

17th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The week has once again been full of positivity across our school community. I am delighted to share that our students have achieved over 75,000 positive points, an incredible accomplishment that reflects the fantastic attitudes and behaviours we see every day. These points are all contributing towards our exciting new plans for rewards and celebrations, and I look forward to sharing more details about these in the coming weeks and months.

This week, our students have truly stunned me with their politeness, their attitude towards school life, and their willingness to always try their very best. It is a privilege to see so many young people embracing opportunities, supporting one another, and demonstrating our values so consistently.

There have been a number of wonderful highlights this week. Our Year 11 motivational assembly, "What Would Dolly Do?", celebrated the life and achievements of Dolly Parton, while reminding students that even when life feels challenging, the future ahead of them holds enormous potential. The message was simple but powerful: keep going, believe in yourselves, and recognise that each of you has the ability to make a positive difference in the world.

Last weekend, our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students successfully navigated two days of walking routes across the Island as part of their expedition experience. This was an impressive achievement requiring resilience, teamwork and determination. Well done to all students and staff involved in making the weekend such a success.

Elsewhere, our Food Technology lessons have become an absolute delight to visit. The wonderful aromas of cooking seem to fill the corridors and classrooms, and while I am still waiting to be offered a sample (hint, hint!), the dishes I have seen produced by students have looked absolutely fabulous. The quality of work and enthusiasm on display is excellent.

As we move into next week, I would once again like to thank all of you for your continued support of our school. Your partnership plays a vital role in ensuring that our young people arrive each day ready to learn, ready to engage, and ready to make the most of the opportunities available to them. School remains the gateway to future success, and your support in reinforcing this message at home is greatly appreciated.

In that vein, we are exceptionally excited to announce that CEC will be holding its first in-person Open Evening for several years on Thursday 15 October. We cannot wait to welcome Year 5 and Year 6 children, along with their parents and carers, into our school. Our students and staff will be on hand to help host the evening and showcase everything that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow. Please do feel free to share this information with friends, family and the wider Isle of Wight community.

A reminder also that our Meet the Head drop-in sessions are available for booking. These provide an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to ask questions, share feedback and discuss any matters relating to school life.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent communication survey. Your feedback is invaluable and is helping us to improve the ways in which we communicate with families. As a result, we will be moving to a more user-friendly newsletter format in the coming weeks, making it easier to access key information and updates.

Please be aware that information on accessing our Parent Portals, including guides on logging in for parents and students, can be found on our website: <https://cowesec.org/key-info/parent-portals>. This includes Arbor (for parents and students), ScoPay, Sparx Reader, MathsWatch and our Parents' Evening System.

I would also like to ask for your continued support with our uniform standards. Maintaining high expectations around presentation helps foster a sense of pride, belonging and readiness for learning. We are grateful for your ongoing support in ensuring students arrive at school dressed appropriately and ready for the day ahead.

Finally, I would like to provide some clarification regarding our arrangements for student use of toilets during the school day. I have spoken with both students and staff to ensure expectations are clear and consistent.

- Toilets will be open and available during breaktimes and lunchtimes.
- Students will be able to use the toilet during lessons where there is a genuine need.
- Students who are able to wait will be encouraged to remain in learning and use facilities during social times.
- We believe this approach supports learning while ensuring students' needs are met, and we will continue to monitor the appropriate use of this system.
- During the first and last 10 minutes of lessons, students will not be permitted to leave the classroom to use the toilet.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school. Together, we are creating an environment where every child can thrive, succeed and fulfil their potential.

Kind regards,



Ruth Griffiths-Nash
Head of School