

Friday 3rd July 2026

Dear Parents, Staff, Alumni and Friends of Heritage School,

Earlier today we enjoyed another wonderful Sports Day and picnic to close out the 2025-26 school year. Well done to all of our competitors! Thank you to Mrs Eastwood for her hard work to make the day such a success, as well as to Mr Silk and Mr Miller who support our PE / Games programme every week and to the rest of our staff team. It was great to see many of our alumni who had come back to enjoy the day, meet up with friends, and help out. Thank you to them too!



As we come to the end of our 19th year, I wanted, above all, to thank you for choosing to be part of this school community. Again and again I find myself feeling incredibly grateful for all of the parents, pupils and staff that I have the privilege of interacting with day after day.

After last week's Year 9 - Year 11 camp in Northumberland, where pupils undertook their Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions on the frontiers of the Roman Empire (along Hadrian's Wall), hiking approximately 35km or 50km over two or three days, I wrote to the team of staff and volunteers who made it possible to thank them for their tireless work over the previous five days. What struck me is how ready and willing everyone was to pour out their energy for the sake of our children. Then I thought: of course we were. Can anyone think of a better cause?

I love the layers and the rhythms of school life. To me, each moment, large and small, is laden with value and potential. Residential trips, like our summer term camps, speak at many levels and make a strong impression. So too does a big event like our recent Leavers Service & Reception. What a milestone for our Year 11s as they "stand at the crossroads". Other events like today's Sports Day, recital and recitation assemblies, enrichment trips, and drama performances (such as those we've so enjoyed this week) also speak volumes. Every lesson, every activity, every reading from every book, every teacher-pupil interaction – all of it weaves together into a richly textured shared life. And all of it is animated by a definite goal: fullness of life.



Two scenes from the camp last week, where Year 9s also went gorge walking.

One of the highlights for me this term was captured in this tea party organised by Mrs Phillips. "Many congratulations," she wrote, "to all who took part in our Jane Austen reading challenge. We're delighted that many students gave Jane Austen's books a read, and a special well done to the six pupils who managed to complete all six Austen books by the end of term, which is of course a fantastic achievement. Today we celebrated with a Jane Austen tea party and the final big vote, which was an even split between *Emma* and *Pride and Prejudice*."



You might enjoy reading about other summer term highlights from [the news page of our website](#):

- ❖ [Summer Term Nature Walks](#)
- ❖ [A Memorable Performance of Alice the Musical](#)
- ❖ [Strong Performances from Heritage Team at Olympic Cup Debut](#)
- ❖ [Summer Term Forest School](#)
- ❖ [Year 5 & 6 Camp: Outdoor Adventure in Norfolk](#)
- ❖ [Heritage Finalists Impress at National Shakespeare Event](#)
- ❖ [Year 7 & 8 Camp](#)
- ❖ [Heritage Seniors Win Top Awards at RoboCon Robotics Competition](#)

Finally, as you look forward to the summer ahead, I would encourage you to [listen to this speech](#) last week by actress and screen free childhood campaigner Sophie Winkleman entitled “The children who couldn’t play”. Ms Winkleman has been a great friend of Heritage School, generously describing Heritage as “a magically perfect school” in [an interview for the university student magazine, Varsity](#).



I hope Ms Winkleman's speech will strengthen again your resolve to prioritise reading and real world activities over the months ahead. When (a little) screen time is over, resolve also to stand firm against the pressure! Protect that engine room of real ownership and creativity: boredom.

Looking forward to seeing you again in September,

J Fletcher
Headmaster