EATON BANK ACADEMY

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23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As our first half term draws to a close, I would like to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support of our school community. There is much to celebrate as we reflect on the start of the academic year, and I am particularly proud of our excellent Year 7 and Year 12 students. Their determination, enthusiasm and willingness to embrace new challenges deserve special recognition as they begin these important stages of their education.

We also have much to celebrate in sport, with our teams enjoying tremendous success this half term. Congratulations to all the students involved; you have given our school community much to be proud of. I look forward to cheering on our teams and celebrating their continued success in the coming half term.

The brilliant recent cross-country competitions at Eaton Bank Academy have been another highlight, culminating in last week's competition with over 200 primary runners taking part. It has been wonderful to celebrate such enthusiastic participation in sport across our wider school community. Well done to all the runners who took part and to the excellent organisational skills of Mr Dytiche for making it all happen.

In the performing arts, auditions and preparations for our forthcoming school production of Les Misérables are already well under way. The show will debut in February, with an enormous amount of dedicated rehearsal and practice taking place before then. I look forward to seeing the production take shape and thank all the students and staff involved for the commitment they will bring to the months ahead.

Our community partnerships also give us much to look forward to. Ms Callister is working with Everybody Leisure and the Congleton Rotary Team to develop a range of swimming lesson programmes, which will begin in the February half term and run throughout the remainder of the academic year. Ms Virgo and two sixth-form students will undertake training after half term as our Swim Champions. This initiative is a meaningful way to carry forward Chiedza's memory and legacy within our wider community.

Next half term, students in Years 11 and 13 will sit their formal trial examinations. These provide an important opportunity to assess progress and depth of understanding, while offering an indication of potential outcomes in the summer examinations. Using this half term productively for revision will ensure that our students have a fantastic springboard for success not only in the November examinations but also in the summer series.

With the clocks going back on Sunday 25 October, over the first weekend of half term, the darker nights will soon be drawing in. This makes road safety especially important, particularly on journeys home from school. PC Andrew Cornell has been in school throughout the week delivering assemblies on safe travel to all of our year groups. Please take time to remind your children to use designated crossing points wherever possible, put phones away when crossing roads and wear or carry reflective items to help them be seen in the dark. For those cycling, please check that their lights are working. I also ask everyone driving near the school to take extra care and remain alert to students walking and cycling.

An exciting second half of the Autumn term lies ahead, with fresh opportunities for students across the school to learn, develop their interests and build on their achievements. I look forward to sharing the weeks ahead with our whole school community. In the meantime, I wish all our students and their families a restful and enjoyable half-term break. Thank you for the encouragement and support you give your children and our school.

Best wishes,
Ed O'Neill