



27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The school's partnership with The Brilliant Club was highlighted this week, as students in Year 9 attended Magdalene College in Cambridge as part of the scholars programme. Students were able to speak with undergraduates about life at university as they now embark on a research project that will be assessed by a PhD tutor – good luck to all involved, and a special thank you to Mrs Bedford for organising the trip.

Study skills has been high on the agenda in school too, as assemblies have focused on learning techniques students can use to better retain and recall information. Dual coding and retrieval practice are methods all students can use, regardless of year group or subject, that will support learning and motivation. You can find more about these techniques on [The Learning Scientists website](#) as you support your child with their studies.

Finally, a reminder of the letter I sent to all parents earlier this week regarding the industrial action being taken by members of the National Education Union next Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February. On that day, school will be closed to all students other than those in Year 11 as they are preparing for examinations. For me, the day is not only about pay and conditions, but also raising the issue of inadequate school funding we receive from the government. We have been as careful as possible with how we use our school funding, but covering additional staffing costs and energy bills from our existing budget is not sustainable. As an example, the school's electricity bill is forecast to be around £240,000 for this year. Education needs to be funded properly for young people to have the best start in life. Thank you, as ever, for your continued support.

With best wishes

**Mr Dan Bagshaw**  
**Head of School**