Marlborough House
Vinehall

A REPTON SCHOOL

Wednesday 14th October 2026

Dear Parents, Governors and Staff,

Letter from the Head

As we approach half term, I wanted to reflect on what has already been a busy and uplifting start to the school year. There is a real sense of momentum around MHV. The familiar rhythm of school life continues as it should, but within it there is an energy which I hope is already being felt by children and families.

Academic ambition has been an important focus. We have increased English and Mathematics teaching time in Years 3–6 and introduced dedicated reading time after lunch. We have also raised expectations around prep and sharpened our use of assessment to identify where children need greater challenge or support. We are delighted to have been recognised as an ISEB iPQ Gold School - a welcome endorsement of our commitment to developing confident, self-directed learners. The project qualification encourages independence, curiosity and critical thinking through short, pupil-led projects in Years 6–8.

We have also made important changes to the way we support individual children. Learning Support has become Personalised Learning, under the excellent leadership of Catherine Walker. Both have been working closely with staff and parents to understand individual learning needs and identify appropriate support, whether through adaptive classroom strategies, small-group work or one-to-one specialist teaching.

In Pre-Prep, we are strengthening the learning journey from Nursery and Kindergarten through Reception and into KS1, alongside a consistent approach to early reading through the Read Write Inc. scheme, which develops fluent and confident readers and writers. Vanessa Brooks is also making use of an additional classroom to establish our new Learning & Inclusion Hub, providing a dedicated space for targeted, small-group support.

These developments reflect our academic ambition and commitment to an individualised approach to teaching and learning, now captured in our guiding principle: High Challenge. High Support. It is a combination we feel strongly about, and one that is already becoming increasingly evident in our classrooms.

Progress is visible around the school estate too. The swimming pool renovation, Tom Robson's new Tennis School and the installation of a Meyer sound system in the Theatre (the same system used at the National Theatre, no less!) are now complete. Work is also underway to redesign our golf course, creating five higher-quality holes with improved greens and tee areas, providing a much better golfing experience for our children.

There is much more I could highlight. But when anyone asks me how the new school year has started at MHV, the first thing that comes to mind is the optimistic energy across the staffroom and our united school community, and, most importantly, the very evident happiness of the children.

Have a wonderful and restful half term with your children when it comes. Liz and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November for what promises to be a bustling second half of term.

With my very best wishes,



Joff Powis
Head