

3rd September 2026

Dear Families,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you had a restful summer break with your family. We were so proud of our Year 11 and Year 13 students who achieved incredible results in their summer exams. Our GCSE grades were over 20% above the national figure for students achieving 4 and above in English and Maths, 23% above the national figure for students achieving 5 and above in English and Maths and double the national percentage of students achieving 5 or more grades at 7-9. We anticipate that these grades will put us in the top 10% of schools in the country. Our Year 13 leavers are off to University and achieved incredible grades – we wish them every success in following their passion whether at Cambridge, LSE or Kings College London. Congratulations to all students and thank you to all staff and to families who supported at home.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming the most important members of the Swakeleys community back into school over the next week – a reminder of those arrangements including other useful information about the start of term can be seen below:

Year 7: A very warm welcome to the new families joining our school community as their child begins at Swakeleys in Year 7. A reminder that Year 7 start with us on **Thursday 3rd September**. [Please click here](#) to see the information from Ms Allan regarding the arrangements for Thursday.

Years 8-13: All other year groups start back on Monday 7th September at the normal time of 8.30am. All students will be in form time for lessons 1 and 2 getting to know their form tutor and they will start lessons period 3. Years 7-11 can look on epraise to see their timetable for the year. I will welcome the students back to school in assemblies next week.

Your child's pastoral development is really important to us and I am delighted to confirm the following leaders supporting each year group this year:

Year Group	Year Learning Coordinator (s)	Leadership Group Link
7	Ms Helena Allan	Mrs Gilly Hare (Deputy Headteacher)
8	Miss Shaki Mejloumian	Miss Olivia Wall (Deputy Headteacher)
9	Mr Tyson Gray	Mrs Pat Laguillo (Assistant Headteacher)
10	Ms Katie Currell	Mrs Charlotte Dennis (Assistant Headteacher)
11	Mrs Lindsay Finnerty & Mrs Jessica Lacheta (Weds)	Mrs Claire Devereux (Deputy Headteacher)
12 & 13	Mr Rob Hayden (Assistant Head)	Mrs Claire Devereux (Deputy Headteacher)

Mr Tom Murrell is the new Deputy Headteacher responsible for student leadership, praise and behaviour and he works closely with the pastoral leaders named above to support your child in school. The student link book also provides information about the names of curriculum leaders for each subject area should you wish to contact them with a specific query. Please note as the staff listed above and in the link book are classroom based the most effective way of contacting them is by email via the school office: office@swakeleys.org.uk. It is helpful to include your daughter's name and form so the relevant leader can be contacted.

Parental engagement events: I am very much looking forward to meeting you in person over the coming weeks at the parental engagement evenings. A reminder of the dates and times can be seen below:

Year 7: Wednesday 23rd September 6–7.30pm

Year 8: Tuesday 6th October 6–7pm

Year 9: Thursday 15th October 6–7pm

Year 10: Thursday 15th October 6–7pm (online)

Sixth form: Thursday 24th September 6–7pm

Each of these sessions will be carefully planned with the relevant year group in mind and sessions running in school will give you an opportunity to meet your child's form tutor, year learning coordinator, LG link and other key staff. We will share with you our aims as a school this year and you are able to spend time in the school environment where your daughter comes every day. It really is important that you do have input into the school and that we work in partnership with you. Please note that the presentations on these evenings start at 6pm and you are welcome to come to the school from 5.30pm so you are there for the start. At Year 10 graduation in June parents were provided with useful information required to support their child in making a successful start to Year 11. Year 11 parents should refer to the [key dates sheet, click here](#).

School uniform: We know how important it is to start the year off positively so can I ask for your support in ensuring that your child is in the correct school uniform. We understand that the holidays bring opportunities for pupils to wear items of clothing and jewellery which are not permitted in school. I would be grateful if you could refer to our uniform guide for clarity: [Please click here for further information regarding Uniform](#).

Mobile phones: At Swakeleys we know our role involves supporting the social development of our students. To this end a gentle reminder that mobile phones should not be seen or heard in the school building during the school day because we want students to be interacting with each other. We have all manner of games from Jenga to Uno and table tennis tables as well as a range of lunchtime clubs so that students can have a good time at lunchtime. A reminder that if phones are seen or heard in the school building then they will be confiscated for five days. Further information can be found in our behaviour policy [here](#).

Attendance & punctuality: Attendance to school is so important and I am optimistic that we can retain our high levels of attendance over the coming year – last year we were again in the top 25% of all schools nationally for attendance. Staff will be making phone calls home to some students over the coming days to welcome them back into school. A reminder that students should be at school by 8.30am and be in their form room by 8.40pm. It's important for school and for life that students are in good habits around timekeeping. Please note that the Highfield gate entrance is locked at 8.40am each day after which time students will need to walk around to the Clifton Gardens entrance. Please notify the school if your child is absent due to illness by e mailing attendance@Swakeleys.org.uk with your child's name and form, and reason for absence. Please avoid booking routine appointments, holidays or travel in school time. We can support your child by holding medication that they may need during the school day and this should be sent in to the school welfare office with a medication form that can be downloaded [here](#) Please click "Forms for Parents".

Restorative Conversations: At Swakeleys, we are committed to pairing high support with high expectations and are introducing restorative conversations following any Strike 2, Strike 3, or Leadership Group (LG) callout sanction. Grounded in our core value these are structured, three-step conversations offering students an appropriate space away from an audience to speak with their teacher. Depending on the level of the sanction, these check-ins take place during the 10 or 20 minute detention period, or prior to the student's next lesson alongside a member of the Leadership Group. The goal of these conversations is to hear your child's perspective, help them reflect on how their choices impact the

wider classroom community, and ensure they feel valued, noticed, and fully equipped for future success. To strengthen our home-school partnership and reinforce the value of these moments, we kindly ask parents to discuss these restorative conversations with their children at home, encouraging positive reflection and open dialogue about their choices.

Vehicle congestion on the school site: In order to ensure the safety of all of our school community please can I ask that all parents driving onto the school site are mindful of other road users, road markings (including double yellow lines), pedestrians and local residents. Can I politely request where possible that you make alternative arrangements to drop and pick up your child away from the school site in order to avoid congestion. [Please click here to see the park and stride map suggesting alternative areas where you could drop and pick up your child.](#)

Breakfast club: A reminder that we run a free breakfast club should you wish to avoid traffic congestion and ensure your child arrives to school in good time. Breakfast club starts on Monday 7th September at 7.30am and students should register upon arrival to the canteen.

Open evening/early finish: I wanted to make you aware that it is our open evening for prospective students and their families on **Thursday 17th September** and a reminder that lessons will end at **2.15pm (2.05pm for Year 7)** on that day so we can get the school ready for the evening. If you have a daughter in Year 6 then we look forward to seeing you and a gentle reminder that siblings of students at Swakeleys still need to complete the supplementary assessment form and sit the NVR test on Saturday 10th October. It would be fantastic if you could encourage friends of yours with Year 6 daughters know that they are very welcome to attend our open evening! Many of our students will be asked to help on the evening so thank you for your support. School will start at the slightly later time of **9.40am** on **Friday 18th September** to give us time to be ready to greet the students. Please could students ensure that they are in school **for 9.30am on the Friday** ready for tutor time at 9.40am.

Some advance warning that **Wednesday 14th October is an INSET day** so school is closed to students on that day and **Friday 16th October** is the form tutor 1:1 day where children come into school for an appointment with their form tutor. Year 7 parents are also invited on this day so we can get to know you on an individual basis.

I look forward to working with you again this year to support your child and ensure that they are safe, happy and making fantastic progress - both socially and academically. Please note that I will be working flexibly this year and on a Thursday the school will be run jointly by Claire Devereux and Gilly Hare.

Yours faithfully,



Kelda Stevenson
Headteacher

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