



Monday 2 March. 2026

Dear Year 6 families,

A warm welcome to Cheltenham Bournside School

I am delighted that your child will be joining us at Cheltenham Bournside School in September. My children are adults now, working or studying at university, but I vividly remember their first day at “big school”: excitement about the new subjects they would be studying, worries over how to tie their tie, eagerly anticipating the clubs and activities they would be able to join, first day nerves about finding their friends but looking forward to the opportunity of making new ones. As a parent, I know this is a big step for you and your family. Of course, I see it from the other point of view as well. I know this is the first time some of you will have waved your children off to secondary school, but we have welcomed the new wave of pupils every September for many years. That means we are used to it: we know what new students will find hard and we know how to make things easier for them. We have learned how to comfort those overwhelmed by the change; and we have learned how to manage the energy of those overexcited by it!

But what I have learned most in twenty-seven years of seeing new students join a school is this: the key is communication. That is why I’m writing to you today. That’s why we will invite you into our school ahead of our five-day transition week and why we’ll keep in touch with you over the coming months. You will find all the information you’ll need on our website, and on the pages dedicated to new Year 7 students.

However, we know that sometimes you need to speak to someone: perhaps you have a particular question that is not covered on our website, perhaps the issues are too complex for an email, perhaps you just prefer a good, old fashioned face-to-face conversation. So, please do contact us. We can do our job – of caring for and educating your child - much better if you keep in touch and work in partnership with us, not just in the next few months before September, but throughout your child’s time at school.

We are really looking forward to meeting you and welcoming your child to the community of Cheltenham Bournside School.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Jefferies
Headteacher