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Dear Parents and Carers

My apologies for not writing over the past couple of weeks. As ever, it has been an incredibly busy time here at school, with plenty to celebrate and look forward to.

Many of you will know that we welcomed OFSTED into school two weeks ago. This was our first inspection under the new, more rigorous inspection framework. The outcome of the inspection remains embargoed until the report is published, which we have been advised will be sometime in September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate our staff and pupils. They represented the school magnificently, showcasing the many strengths of our community with professionalism, enthusiasm and pride. I will, of course, write to you again once the report has been published.

The heatwave last week certainly brought with it some unique challenges! Thank you for your understanding and support as we made temporary adjustments to our uniform expectations to help keep pupils as comfortable as possible during the exceptionally high temperatures.

Learning beyond the classroom continues to be a vital part of school life. Mrs Shirley accompanied a group of pupils to Manchester to enjoy a performance of *Annie*, while Mrs Barker took pupils to Penrith to participate in the Spellbinding competition. Opportunities such as these enrich our curriculum and create lasting memories for our students.

I am also delighted to share that we have been awarded the **Gold School Games Mark** in recognition of our commitment to sport and participation in the School Games during the 2025–26 academic year. This is a tremendous achievement and reflects the outstanding work of our PE department in providing such a wide range of sporting opportunities for our pupils. I would also like to pay particular tribute to Mrs Burns, whose dedication and leadership have played a significant role in securing this prestigious award.

Last week, we were delighted to welcome Year 6 pupils from several of our local primary schools as part of our transition programme. Today, as I write, we are welcoming our entire new Year 7 cohort for their induction day. It is always a pleasure to see the excitement and enthusiasm of pupils beginning the next stage of their educational journey, and we look forward to officially welcoming them in September.

This week also sees many of our older students experiencing learning in a different environment, with Year 10 and Year 12 undertaking their work experience placements. These opportunities provide invaluable insight into the world of work, helping students develop confidence, independence and employability skills. I hope they all have an enjoyable and rewarding week.

Last week also marked the end of an era for our Year 11 and Year 13 students as we celebrated their time with us at their Leavers' Assemblies. There were many laughs, wonderful memories shared and, understandably, more than a few tears. My sincere thanks go to Mrs Hoskins, Mr Callaghan and Mrs Rayson for organising such memorable and fitting celebrations. We wish all of our leavers every success as they begin the next exciting chapter of their lives.

This Thursday, we will be swapping classrooms for bow ties and ball gowns as we celebrate the Year 11 Prom. It promises to be a wonderful evening and a fitting finale for a year group who have worked incredibly hard throughout their time at the school. I very much look forward to celebrating with them one final time.

Finally, I hope many of you are enjoying the World Cup. While it's been entertaining, staying awake to follow matches played on American time perhaps wasn't my wisest decision!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is greatly appreciated and plays such an important part in making our school community the special place that it is.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D McArdle'.

Mr D McArdle
Headteacher