

Thursday 17th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of what has been a successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Our Year 11 students have now completed their exams and we are extremely proud of them. As my first year as Headteacher, it was especially rewarding to see how dedicated and resilient our students were in their studies. The staff at Philips High School went above and beyond to support them, and I am truly grateful for the hard work and commitment of my team.

Earlier this term, we welcomed two serving Ofsted inspectors to conduct a planned external review. The purpose of their visit was to assess our progress since the last inspection and to help guide our ongoing improvement. I am pleased to share that the review was extremely positive, and both inspectors agreed that Philips is a "Good" school in all areas.

I am also delighted to announce that Philips High School is oversubscribed for the next academic year. At a time when the number of children joining secondary schools is declining in Bury, the strong demand for places at Philips reflects our commitment to academic excellence, enrichment opportunities, high standards, and strong discipline.

Thank you to all parents and carers who took part in our recent Parent Voice survey. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping our school improvement plans, and we look forward to implementing some of your suggestions from September onwards.

Following a separate survey about the future format of Parents' Evenings, we found that less than 1% of parents/carers preferred a return to in-person Parent Evenings. Therefore, we will continue with our current virtual format, extending appointment times to allow for more in-depth discussions. In addition, we will introduce an in-person pastoral evening during the first term, giving you the opportunity to meet your child's form tutor and discuss any questions or support needs related to academic studies, wellbeing and school life.

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As you may already know, we are transitioning to a new Parent App – Arbor – which replaces the previous SIMS app. Arbor will give you access to real-time data on attendance, behaviour, and achievements, as well as all school communications. If you have not yet downloaded the app, please do so by following the instructions in this document: [App-Launch-Letter.pdf](#)

This year we also launched new [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts, which highlight some of the fantastic things happening both in and out of school. We encourage you to follow us to stay updated. In addition, we will be releasing our Summer newsletter, featuring case studies of recent events and achievements in school.

From September, we will be transitioning our school counselling service from Place2Be to JEP. JEP offers an equivalent level of support and will continue to provide both individual and group counselling for our students. The aim of this service is to help students develop strategies to manage their worries, so these concerns don't interfere with their friendships, learning, or overall well-being.

From Monday 21st July and up to the week commencing Monday 18th August, the school's IT system will be down as we upgrade our IT infrastructure. Therefore, during this period of time, school staff will not have access to email. The project is significant and will benefit the ongoing improvements to Teaching and Learning. Please be assured that when we return in September, any queries sent via email during the holiday will be responded to.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,



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Philips High School

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