24th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Open Evenings

A reminder that we have our Open Evenings on Monday and Tuesday next week, details below. Information has previously been sent to parents advising of when students are due in school on either the Monday or Tuesday to help in departments or for guiding.

- Monday 28th September - School will finish at 12.30pm. Our open evening takes place 6.00pm to 8.30pm.

- Tuesday 29th September - School is closed during the day for staff training. Our second open evening takes place from 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

- Wednesday 30th September - Normal school day.

Reading for Pleasure

Whether your child is settling into Year 7 or preparing for life beyond Year 13, keeping reading enjoyable can feel tricky as academic demands and busy schedules take over.

The National Year of Reading's offers brilliant guidance on keeping reading volitional—shifting it from *"I have to"* to *"I choose to"*:

- **Lower Secondary (Years 7–9):** Keeping spark and variety alive. From graphic novels and manga to gaming lore and adventure series, tapping into what they love keeps reading low-pressure and fun.
- **Upper Secondary & Post-16 (Years 10–13):** Managing stress and widening horizons. Audiobooks during commutes, non-fiction articles, podcasts, and long-form journalism are great ways to unwind, support wellbeing, and build critical thinking without feeling like extra homework.

Explore top book picks, free audiobook access via local libraries, and practical advice here:

👉https://goallin.org.uk/families-11-plus/

House Competition

We are delighted to have launched the 2026-27 house competition and once again have an exciting year of events planned. The planned events can be found here: House events 2024-25

House Cross country has already been completed and we will be updating the house points for this soon. Our first big event of the year will be House Plays on 25-26th November so keep your diaries clear for this. Please encourage your son to get involved in as many house events as they can and help build points for this year's competition.

Year 7 Rugby

We have three Year 7 teams playing Brentwood on Friday 25th September at Cheshunt RFC, with kick-off at 2:15pm. Parents are very welcome to come along and support the teams.

Unfortunately, the Under 13 (Year 8) to Under 18 (Senior) rugby fixtures against Brentwood have been cancelled due to pitch safety concerns.

We are hopeful that we will be able to play our block against QE Barnet next week. Plans are already in place to be creative and flexible with teams and venues to ensure that as much rugby as possible can go ahead.

Hertford East Closure 17th – 25th October 2026

Please find below a link to the Abelio website setting out dates for the closure of the Hertford East branch line in October.

https://www.greateranglia.co.uk/about-us/news-desk/news-articles/nine-day-closure-hertford-east-branch-line-vital-works-following

School Nursing Newsletter

Please find below a link to the School Nursing Newsletter we have been asked to share with you. The newsletter contains health and wellbeing information, practical advice, and details of local support services available to children, young people, and their families.

https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/7BK1-CMI/hct-school-nursing-a26s

Ian Hawkins
Headteacher

September 2026 Calendar

Monday 28th	School finishes at 12.30 Open Evening 6pm – 8.30pm
Tuesday 29th	Inset – School closed to students Open Evening 4pm – 6.30pm

October 2026 Calendar

Monday 5th	Year 12 Initial Tests throughout week
Thursday 8th	Year 7 Meet the Tutor Meetings
Tuesday 13th	Year 11 Revisions Workshops in school day and Parent Revision Presentation 6.30pm
Monday 19th	Bold Voices Presentation Years 7/9/11/13 Year 9 Exams to Friday 23rd October

Weeks

Monday 28th September	Week 1
Monday 5th October	Week 2
Monday 12th October	Week 1
Monday 19th October	Week 2

Monday 26th October	HALF TERM WEEK