



Headteacher: Mr Paul Beale, BSc (Hons), NPQH, PGCE

18<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of Old Buckenham High School,

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership. It has been a busy and highly productive term, and I am immensely proud of what our pupils have achieved.

First and foremost, I want to celebrate the hard work and commitment shown by our young people this term. They continue to demonstrate our core values of Community, Ambition and Respect on a daily basis. I would particularly like to commend our Year 11 pupils, who have recently completed their mock examinations. Their results provide a solid and encouraging launchpad as we move towards the real GCSE examinations next year, and reflect both their effort and the high expectations we hold for them.

Our new Year 7 cohort has completed an excellent first term at Old Buckenham. They have settled in quickly, embraced school life with enthusiasm, and made a very positive start to their secondary education. This was especially evident during our first ever Year 7 Vocal Concert, which was a real highlight of the term. It was wonderful to see our youngest pupils performing with such confidence so early in their time at the school.

I would like to thank families for their ongoing support with attendance. Being in school every day is vital. While missing the odd day may seem inconsequential, the evidence linking attendance percentages with academic performance is strong. We are incredibly proud to be the top school for attendance amongst similar schools, as designated by the Department for Education. This is a shared success and one that has a direct impact on pupil outcomes.

Alongside this letter, you will also receive a separate letter from our Multi Academy Trust, Sapientia Education Trust, outlining changes to the school year that will apply across all Trust schools from September 2026. This includes the introduction of a two-week half term in October, while maintaining the same number of school days across the academic year. We hope this will prove to be a positive change that benefits staff, pupils and families alike.

This term we also introduced our new Key Stage 3 reports. We hope these have added clarity and helped you feel better informed about your child's progress and next steps, and we appreciate the positive feedback we have received.

There are also moments of change within our community. Mrs Prince, one of our Pastoral Support Mentors, is retiring after 20 years of dedicated service to Old Buckenham High School. Her care, commitment and impact on countless pupils and families cannot be overstated, and we wish her the very best for a well-deserved retirement.

**COMMUNITY - AMBITION - RESPECT**



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Our sense of community has been especially visible this term. Our Christmas dinner this week was a lovely occasion that brought pupils and staff together and helped strengthen the bonds within our school. We have also continued our community work, including visits with Chapel Green pupils and the planting of trees by a number of students, demonstrating our pupils' commitment to giving back.

We continue to celebrate positive behaviour and commitment through initiatives such as Zero Heroes (zero negatives) and the 100% Club for perfect attendance. Approximately 300 pupils – over half of the school – are currently part of these groups, which is a fantastic achievement.

Finally, I would like to highlight the introduction of our Core Questions for families to use at home. We are delighted by the number of families engaging with these proactively and the positive impact they are having on pupil performance. New Core Questions will be available at the start of the Spring term.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils and grateful for the support of our families. I look forward to continuing our work together in the Spring term, as we strive to ensure every child at Old Buckenham High School can thrive.

Thank you once again for your continued trust and support.

With best wishes,

Paul Beale  
Headteacher

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