



23 February 2026

Dear Families

I hope the long January stretch and the recent rain have not dampened your household's spirits too much. I am writing to you today, with some incredibly exciting news for the upcoming summer term.

Starting on Friday 17 April 2026, we have a fantastic opportunity for 15 students to head out to Weir Wood Reservoir for an 11-week water sports adventure. This is a brilliant chance for students to get active, learn a unique skill, and complete their RYA Stage 1 Qualification.

The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Youth Sailing Scheme is a nationally recognised qualification.

Here is what Stage 1 covers:

- **The Basics:** An introduction to how a boat sails and basic steering.
- **Safety First:** Essential knowledge on launching, recovery, and water safety.
- **Hands-on Experience:** Students get direct experience handling the boat under the guidance of experts.
- **Confidence Building:** A great way to develop independence and resilience in a beautiful outdoor setting.

Students will travel to and from the reservoir with Mr Longstaff, on the school minibus. Sessions run every Friday from 3.00pm to 5.30pm, where students will be out on the water with the professional instructors from Weir Wood Sport and Leisure.

The sessions are £37 each, which includes all necessary equipment, instruction and the qualification certificate.

- **Initial Deposit:** To secure a spot, we are asking for the first two sessions upfront at a discounted rate of £70.
- **Remaining Balance:** The final £333 (covering the remaining nine sessions) must be paid via the MCAS app before Tuesday 14 April 2026.

Please Note: This activity is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. If this pilot program is successful, we aim to make this an annual tradition.

If your child is ready to find their sea legs, please sign up via the MCAS app as soon as possible. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Please note that participants of this club must be able to swim.

We never want cost to be a barrier preventing members of our Sackville Community from achieving their best. We will work closely with all families to ensure equity during their time at the school. If any families would like their child to have access to this product and would need financial assistance, we invite families to get in touch with us to discuss what may be available. Please speak to your child's community team.

As outlined in our Culture for Learning policy, on rare occasions we may have to remove a student from a trip/activity who is unable to meet our high expectations or whose behaviour puts themselves or others at risk.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ashley Vallally-Godfrey
Associate Assistant Headteacher

