

17 July 2026

To Year 9

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 9 – End of Term

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been a fantastic year for our Year 9 students and to thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

Year 9 has been a year full of achievement, challenge and opportunity. As a year group, our students have continued to grow into confident, resilient and mature young people who make us proud every day. Whether in lessons, on the sports field, during enrichment activities or whilst representing the school on trips, both in the UK and abroad, they have consistently demonstrated the values and standards we strive to uphold at Taverham High School.

A Year of Opportunity

One of the highlights of Year 9 has been the wealth of enrichment opportunities available to students this year. We have been delighted to see so many students take part in the Normandy trip, the China trip, the Ski trip and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme.

These experiences have enabled students to develop independence, resilience, teamwork and cultural understanding beyond the classroom. Staff accompanying each visit were full of praise for the maturity, enthusiasm and exemplary behaviour shown throughout. Our students were wonderful ambassadors for the school and represented both themselves and their families with pride.

A particular highlight of the year was our residential trip to Hautbois House. I was incredibly proud of the way students conducted themselves throughout the visit. They represented Taverham High School beautifully, demonstrating maturity, kindness and respect at all times. The residential trip provided opportunities for students to step outside their comfort zones, take part in a wide range of exciting activities and experiences and develop important life skills such as teamwork, communication and resilience.

Perhaps most importantly, the trip allowed students to strengthen existing friendships and build new ones, creating a real sense of unity across the year group. It was wonderful to see them supporting one another, encouraging each other through challenges and embracing every opportunity on offer. The positive attitude shown by every student made the trip an overwhelming success and one that I know will be remembered fondly for years to come.

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Sporting Success

This year has also brought some incredible sporting achievements. A particular highlight was the success of our Year 9 Girls' Football Team, who were crowned ESF Tournament Champions in Skegness. This was a tremendous achievement and a testament to the hard work, determination and teamwork shown by the players throughout the season.

In addition, we are incredibly proud of the number of students who have successfully completed football trials and have now been selected to represent their county. This is a remarkable accomplishment and reflects the talent, dedication and commitment of these students. They continue to represent Taverham High School with distinction and are excellent role models for their peers.

Extra-curricular and Leadership

Beyond the classroom, Year 9 students have continued to make the most of the many extra-curricular opportunities available to them. It has been wonderful to see so many students committing their time, energy and enthusiasm to clubs, teams and enrichment activities throughout the year.

Many of our students have been involved in the two fantastic school productions this year. The dedication, commitment and enthusiasm shown during countless rehearsals have been truly impressive. Performing in a production requires courage, resilience and teamwork, and our students rose to the challenge brilliantly. Whether on stage, behind the scenes or supporting the technical aspects of the performances, they contributed to creating memorable shows that showcased the incredible talent within our school community.

We have also been delighted by the exceptional number of students who applied to become Prefects for next year. In fact, we have seen one of the highest numbers of applications in recent years. This reflects the ambition, pride and commitment that so many of our students have for representing the school and supporting others. The selection process was incredibly difficult due to the high calibre of applicants. Those students who have been successful should be immensely proud of themselves and I have no doubt they will make outstanding leaders and role models within the school community.

In addition, a number of our Year 9 students took on the role of ELF's, supporting our incoming Year 6 students during Transition Days. They were exemplary ambassadors for the school, offering reassurance, guidance and encouragement to younger students who were understandably nervous about joining secondary school. Staff were full of praise for their maturity, kindness and professionalism. Watching them support others with such confidence was a wonderful reminder of how much they have grown and developed during their time in Year 9.

Sports Day

I would also like to recognise the outstanding attitude displayed by all Year 9 students during this year's Sports Day - our penultimate Sports Day as they will have gone on to study leave in Year 11.

The behaviour, sportsmanship and maturity shown throughout the day were genuinely exceptional. Students threw themselves into every event with enthusiasm, encouraged one another wholeheartedly and competed in the right spirit. It was a pleasure to watch them represent their houses with such pride and positivity.

Sports Day encapsulated everything that is wonderful about this year group. Their respect for one another, willingness to participate and maturity throughout the day demonstrated just how much they have grown since joining us. Every member of staff commented on how proud they were of the students and remarked on the positive atmosphere they helped create.

Looking Ahead to Year 10

In September 2026, students will begin an important new chapter as they move into Year 10 and the GCSE phase of their education.

The next two years will bring greater academic challenge, increased independence and exciting opportunities for students to work towards their future goals and aspirations. Whilst we encourage everyone to enjoy a well-earned summer break, I would also encourage students to maintain good reading habits, stay curious and return in September ready to embrace the opportunities and responsibilities that come with Key Stage 4.

Year 10 marks the beginning of a crucial stage in their educational journey. Establishing strong routines from the outset, maintaining excellent attendance and developing effective study habits will be key to future success. I have every confidence that this year group will rise to the challenge. The determination, resilience and maturity they have shown throughout Year 9 has laid excellent foundations for the exciting years ahead.

Uniform

As we prepare for the new school year, I would like to remind you of our uniform expectations. All students are required to follow the uniform expectations at Taverham High School. Wearing incorrect uniform is set out in the school's behaviour policy as a barrier to learning and sanctions will apply. By ensuring the standards of uniform are upheld across the school we hope our students will develop pride in all they do which will maximise their progress throughout their time at the school.

- All trousers should be plain black, tailored trousers. They may be slim fit, if this is a preference, but must not be leggings. They cannot be jeans, track suits bottoms, have studded pockets or be 'figure hugging'. Please be aware that some shops are pushing legging style trousers with pockets and classifying these as school trousers. They are not acceptable in our school.
- All shoes must be plain black. If you're not sure, please ask.
- All ties are to be worn properly, with seven stripes visible and the knot reaching your collar. We appreciate that not everyone is used to wearing or tying ties, but you can follow tutorial videos such as this one [How to tie a tie – Quick and Easy \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW8tYUg8Q8Q) to help, or your child's form tutor can help them.
- All shirts, regardless of style or length, must be tucked in at all times.
- Any piercings must be simple studs, students wearing hoops or any other type of piercing will be asked to remove them. Additionally, all students must be able to take part in the full curriculum. This means that, for example, piercings must be removeable for PE lessons. Please therefore ensure that your child/ward only has piercings at times when there is enough time for them to heal sufficiently so they can be taken out for lessons. This is likely to be the start of the Summer holiday.

- Students must wear a colour tie that corresponds with their schoolhouse and form as shown below.
- Hoodies are not acceptable items of outerwear in our school. Please support us by ensuring your child/ward has an appropriate coat if they are cold. Do not let them come to school in a hoodie.

All students are expected to bring the following items to school each day:

- Black or blue pens for writing
- Green pens for marking
- Pencils
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Scientific calculator
- Protractor (angle measurer)
- Pair of compasses
- Required exercise books for that day's lessons
- A bottle of water (optional)
- A mini whiteboard and dry-wipe pen

Thank You

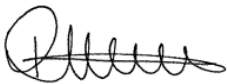
Finally, I would like to thank every Year 9 student for the positivity, humour, effort and maturity they have shown throughout the year. From winning football tournaments and earning county honours, to travelling abroad, completing Duke of Edinburgh challenges, enjoying a successful residential at Hautbois House and supporting one another so positively at Sports Day, they have given us countless reasons to be proud.

It has been a privilege to watch them grow and develop over the past year and I am genuinely excited to see all that they will achieve as they begin their GCSE journey in September. They are a year group full of character, ambition and potential, and I know they will continue to make both themselves and our school proud.

On behalf of all the staff at Taverham High School, I would like to wish you and your family a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved summer holiday.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 10 students back on 4 September 2026.

Yours faithfully



Miss R Andrews
Head of Year 9