



14th February 2025

Dear Parents,

The Board of Governors were at Twyford at the end of January to observe the School in action and discuss its development. We discussed how recent Government policy on removing the charitable business rates relief¹, National Insurance contributions² and the imposition of VAT, alongside the prolonged high level of educational inflation (for example increased costs of school resources and educational visits) have created uncertainty around future fee levels. As a Board, we decided to bring forward from June 2025 our announcement on fee levels for 2025-26. The intention of this is to give current and prospective parents certainty around fee levels for the next 18 months.

Last November, Governors announced that to support the transition to VAT we would provide a 6% discount on the school fee prior to the addition of VAT at 20% for the Spring and Summer terms. This was one of the highest transitional discounts provided by any school across junior and prep schools. As part of our long-term strategy, we have determined that in September 2025 the two term fee discount will end and the fee level will return to the September 2024 level (subject to VAT). So, in summary, there will be no inflationary increase applied for 2025/26. The School will absorb both educational and Consumer Price Index inflation as well as the impact of losing the business rates relief and the increases in employers' National Insurance contributions, equating to a cost of c£400k in 2025/26.

It is our intention that there will be no further announcements on fees until June 2026.

Per term	2024/25 previously published fees	2024/25 fees plus VAT as applicable	Spring & Summer 2025 6% discounted fees with VAT as applicable	2025/26 fees with VAT as applicable
Reception to Yr. 2	£4,668.00	£5,601.60	£5,218.35	£5,601.60
Year 3	£6,936.00	£8,323.20	£7,764.21	£8,323.20
Years 4 to 8	£8,315.00	£9,978.00	£9,305.46	£9,978.00

Freezing the fee level and absorbing rates and National Insurance does impact the short-term profitability of the School, circa £700k over the five terms, but we have a strong balance sheet and are working hard to identify where further efficiencies can be made which fundamentally do not impact our unique educational offering. We are investing in the School's future to reduce costs, lower our carbon footprint and increase our non-fee / holiday income by utilising our site all year round.

We will not compromise on the quality of a Twyford education. Indeed, it is our policy to double down on quality in every aspect of what we do. When we look out and see the government's plans for state

¹ Charitable business rates relief is currently 80%.

² Employer National Insurance contributions increased from 13.8% to 15%.

education, we see proposals that will stifle and lead to a decline in standards. Where senior leadership teams, like ours, are set free to innovate we see the pursuit of excellence. This is the road we wish to take – one where technology, best practice and innovation lead to higher standards and a more personalised education for each child, using data, immersive and other learning tools to support excellence. And whilst we hope that the next Government reverses VAT, we don't assume this will happen and are grabbing the opportunity to re-invent and re-imagine what we do.

I appreciate that in all my notes to parents I mention hardship bursaries and the importance of contacting the Bursar, Kathryn Pillar (bursar@twyfordschool.com) if you are experiencing financial strain or just want an initial chat.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Twyford staff for their impressive performance in the recent ISI inspection, and for parental feedback to this process. When we have the official inspection report it will be made available to all parents.

In the meantime, I thank you all for your ongoing support of Twyford and wish you all an enjoyable half term break whether at home or abroad.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Howman', followed by a horizontal line.

Colin Howman
Chair of Governors