative digital workshops on personal safety in Key Stage Three.
- The Poetry Live! theatre trip.
- Visits from inspiring authors.
- Numerous sports activities & fixtures.
- Fundraising initiatives led by our Prom Committee.

The absolute highlight of the term was undoubtedly our production of *The Addams Family*. As our third production in three years, it did not disappoint. Our students truly lit up the stage, and it was wonderful to see the community come out in such force to support them. My thanks go to the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

I often remark that this term feels like a sprint, made more challenging this year by the particularly cold and inclement weather. I am very proud of our students for their resilience, hard work, and perseverance over this period. As we look forward to the promise of lighter spring evenings, I want to thank you for your support over the past six weeks and wish you all a restful half term break ahead of what promises to be an equally busy spring term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P Balkwill', written over a horizontal line.

Mr P Balkwill
Headteacher