

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year, and a very warm welcome back to all our students and families! I hope you enjoyed a restful and enjoyable break. It has been a fantastic start to the term, with students sitting their mid-year assessments throughout the last week. It has been great to see students working hard and dedicating their time to succeeding in these assessments – well done to all!

### Travel to School

Can I please remind all students of the importance of road safety when travelling to and from school. It has been noted that some students are choosing to walk down Mock Lane between the primary and secondary school. Students should use instead the pelican crossing and footpath leading up to the school. Additionally, during darker mornings and evenings, please ensure that students wear reflective clothing and lights when cycling to increase visibility and help keep them safe. It would be greatly appreciated if all parents/carers could ensure that students are collected by 3:30pm or promptly as possible after any extra-curricular activities.

### Parents' Evenings and Reports

We will be sharing report cards with you on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026. For families new to the school, we will be hosting a session on 'Understanding my Child's Report' to support families with understanding our grading system. This will take place on **Monday 9th February 2026 from 15.30-16.00** in the main hall. No sign up is required for this. For families who have been part of the school community for some time, you are welcome to attend however there has been no changes made to our reporting and grading systems so this will remain the same as before.

Please also see below Parents' Evening dates. These will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teachers. Further information will be released nearer the time for each year group.

| Year Group | Date of Evening             | Date Booking Opens             |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 7          | 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026  | 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 |
| 8          | 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 | 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026    |
| 9          | 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 | 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2026    |

### GCSE Options Dates – Year 9

In addition to our Parents' Evening dates above, we are also preparing for our GCSE Options process for our Year 9 students. This is where students select their subjects for GCSE study in Years 10 and 11. We will release additional information in due course, however, please find key dates below, particularly our Options Evening. All parents/carers will be invited into school on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 to discuss the options process with teachers to support with decision making.

| Date                      | Event                                    |
|---------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 17th March 2026   | Year 9 Assembly for Students             |
| Wednesday 22nd April 2026 | Options Evening for Parents and Students |
| Friday 1st May 2026       | Initial options deadline                 |
| Wednesday 13th May 2026   | Final Options Deadline                   |

### Homework Update

Our homework completion rate has been fantastic each year since we have opened – a huge thank you to parents and carers for your support and the encouragement you give your child at home. As a reminder, homework will continue as before over the coming terms, with tasks set on Fridays and due for completion on the following Fridays. If you have any queries, or we can offer any support with homework tasks, please contact [info@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk](mailto:info@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk)

## Extra Curricular Sign Up

Please find link below to our full extra-curricular offer which will run throughout Term 4 and 5.

[After School Extra-Curricular Programme | Secondary School | Chilmington Green](#)

- Clubs will continue from 15.10 to 16.00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Students will be dismissed at 16.00. Sports Training and other identified activities will be dismissed at 16.15 via the sports entrance/exit.
- Some students have been pre-selected into certain activities. You will have received an email if this applies to your child (Basketball, Choir and ECO Club).
- Please could parents/carers complete the following [Extra-Curricular Activities Sign Up](#) form by Monday 2nd February. We will confirm your allocated club on Friday 6th February 2026. Clubs will start on **Tuesday 24th February 2026**.
- If your child is participating in a sports based activity, they should attend school in full PE kit. If we do not receive your preferences, we will ask your child and inform you of their choice.

Should you have any queries regarding our extra-curricular offer, please contact Miss Wood at [rebecca.wood@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.wood@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk)

## House Council Update:

Our House Council continues to be a vital part of school life, giving students a meaningful platform to share ideas, raise concerns, and help shape the future of our school community. Each term, representatives from every House meet with their Head of Year to discuss what matters most to them. Their thoughtful contributions and commitment ensure that student voice remains at the heart of our decision making. After each meeting, all feedback is passed directly to the Senior Leadership Team, where actions are reviewed and taken forward.

## Highlights from the December House Council Meeting:

- **Energy and sustainability talk:** A specialist session has been arranged to help students learn more about the energy usage and eco-design of our new school building.
- **Extra-Curricular Programme updates:** Several students suggested activities which will be added to the Term 4–5 timetable.
- **Compost bins under review:** The premises team is exploring suitable locations to support our sustainability goals.
- **Sensory garden development:** A dedicated space has been identified for Eco Club and Gardening Club to transform into a calming sensory garden.
- **Stairwell movement improvements:** Staff will be monitoring flow on stairwells, with potential adjustments to the two-way system being considered.
- **Gus:** Gus, our school therapy dog, will be returning on a phased basis as he settles into his new environment.
- **Cultural learning opportunities:** A cultural talk has been booked for Term 4 following student requests to learn more about different cultures and traditions.

These developments reflect the power of student voice and the positive impact our young people have when they work together. We look forward to seeing what the House Council brings forward in the next term. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, creativity, and passion shown by our House Council members. Their ideas are already making a real difference across the school.

## Parent Teacher Association - PTA – Final Call

Thank you for those Parents who have already shown interest in joining our PTA.

We are looking to set up a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) — and we would love for you to be part of it. A PTA is a fantastic way to bring parents, carers, and staff together to support our children's learning and school experience. From organising fun events to raising funds for extra resources, a PTA can make a real difference to our school community. If you are interested in joining our founding PTA, please email [info@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk](mailto:info@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk). We will be in contact with those interested in joining to arrange an initial meeting during the coming term.

## Netball Success Year 9

We are delighted to share that our Year 9 Netball Team finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the Ashford Netball league this season. They have now qualified to the semi-finals of the Shepway & Ashford League and will play The Marsh Academy at home on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January – wishing you the best of luck girls!

## Gus Therapy Dog Returns



We are pleased to let families know that our therapy dog, Gus, will be gradually returning to school for initial visits throughout Term 3. Gus plays an important role in supporting pupils' wellbeing by helping to reduce anxiety, promote calmness, and build confidence and emotional regulation in a safe and nurturing way.

To ensure Gus remains happy and relaxed while at school, we remind children of the importance of using calm voices, gentle movements, and following all adult guidance when around him, as sudden movements or loud noises can be frightening for dogs. If parents or carers have any questions or would like further information about Gus's visits, please contact [mickaela.schwartz@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk](mailto:mickaela.schwartz@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk).

## Key Dates

| Date                                  | Event   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February       | Extra-curricular preferences form deadline  |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026  | All Student Reports released<br>Understanding My Child's Report Presentation<br>15.30-16.30.  |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026     | Ski Trip 2026 Parent/Carer Meeting – 4pm-5.15pm<br>all families must attend with passport, GHIC and any medication in original packaging for this residential clearly labelled with child's name. |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March       | Year 7 Parents' Evening (Details to follow)   |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026   | NHS – HPV Vaccination Year 8 students further details to be sent  |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March      | Year 8 Parents' Evening (Details to follow)   |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026 | Year 9 GCSE Options Evening (Details to follow)   |
| Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 | Year 9 Parents' Evening (Details to follow)   |

Kind regards

Jon Rutland