



Summer Term Foundation Assembly

Worcester Cathedral, 21.04.2026

Good morning, everyone. I hope that you have all enjoyed the Easter holidays and that being back at school for a few days has helped you to reconnect with your friends after the break.

As we begin a new school term together, I want to start by reflecting on one powerful idea - new beginnings. New beginnings bring with them hope - the hope that we can grow, improve, try again, and move forward together.

It feels especially right to think about hope now, because we are in springtime. Spring is the season when the world wakes up again. Trees bud, days lighten, and life re-emerges after winter. New beginnings and hope right in front of our eyes.

Earlier this month, something remarkable happened beyond our planet. NASA launched Artemis II, a mission that sent astronauts around the Moon and safely back to Earth. It was the first time in over 50 years that humans have travelled that far into space. This mission matters - not just because of science or technology, but because of what it shows us about human beings.

Artemis II is part of a story that began long before us - a story that reaches back to the 1960s when the then President of the USA, John F Kennedy, said, "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade, not because it is easy, but because it is hard." This bold, hopeful philosophy culminated in the moon landings of 1969, when the Apollo astronauts – Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin – became the first humans to land on the Moon.

The Artemis missions remind us that new beginnings do not appear out of nowhere. They are built on:

- hard work

- learning from the past
- teamwork
- and the courage to keep going even in the face of failure

The people who stepped onto the Moon in 1969 could not imagine exactly what Artemis II would look like today - but their effort made it possible.

That is true here as well. Every term builds on the effort, the learning, and the care that have gone before. Here at the KSW Foundation, we express this through a simple mantra that I've shared with you before:

Work Hard.

Play Hard.

Look After Each Other.

These words aren't just slogans - they are ways of living out our core values of being curious, confident and caring.

To Work Hard is to be Curious: to ask questions, to wonder, to explore ideas, to stretch yourself academically and personally - just as scientists and astronauts do.

To Play Hard is to be Confident: to take part, to perform, to compete, to enjoy creativity and sport, to risk trying something new without fear of failure.

And to Look After Each Other is to be Caring: to notice others, to show kindness, to support when things are hard, to recognise that nobody succeeds alone.

Those astronauts of 1969 and 2026 were curious - they wanted to explore what lay beyond what was known. They were confident, not because they had no fear, but because they trusted their preparation and one another. And they were caring, aware that they were doing something bigger than themselves - for all humanity.

In the Christian faith, there is a moment that brings all of this together. In Matthew 3:13-17, Jesus comes to be baptised by John the Baptist. Up until that point, Jesus has lived quietly. No great achievements. No public success. Then he steps forward - in humility and trust.

As he rises from the water, three things happen:

- The heavens are opened
- The Spirit descends
- And a voice says, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Before anything has been accomplished, Jesus is affirmed. This is a powerful reminder that new beginnings are not about proving ourselves but about knowing who we are and how we are called to live.

So, what does this mean for us? As this term begins, each of us starts again in some way. Hope lies not in being perfect, but in choosing how we live each day:

- being curious in our learning
- confident in taking healthy risks
- and caring in the way we treat one another

Just like a space mission, just like springtime, just like the baptism of Jesus - beginnings matter. They set direction. They shape identity. They open possibility.

So, as we begin this term together, let us step forward with hope. Let us:

- Work Hard - with curiosity
- Play Hard - with confidence
- And Look After Each Other - with care

Because when we do that, new beginnings really do lead somewhere amazing and profound. Who knows? Maybe they lead to the moon and back.

Go well.

BPHC, April 2026