

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

A very warm welcome back to everyone, and a special welcome to all of our new students and families joining Lufton College.

We hope you have all had a lovely summer and are looking forward to the year ahead. We are excited to welcome everyone back and to begin what we anticipate will be a very positive and ambitious 2026–27 academic year.

College will restart on Thursday 3rd September, with Wednesday 2nd September being the main travel and return day for residential students. If you have already made alternative individual travel, return or transition arrangements with the college, please continue to follow those arrangements as planned.

For your information, the Lufton College Academic Calendar for 2026–27 is attached. This includes key term dates, travel days and holiday periods for the year ahead, so please do keep this somewhere handy for reference.

As part of the Lufton journey, the start of a new academic year can also bring changes and new opportunities for our students. During the summer break, some of our residential students will have moved to new accommodation as part of their ongoing progression towards greater independence. This may include moving to a different college campus, including The White Horse, our community-based home.

These moves are an important part of supporting students to develop their independence, confidence and readiness for adulthood. This may also mean working with new support staff and tutors. For some students, this will be something they are really looking forward to, while for others, changes to familiar people and surroundings may understandably bring some uncertainty or worry.

Our teams will be working closely with students to support them through these changes, helping them to become familiar with their new environments, build relationships with new staff and settle into their routines. We will provide support and reassurance to help each student navigate this step.

EHCP Annual Reviews

Although we have not yet returned for the new academic year, we are already looking ahead to the scheduling of EHCP Annual Reviews. Kate Brown, Transitions & Placements Manager, will be contacting families individually to arrange suitable dates and times.

As always, families and carers are an important part of the Annual Review process, and we really value your contribution. We welcome families to attend reviews either in person at Lufton College or online via Microsoft Teams, whichever works best for you.

We have also attached an EHCP Family Feedback Form for those who would find it useful, as it can help to ensure that your feedback is captured as part of the review process. This is entirely optional, and there is no expectation that families complete it. Families are equally welcome to provide their feedback verbally during the Annual Review or to share their own written feedback if they prefer.

If you already have preferred dates or times when you would be available, please feel free to let Kate know. We will do our best to accommodate these when arranging your review.

For our new students joining Lufton, their EHCP review will generally be arranged around 12 weeks after they have started at Lufton, once their baseline assessments have been completed. This allows the team sufficient time to get to know each student, establish their starting points and gather information about their strengths, needs and areas for development. This information will then help to ensure that the review is focused on the student's individual strengths, progress and priorities.

[Annual Review Form](#)

Looking Ahead

We are very excited and highly ambitious for our class of 2026–27. We have high expectations for the year ahead and are looking forward to building on the progress already achieved across Lufton. Our focus remains firmly on supporting each student to make meaningful progress towards their individual aspirations and outcomes. We are anticipating a year of great achievements, continued development and positive progression for all our students.

We recognise that success is strengthened through working with families. Your views, experiences and feedback are extremely valuable to us, and we want to continue developing opportunities for families to be actively involved in the Lufton community.

As part of this, we are looking forward to re-establishing the Lufton Parent/Carer Forum during the 2026–27 academic year. We hope the Parent/Carer Forum will provide a valuable opportunity for families to share their experiences, ideas and feedback, while also giving the college an opportunity to share information, updates and developments with families and provide a space to discuss areas that are important.

We would like the forum to be a positive and constructive way of strengthening communication between Lufton and helping families to feel informed, involved and connected. We will share further information about dates and arrangements shortly. In the meantime, if you would be interested in being involved in the Parent/Carer Forum, please do let us know.

We are also looking forward to sharing more of life at Lufton through Facebook. Over the coming year, we hope to share more regular updates, celebrate student achievements and successes, and give families a glimpse into some of the activities, experiences and opportunities our students are enjoying across the college.

If you don't already follow us, please do follow our Facebook page and join us in celebrating the fantastic things our students are getting involved in throughout the year:

[Facebook](#)

We look forward to seeing you all very soon and to a fantastic 2026–27 at Lufton College.