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Waverley
School

Learning through diversity

Humanity, Equality, Aspiration, Respect

13 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of this half term, I would like to extend my thanks for your ongoing support. It has been a busy and rewarding few weeks at Waverley, filled with enriching experiences that have helped our students grow academically, socially, and personally. I am delighted to share just some of the many highlights:

- Apprenticeships Week has been an important opportunity for our school to shine a light on the value of practical, skills-based pathways. Across the curriculum, subject areas have woven apprenticeship awareness into their lessons, helping students understand how classroom learning connects to real industries and future careers. We encourage families to explore the [national apprenticeships website](#) and to contact our careers team, who are always happy to offer guidance on next steps and reliable sources of information.
- This week Mr Barron, Head of History, accompanied four of our sixth formers—HS, LK, SA and YM—on a profoundly meaningful visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz project. The day was emotionally challenging yet deeply educational, reminding us of the importance of remembrance and the responsibility we all share to speak out against hate. Our students represented Waverley with maturity, empathy and dignity throughout the visit, and we hope this experience will become a regular part of our enrichment calendar.
- We are also incredibly proud of the twelve Year 10 students who completed the six week Free 2 Dream programme. Over the course of the project, they developed their communication, enterprise and business skills, working hard to design and create their own jumpers from start to finish. Their creativity and commitment have been outstanding, and we extend our thanks to Mr Webster, Mr Dowe and the Free 2 Dream team for making this opportunity possible.
- Thank you to all the Year 9 parents and carers who attended our Options Evening. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout. The event gave families the chance to explore Key Stage 4 pathways in depth, with subject leads offering valuable insights into their specialisms. If you were unable to attend, please review the options booklet sent home and the information [available on our website](#), and contact us with any follow-up questions.
- Our Year 9 and 10 students also enjoyed an inspiring day at the University of Birmingham for the annual Big Physics Quiz. They tackled challenging rounds led by university staff, explored fascinating ideas about the origins of the universe, and demonstrated excellent teamwork and scientific thinking. We are proud of their achievement in placing 30th out of 68 teams and even prouder of the enthusiasm they brought to the experience.
- Meanwhile, our Year 11 and Year 13 students have shown exceptional focus and resilience throughout their mock examinations. Attendance has been excellent, and staff have been impressed by the calm, purposeful approach students have taken each day. Mock results

will be shared shortly after the break, along with guidance to help families support next steps.

- This half term also marks the launch of our PSHRE consultation, inviting parents, carers, students and staff to help shape the next phase of our curriculum. Your feedback is vital in ensuring our provision remains relevant, age-appropriate and reflective of our community's needs. You can read more on our [consultation here](#).

Thank you once again for your partnership, encouragement and trust. We wish all families a restful and enjoyable half term break, and we look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready for the exciting term ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Mr H. Derry
Principal
Waverley School – Secondary & Sixth Form

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Spring Term – Key dates

School events

5 January 2026	-	Staff training day. School closed to students.
14 January 2026	-	Year 10 and Year 12 Parent/Carer consultation evening.
20 January 2026	-	Year 7 Parent/Carer forum
21 January 2026	-	COMPASS Parent/Carer Coffee Morning – emotional regulation
26 January 2026	-	Year 10 work experience commences
30 January 2026	-	Year 10 work experience ends
2 February 2026	-	Year 11/13 Mock exams begins
11 February 2026	-	Year 9 Options and Parent/Carer consultation evening
12 February 2026	-	Year 11/13 Mock exams finish
13 February 2026	-	End of half-term.
23 February 2026	-	Year 9 Options window opens.
11 March 2026	-	COMPASS Parent/Carer Coffee Morning – anxiety
20 March 2026	-	Red nose day
20 March 2026	-	Student academic reports published to parents/carers
24 March 2026	-	Year 10/Year 11 Parent/Carer Forum
24 March 2026	-	Year 12/Year 13 Parent/Carer Forum
25 March 2026	-	COMPASS Parent/Carer Coffee Morning – anxiety and exam worries
27 March 2026	-	Year 9 Options window closes.
27 March 2026	-	End of term

Themes of the week/celebrations

Week beginning	Themes and focus
23 February 2026	Reboot International Mother Language Day
2 March 2026	Attendance and Punctuality World Book Day National Careers Week
9 March 2026	Resolving conflict Women's History Month
16 March 2026	Respecting our school World Maths Day Managing stress and exam preparation (KS5)
23 March 2026	Rewards and recognition Personal branding and CV writing (KS5) Mock interviews and presentation skills (KS5)