

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the summer term, we'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a busy, productive, and enjoyable few months for our Year 8 students. It has been a pleasure to see how much they've grown in maturity, confidence, and independence throughout the year.

Personal Development

A key focus this year has been developing resilience, teamwork, and responsibility. Through PSHE sessions, form time activities, and wider school initiatives, Year 8 have explored topics such as digital wellbeing, friendships, and decision-making. Their engagement in these discussions has been mature and thoughtful.

We have had a positive Well-Being week where students took part in activities to promote wellness and wellbeing.

We've also seen many Year 8s stepping up as role models within the school community, supporting events, helping with open evenings, and showing kindness to younger students. We're proud of the young people they are becoming.

An Amazing Sports Day!

One of the standout moments this term was our **incredible Sports Day**. The weather held up beautifully, and the energy across the field was nothing short of inspiring. Year 8 students gave it their all — showing teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship in every event.

From sprints and relays to long jump and tug-of-war, the atmosphere was electric. The cheers from classmates, staff, and families created a fantastic sense of community and encouragement.



Looking Ahead to Year 9

Year 9 brings new opportunities — including the start of some GCSE pathway choices and the chance to take on more leadership roles. We encourage all students to return in September with a positive mindset, ready to embrace the next stage of their journey at Ousedale.

Parents will receive full information on the Year 9 curriculum and upcoming key dates at the start of next term.

Autumn term starts: Wednesday 03 September 2025.

Basic equipment list for the new school year:

Pen x2 • Pencil x2 • Purple pen • Pencil sharpener • 30cm Ruler • Rubber/eraser • Planner • Protractor • Set square • Compass • Calculator • Reading Book

Wellbeing Support Over the Holidays

At Ousedale, we understand that the summer holidays can be a time of mixed feelings for some students. While it's a well-earned break, it can also bring challenges for those who rely on the structure and support school provides. To ensure no student feels isolated or unsupported, we have continued to provide access to wellbeing resources and guidance throughout the summer.

If your child needs support during the break, our **school website** has a dedicated **Wellbeing and Mental Health** page, with links to trusted services such as **Kooth**, **Childline**, **CAMHS**, and **YoungMinds**. The MK sanctuary is an amazing resource if students need to speak to someone impartial throughout the holidays.

We encourage all students to take care of their mental and physical health over the summer—get outside, stay connected, and talk to someone if things feel overwhelming. Help is always available, and they are never alone.

Thank You and Have a Great Summer!

A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Your encouragement at home makes a significant difference in your child's success.

We wish all our Year 8 students a safe, happy, and restful summer. Enjoy the break—you've earned it!

Craig Poulton

Sue Allwood