



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

22nd July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to take a moment to thank you, and your children, for your continued support and for contributing to what has been a truly successful year at Old Buckenham High School.

I am now approaching the end of my first full academic year as Headteacher, and I continue to be impressed by the incredible potential of our pupils and the unwavering dedication of our staff. Thank you to every parent and carer who has supported the school, your encouragement, whether big or small, makes a real difference.

A Year to Celebrate

This year has been full of achievements, creativity, and community spirit. We are working hard to reflect our school values: *Community, Ambition, and Respect*.

From a show-stopping performance of *Bugsy Malone* to the wonderful sounds of our musical concerts, the talent and energy of our pupils have been on full display. Our musicians proudly represented both the school and the Trust at the Norfolk Show, while pupils also had the opportunity to explore the world of professional sport with a visit to Wimbledon.

Our clubs and curriculum continue to breed creativity. Clay Club produced some fantastic artistic creations, while our school allotment has been lovingly cared for by pupils, providing opportunities to connect with nature and take pride in our environment. Geography students enjoyed enriching fieldwork in Southwold, and our young poets celebrated success in a national poetry competition.

Sporting achievements also shone brightly, with our Year 9 football team crowned South Norfolk League Champions. Meanwhile, our Zero Heroes have celebrated in style this year with a Christmas movie and a summer inflatable treat and an ice cream van on the field. And we cannot forget the joy and community spirit of our festive Christmas dinner, which brought the whole school together.

School Improvements

We have continued to invest in the development of our school environment:

- [New website](#) – recently launched, offering a clearer, more user-friendly experience on all devices.
- Bulletin revamp – our weekly newsletter will return in September with a fresh new look.

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- Replacement mobiles – the current music, drama, and languages mobiles will be upgraded over the summer.
- Reception car park – this will be resurfaced to provide a safer and more accessible area for our school community.

Staff Changes

We say farewell and offer our sincere thanks to several valued members of staff:

- Mr Jay- we wish him well in his retirement
- Mrs Wabe - we wish her well in her retirement
- Mr Kennedy - we wish him well on his teacher training course
- Miss Harrison-Mobbs - we wish her well in her future endeavours

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome new colleagues who will be fantastic additions to our community:

- Miss Fox – Head of Expressive Arts
- Mr Smith – KS4 Pastoral Manager
- Mr Hipperson – Geography Teacher
- Mrs Skipper – Art Teacher
- Mr Daniels – DT Teacher
- Ms Williamson – Nurture Teacher
- Mr Coath – Cover Supervisor

Preparing for September

The summer is a good time to check uniform and equipment. In particular, please note:

- Rulers – next year, rulers will be used to track reading in lessons across all year groups. While we will have spares, it's helpful for each pupil to have their own.
- Whiteboard pens – as mini whiteboards are used more frequently, pupils are encouraged to bring their own non-permanent pen.
- Pencil cases – pupils should not carry loose equipment in blazer pockets. A pencil case helps keep everything safe and organised.

We continue to uphold high expectations for uniform. Old Buckenham pupils wear theirs with pride and are regularly complimented by visitors on how smart they look. Thank you for supporting our policy, particularly around trousers (which should have belt loops) and ensuring hair and piercings are in line with school expectations by the start of term. You can see our [uniform policy on our website](#).

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Attendance

Your support in ensuring strong attendance is much appreciated. Being in school consistently has a profound impact on progress and wellbeing. Research shows that pupils absent in the first week of term are significantly more likely to become persistently absent over the year. Let's work together to start September on the right foot.

Thank you once again for your support throughout this academic year. We wish you and your families a restful, enjoyable summer break filled with sunshine, laughter, and time together. We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back in September.

Kindest regards,

Paul Beale
Headteacher

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