



9th January 2026

Principal's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were very pleased to welcome students back to school this week following the Christmas break and wish all our families a very happy new year.

Calm Corridors and Consistent Classrooms

We are looking forward to building on the work of the autumn term to ensure that all students feel safe and happy at school, and are able to maximise their learning in class.

Students have made an excellent start to the term and have responded well to our new approach to 'Calm Corridors', underpinned by three very simple expectations of students: for them to be **ready, respectful and safe**. For students, very little is different, and they were reminded of our expectations during assemblies on Tuesday. You can see a copy of 'Calm Corridors' on our website here: [Calm Corridors – The Ferrers School](#)

Two aspects of Calm Corridors are slightly different to previous practice for students. For clarity and transparency, and in response to some queries that have arisen, please find below an explanation of our current approaches. Every decision that we take is based on our values and made in the best interests of our students in response to information that we gather, including student voice.

Toilets

Students have been asked to **use toilet facilities appropriately, at the right time**. This means that students have been reminded that they can use the toilets before school, at any transition between lessons, at break and at lunchtime, allowing many opportunities within the school day to do so. At transitions, staff are at the 'threshold' of their classrooms, encouraging students through corridors and supporting with keeping toilet areas free of any gathering, and at break and lunchtime, toilets are supervised by staff, again to ensure that toilets are being used for the purpose for which they are intended.

During lessons, in an emergency, staff have the discretion to issue students with a Corridor Pass and allow them to access toilets in the middle of the lesson. However, this is the exception and not the norm. Students with a medical toilet pass are able to access the toilets at any time. If you think that your child might require a toilet pass for medical reasons, please do not hesitate to contact senco@theferrers.org.

There are three main toilet blocks in full operation across the school. We currently have two toilet blocks, in maths and English, out of operation as a result of vandalism at the start of the academic year. The cost to repair these toilets runs into thousands of pounds. As such, we have not been able to complete this work to date; however, we are looking at ways in which we can bring additional toilet blocks back into operation in

the near future. I want to reassure families that at present, there are currently enough toilets for students to access without having to queue or miss out on break time.

Ms York will be carrying out further student voice with students around toilets, and we would be very happy to answer any queries about the matter or indeed welcome parents and carers into school to view facilities if there are concerns. Please contact us using mail@theferrers.org should you have any queries or would like to arrange to visit.

Pencil Cases

Students have been expected to have a fully stocked pencil cases since the start of the academic year. We are now expecting these to be out and visible on desks, so that all equipment is accessible throughout the lesson (for example, different coloured pens for assessment). The primary reason for this is to reduce interruptions to learning. A full equipment list can be found [here](#).

Tutors check students' equipment every morning in tutor time, and any student without a pencil case is able to borrow one from the House Office. To ensure it is returned at the end of the school day, House offices will ask students to hand in their phone (or another item of value to them if they don't have a phone) in return for the loaned equipment. This will then be locked in the House Office and returned to students in exchange for the pencil case at 3pm. The House teams have taken this approach to avoid sanctions for lost equipment, and also to ensure that equipment doesn't go missing when it is on loan to students, as we have spent several hundreds of pounds stocking House offices to support students. Where there are financial difficulties preventing students having a pencil case, school will provide students with one without question if students or parents contact the House office. If there are any queries or feedback, please contact us using mail@theferrers.org.

Communications

We have been working hard to improve our communication between school and home and will continue to do so. Thank you again to all parents who were able to attend the Parent Forum before Christmas; the slides from the evening can be found [here](#). Our next parent forum will take place on Tuesday 10th February, 5.30-6.30pm.

We will continue to share good news and student success stories on our social media platforms. We respectfully request that families refrain from using social media to air concerns as we can only deal with matters that we know about, through the correct channels. If you have any queries or concerns, please use mail@theferrers.org and we will ensure that we respond to your communication within two working days. If you do not receive a response within that timeframe, please email Mrs Howells, PA to the Principal, and we will follow up to ensure a positive resolution as soon as possible: lhowells@theferrers.org

Year 13 Mock examinations

Year 13 mock examinations commence next week and will run until Friday 16th January. During this period, students will be on study leave and will only come into school for their mock exams. We wish them every success and are very proud of how hard they have been working!

Footwear and Coats

After a very cold week, temperatures look set to improve considerably next week. As such, normal footwear rules will resume (black school shoes please). Please be reminded that hoodies, tracksuit tops and quarter zips are not substitutes for coats and will be confiscated if worn.

Safety for the dangers of frozen water

Please take a moment to read the attached flyer about the dangers of frozen water and reinforce the messages to children about staying away from frozen water and what to do should they get into difficulty. The following website also has some important information: [Water Safety Near Frozen Water | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK \)](#)

Key Dates for Term 3

Monday 12th January - Y13 mock exams commence
Wednesday 14th January – Y12 EPQ trip to Cambridge University Library
Wednesday 4th February – Careers Fair
Monday 9th – Friday 13th February – Trust Residential Trip to Aberdovey, Wales
Tuesday 10th February – Parent Forum 5.30-6.30 pm
Friday 13th February – Last day of Term 3
Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half Term Break
Monday 23rd February - Students return to school

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Clare Raku
Principal