



16th July 2026

Dear Parent/ Carer

After nearly 39 weeks and close to 190 days in school we break up for the Summer Holiday tomorrow at 12:30. I would like to thank you as parents/ carers for your continued support throughout the academic year and wish you and your families a restful break.

A few points of note from this year and some reminders for the new academic year in September

Attendance remains a key area for us as a school and you as parents/ carers to focus on. We are committed to excellent attendance as it directly impacts your child's learning and achievement. Please take the time to reflect on your child's attendance from this academic year and consider how to make improvements for next year.

- *95-100% attendance:* 45% of pupils – Excellent attendance
- *90%-95% attendance:* 17% of pupils – Good attendance
- *80-90% attendance:* 19% of pupils – Persistent absence requires improvement
- *50-80% attendance:* 16% of pupils – Persistent absence serious concern
- *Below 50% attendance:* 3% of pupils – Severely absent requiring urgent intervention

Every day counts. Even 90% attendance means your child has missed half a day of learning each week of school.

In terms of **uniform** I would like to remind you of our expectations for the students return in September. Could parents/ carers please note specific requirements for shoes and trousers. I would ask all of you to use this link [uniform and equipment](#) to access the webpage for full details and images of acceptable uniform items.

Piercings - Please ensure that when your child returns to school in September, they meet our expectations relating to piercings.

- A student is allowed a single stud in each ear for school
- All piercings must be removed for PE lessons
- If your child has had new piercings during the summer, please be mindful that they must be able to remove them from the first day of term
- We cannot make exceptions for "healing time"

Medication Management – Prior to the end of term all medication currently held in our medical room must be collected by a parent/carers before the last day of each term, please contact our medical room to arrange collection

Medication requirements before September:

- Check expiry dates on all medication, including EpiPens
- Only in-date medication will be accepted when school reopens
- All medication must be returned to the medical room in its original packaging with clear labelling
- Complete a new medication [consent form](#)

Water safety:

As you are aware this summer has been extremely warm and we have communicated throughout this hot weather about the need to be very careful around water and we would like to reiterate the importance of **water safety** during the summer break.

Key messages:

- Never swim alone or in unsupervised areas
- Be aware of hidden dangers in open water (cold water shock, currents, underwater hazards)
- Only swim in designated, supervised areas
- Always supervise children near water
- Know what to do in an emergency

For more water safety advice, please visit the [RNLI website](#)

Exam dates: Year 11 students will receive the results of their GCSE exams on Thursday 20th August with Year 13 receiving them a week earlier on Thursday 13th August.

Safeguarding and welfare reminder

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare during the holidays, contact the school safeguarding team – safeguarding@gms.bucks.school.uk If a child is in immediate risk, please contact the police or relevant emergency service on 999

Key Dates for September

- INSET days – Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September
- Years 7, 10 and 12 return on Thursday 3rd September
- Years 8, 9, 11 and 13 return to school on Friday 4th September

A final message – over the course of the year I am lucky enough to show a number of people around the school site, parents/ carers, leaders from other schools and staff who have applied for roles at the school. At the end of each tour, I always receive positive comments that reflect the politeness of our students, their positive attitude and the learning environments created by staff at the school. In the words of one regular visitor 'it is almost impossible to walk from my car to reception (50 meters) without a student or member of staff saying hello and good morning and meaning it'!

Have a great summer break from all at Great Marlow School!

Guy Pendlebury

Headteacher