



Dear Parents

This has been a term in which our students have continued to show off their many talents.

This week will see two performances of the Arts Spectacular, combining the talents of the Art, Dance, Drama and Music teams. I am sure that all involved will build on the success of last year's showcase. We will share some of the highlights (-hard to choose!) with the whole school in our final assembly on Thursday.

It was also good to see so many of our students taking part in the Henley Youth Festival. Gillotts Voices and the Chamber Group both took part of the HYF Prom at the Kenton Theatre. Many other individual students also contributed in myriad ways.

This weekend, in weather that was definitely not spring-like, over 50 Year 9 students successfully completed their practice Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. Camping, tent erecting and cooking all took place in the drizzle. The message relayed to me was that they were freezing, tired, but still happy!

We seem to be spending significant time at present reminding students about the details of our uniform rules. I should like to draw two items in particular to your attention.

Jewellery: No jewellery apart from a maximum of two small stud earrings, one in the lobe of each ear.

We have seen an increase in multiple piercings in the ears and in nose piercings. We do allow students to wear discreet clear or flesh-coloured plastic retainers, but nothing else. Please ensure that if your child has a new piercing, a retainer is inserted from the start.

We also do not allow any bracelets or charity bands.

A lightweight gold or silver chain with a small religious symbol is permissible.

Socks: Black or white socks only, please. There seems to be a fashion amongst girls for socks as well as tights, which is not what is intended within the uniform regulations.

Please could I also remind parents of the importance of students being properly equipped for school? However well organised they were in September, a number of students are now arriving without the basics – pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, calculator, coloured pencils, glue – which slows down the start of lessons and hence progress. Getting the basics sorted for the start of the new term is essential!

I hope that you and your families will be able to enjoy some relaxation over the holidays, and that the spring weather will continue during the break! But, Year 11, remember to stick to those revision timetables! We are recommending 3 hours per day, 6 days per week, as a minimum.



Catharine Darnton
Headteacher

Reminder - dropping off and collecting students from Gillotts

The best places to drop your child off/ collect them by car are:

Makins Road – there is a network of footpaths that give access to the site. Please however do not park on the pavements or block residents' driveways; please also remind your children to respect residents' property as they walk in.

Leisure Centre car park – a one way system operates around the car park to ease the process. Please note that there is a 'give way' line as you leave the car park, giving priority to vehicles leaving or entering the school.

Please do not use the bus bay, any area of the school site beyond the turning into the Leisure Centre car park or Gillotts Lane.

The bus bay – we have a large number of buses and coaches, some of which need to reverse to get in or out. Please do not use the bus bay, the school cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may arise. Additionally, apart from the obvious danger this poses to all students, it is likely that your insurance will be invalidated if the clear signage is ignored. Teachers are on duty at the end of the day to ensure students who are waiting for the buses remain behind the barriers. Please do not drop off/ collect or park in the bus bay

The school site – because there is limited space for turning on the site, and because of the number of students, please do not bring your car onto site at the beginning or end of the day

Gillotts Lane – parents waiting by the kerb on Gillotts Lane effectively reduce the road to single track and this can lead to grid lock. Please avoid parking in this area if you can.

We do understand that there are some difficulties because of the location of the school but if all parents follow the above advice, previous experience indicates that all will go smoothly.

Many thanks for your support and cooperation.

Parent View

Parent View is an online questionnaire for parents and carers to feed back to Ofsted on their child's school. It is now the main mechanism that Ofsted use to gather parents' views at the time of an inspection. There are just 12 questions to answer. The questions look at the key areas such as happiness, safety, progress, quality of teaching, behaviour and school leadership. The final question asks if you would recommend the school to another parent. Everyone's responses are put together and are available to view on the Parent View website. In order to minimise the risk of abuse, you are required to register and create a password. We would be very pleased to have your ongoing feedback of what you think of the school – please visit <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Holidays in term time

You should be aware that amendments have been made by the Government to the regulations concerning pupil attendance at school. These amendments came into force on 1 September 2013. Headteachers do have the discretion to grant leave, but they should only do so in exceptional circumstances. If a headteacher grants a leave request, it is for them to determine the length of time that the child can be away from school. This leave is unlikely, however, to be granted for the purposes of a family holiday. Parents can be fined for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

Whilst we have always refused requests for leave in term time if we felt the reason for the request for not sufficiently strong, this change means that granting leave in term time will really only be in exceptional cases.

Gillotts– A National Teaching School!

Gillotts was delighted to be designated as a national teaching school in June 2017 in recognition of its work in teacher training, supporting other local schools and continued professional development for its staff and local networks.

Introduced in 2011, teaching schools are excellent schools that work with partner schools in an alliance to provide high quality school-led initial teacher training and professional development opportunities for teachers at all stages of their career. They raise standards through supporting other schools, especially those in challenging circumstances, and ensure that the most talented school leaders are spotted and supported to become successful headteachers.

Gillotts works as part of the Oxfordshire Teaching Schools Alliance (OTSA), an established network of teaching school alliances working in collaboration across the county on:

- 1.) Co-ordinating and providing high-quality school-led initial teacher training (ITT).
- 2.) Providing high-quality school-to-school support to spread excellent practice, particularly to schools that need it most.
- 3.) Providing evidence-based professional and leadership development for teachers and leaders across their network.

As with all teaching schools we work across the three key areas but our main focus is on the ITT strand. We have extended our links with Oxfordshire Teacher Training (OTT – the OTSA School Centred ITT provider) which offers teaching training rated as ‘outstanding’ by OFSTED (December 2017). In addition, we are exploring different ways of increasing the number of high-quality candidates coming forward to train – coordinating Oxfordshire’s school experience offer, running workshops and more extended programmes to support potential applicants and, working alongside post-16 and university providers to offer high-quality work experience for young people keen to pursue a career in education.

So, if you are, or you know someone who is, interested in teaching then visit our website <http://gillotts.oxon.sch.uk/teaching-school/teaching-school-overview> and contact us at teachingschool@gillotts.org.uk should you require any further information.

For people interested in training to teach we are offering:

- School Experience days across Oxfordshire secondary schools to get a feel for whether teaching might be right for you and to get the vital current experience of schools you would need to make a successful application for initial teacher training.
- Application Support workshops - to help prepare participants for an initial teacher training interview
- Paid internships for students studying STEM courses in their penultimate year of undergraduate study

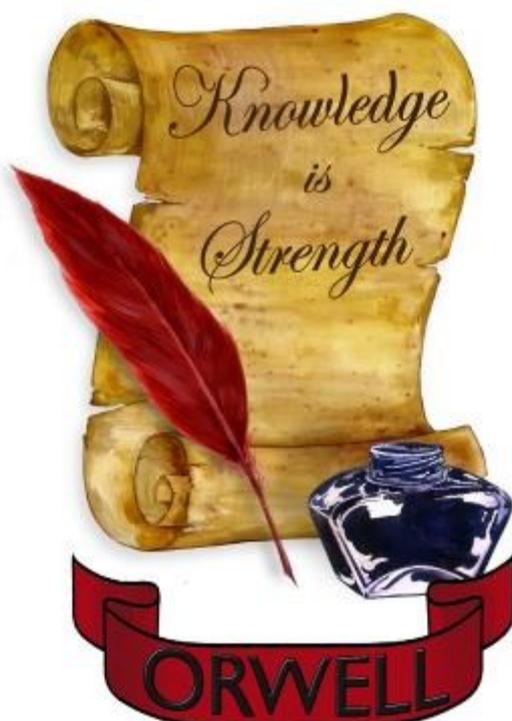


DARWIN NEWS

Tutee of the Term

DABY - Will Watts
 DCHA - Angus Fraser
 DFD - Annabel Smyth
 DFMW - Joe Day
 DGS - Chloe Lamden
 DHJR - Lisanne
 Schoenmakers

DJAS - Matthew Lawson
 DJLG - Anastasia Piatrashka
 DLN - Gaia Dorata
 DPJY - Ruby Vines
 DROM/GB - Elenor Vockins
 DYF - Leo Corp



ORWELL NEWS

Tutee of the Term

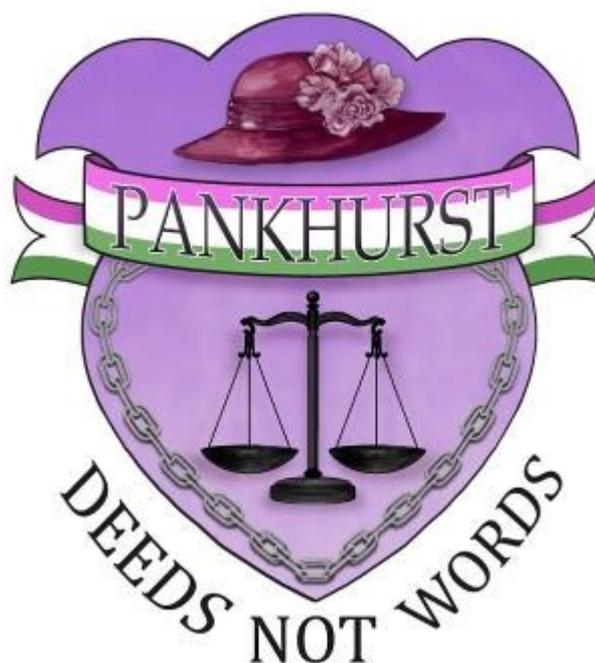
OAB/ELD - Jessica
 Handyside-Lang
 OACM - Eddie Pratt
 OCH - Alexandra
 Andreescu
 OCLV - Thomas Mearns
 OFH - Ryece Kennedy
 Major

OGDL - Georgie Ashby
 OGMO - Janos Zverko
 OJAW - Lotte Rowberry
 OJDG - Isi Patston
 OJWZ - Karol Janczarski
 OLUH - Natasha Bryant
 OTWN - Euan Macleod

PANKHURST NEWS

Tutee of the Term:

PCAD/ND - Amelia Scott
 PCD - Holly Main
 PCMR - Jackson Meredith
 PGDM - Emma Edwards
 PHRW/GL/TL - Faizah Khan
 PHS/CW - Gianna Smyth
 PLOS - Matilda Byrne
 PLSS - Elizabeth Organ
 PKLO - Elise Russell
 PKJS - Jack Kernick
 PSJW - Archie Fullbrook
 PTAG - Olivia Costa



Gillotts Spectacular

The first meeting to discuss The Gillotts Spectacular happened in May 2017 and we didn't even have a name for it then! Fast forward 10 months, hundreds of hours of rehearsals, costumes and make-up bought, songs, dances and drama lines learnt and we finally made it!! The evenings were designed to be a variety show performance - and what variety there was! From Drama (Mrs Alder and Miss Weaver) producing some very funny fairy tales to a verbatim theatre piece about 'Homelessness' by the Year 10 GCSE group. Dance (Miss Stallwood) featured wonderful dances from Year 7 showing us 'It's a hard knock life' to the Elite Dancers filling the stage with 'Electricity' (Billy Elliot). Music (Mrs David and Mr Bull) captured the 'stage and screen' theme with Chamber group showing us their Strictly Come Dancing moments as well as Indiana Jones getting a look in, and choir performed a beautiful rendition of 'Feed the Birds' from Mary Poppins and got the audience involved in the American upbeat music from Hairspray. Other standout performances include; Key Stage 3 Boys Street Dance group and 'I know him so well' sung by Maddie Bourne and Ella Davies in Yr 11 and danced by Elsa Horne and Kala Green Yr 9.



Gillotts Spectacular (Continued)

The tech team for both nights were very professional and catered to our needs, the back stage hands did a great job of changing scenery and arranging props. Mr Swainson had created marvelous scenery and set for us (nothing was too big a challenge for him!) which really made the stage look properly kitted out for the performance space we wanted. At the end of the evening ALL of the performers congregated on the stage to blow the audience away with their finale piece - 'Africa' by Toto.



The evenings took immense preparation and a huge amount of hard work, but as a Creative Arts Team we are incredibly proud of what we and the students achieved. It absolutely confirmed that Gillotts IS Spectacular!!



Maths Feast

7 pupils from Year 10 took part in the annual Maths Feast competition at the John Hampden Grammar School.

The Maths Feast is an enjoyable and challenging team competition testing mathematical, team-working and communication skills. Each team consists of four students in Year 10 working together on a set of problems. Pupils, Lulu Broadbent, Alex MacDonald, Wendy MacLoughlin, Max Fletcher had a lovely time and one team consisting of Aurelia Dunker, Becky Barry and Evie Paul won the prize for outstanding teamwork and co-operation. This is an amazing reflection of the Gillotts Maths department culture of collaboration and communication when problem-solving.



Gillotts Swimarathon

On March 24th the Swimarathon took place in the Leisure Centre at Gillotts, raising £415 in total.

The Swimarathon was organised by The Lions Club in Henley, and half the money raised will go to The Lions Club's choice of charity, which is local childrens' charities. The other half goes to the swimmers' choice of charity which is the Gillotts Parents' Association. The PA are hoping to refurbish the benches outside the canteen.

Gillotts Winning Rowers

In Natalie Schoenmakers (yr 9) and her crew's first national Head Race yesterday, they made second, out of nearly 50 teams. This was held at 'Oarsport' Dornley Lake, and the division was Junior sculling and coxed squad. Up until now they had only competed in regional events.



Year 10 Netball County Cup Winners



Year 7 Girls Hockey County Cup Winners



Year 7 Boys Cross Country Bronze Winners



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award



A massive congratulations to all 53 year 9 students who completed their practice expedition over one weekend in March. On the Saturday we met in a damp carpark in Lane End, where each group was given their tents, cookers and maps that they would need for the weekend. Groups then spent the day walking, carrying all their kit through the mud and rain the 9km to Marlow. During the day they worked with the leaders who were with them, to develop their navigation and fieldcraft skills. At Longridge campsite they were taught how to put up their tents and cook their food on the stoves before they turned in for the night. The instructors had been so impressed with what they had learnt, that on the Sunday, they were given their route on a map, told where they were to meet their instructor during the day before they were sent off on their own to arrive at their final destination 9km later. They arrived at Burchett Green, tired, muddy, but still with smiles on their faces. One person was heard to say as they arrived and took their rucksack off, "I will never complain about the weight of my school bag again." Many thanks to the instructors from BXM and to the parents for providing transport to and from the venues.



Science Competition

During Science week this year, the science department launched an egg-citing competition, asking students to decorate an egg to look like a famous scientist. A number of entries were received but the winners were deemed to be Isobel Young with her Stephen Hawking and Jessica Dippenaar with her Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Watson egg string telephone.

Henley Youth Festival—Let's Ensure its Future for the Next Generation!

Henley Youth Festival #HYF does a fantastic job in running a week's full-on and varied event for approximately 2500 children in Henley. This year, the group of HYF volunteers have pulled out all the stops to produce a particularly dazzling event to celebrate its 25th Anniversary. The event will be yet another huge crowdpleaser!

But what about 2019 and the future of HYF?

The event is well run by a small team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. However, the size and scale of HYF urgently needs new energy in the form of fresh volunteers to keep it youthful and relevant.



- Are you a parent with children in primary school?
- Are you looking for an opportunity to get your teeth into a role that fits around your family?
- Do you want to contribute to something unique and central to the Henley annual calendar?

HYF has the following vacancies all of which can be run solo, in pairs by a couple of friends or within small groups working together:

Vice-Chair – To work with existing co-chairs, helping with the running of HYF

Fundraising/Sponsorship - Securing funding from established local organisations and groups and ideally identifying new opportunities, writing letters and completing application forms

Performing Arts - Coordination of established team of performing arts event organisers, liaison with individual event organisers, technical team and Kenton Theatre

Publicity - Liaison with Henley Standard/Henley Herald etc and writing four articles throughout the year

If you would like to join HYF's group of volunteers, and to ensure HYF is there for the next generation of young people in our area, please email hyfinfo@gmail.com with "volunteering" in the subject heading.

HYF look forward to welcoming you to the team!



Credit to Cheryl George Photography

Parents' Association News

Gillotts Parents' Association aims to support the school by raising funds for special projects and by creating a supportive community of parents around the school.

We warmly encourage all parents join us. Whether you just want to hear about social events, are happy to help out every now and again, or you'd like to join the committee and get involved, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to drop in to our next meeting.

To join our mailing list or for any enquiries please email gillottspa@gmail.com

You can also join our Facebook page – just search for Gillotts Parents Association and ask to join the group. You will not only hear about events, but also about school news and successes that your children may forget to mention!

Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st May, 6.30-8pm, room A1 (Art Block), Gillotts School. Everyone is welcome.

The Arts Spectacular

We would like to congratulate all the 160+ students who took part in the Arts Spectacular during the last week of term. It was a fantastic evenings entertainment and the creativity and skills on display were outstanding! The Arts Team at school have been planning the 'Spectacular' for over a year and the Parent's Association are very proud to have been able to support their vision by providing funds to cover the financial costs of the event like song rights, costumes, stage make-up and resources for the staging. It's a great example of how we aim to support the dedicated work of teachers and students at Gillotts to provide opportunities for all.

Gillotts Summer Fair

Our next fundraising event is the Gillotts Summer Fair on Friday 13th July, from 6pm.

Save the date & keep an eye out for more details coming soon!

Bring a blanket and join us for a BBQ and drinks in our beautiful school grounds. We hope to secure a brilliant inflatable again for the kids and some live music. It's a lovely way to celebrate the end of another school year.

If you'd be interested in helping or supporting the event, please contact us at gillottspa@gmail.com

NEW EVENT!! Calling Working Parents

The world is our oyster and the Gillotts Parents Association are supporting next years Careers Fair by arranging a fun Career 'speed-dating style' Parents Panel to show our students just that!

The idea is to give Year 8 & 9 students an insight in to the wide range of jobs and careers available to them. In small groups, students spend 3-5 minutes with each panelist, moving around the hall firing questions at the parents, discussing aspects of their work, trying to gain as much information from them as possible about what their job entails, the qualifications required and the routes they took to get there.

We are looking for around 20 willing parents across a range of employment sectors - healthcare, accountancy & finance, creative arts & media, engineering & manufacturing, environment, agriculture, IT, leisure & tourism, public service, property & construction - to be represented on the panel.

You don't need any careers expertise or to give detailed careers guidance, but just a willingness to share day-to-day experiences about your job and how you ended up where you are. The date of the event is to be finalised, but will be held in the evening around the end of September/early October 2018.

If you'd like to take part please register your interest by emailing gillottspa@gmail.com

OTSA School Experience Programme (SEP)

Teaching is more than just a job; it is a vocation but it is not for everyone. The best way to decide whether or not teaching might be the right career for you is to get some classroom experience.

Glillotts works with schools across Oxfordshire to offer interested applicants a chance to get into state schools and see what life in the classroom is really like. So why not sign up for the OTSA School Experience Programme?

Placements are typically three days long with the majority of the time being spent in the classroom in lessons. On the first day, there will be some time to think about how to observe lessons effectively as well as some information on the different training routes. After that you will be able to watch a range of subject lessons taught to different age groups, observe tutor time (part of the pastoral programme) and talk to teachers about their experiences of day-to-day life in school. As well as giving you invaluable insight into whether or not teaching might be right for you these placements also provide you with relevant school experience to support an application for teacher training.

I have been teaching for fifteen years in Oxfordshire state schools and despite the undeniable pressures of the job, I know I wouldn't do anything else!

Sarah McHugh

Teaching School Director



School Uniform

If you need anything for a club, business or event and you are not sure where to source your requirements, why not give Brian a call or contact him by email. Brian has kindly committed to donate 5% of any orders made by new customers introduced to No Sweat by Gillotts' parents. The school has been very happy with his service and we feel confident any new customers will be as well. What's more, the school might benefit from any donations.

Call Brian : 01189 724005 or 07973 391665

Email Brian : no-sweat1000@hotmail.com

Letting the School Know about Absences

Any attendance related issues (ie: medical appointments, absence requests, sickness) are dealt with by the attendance administrator. You can let her know of any issues via attendance@gillotts.org.uk or by leaving her an answer phone message on 01491 636 812.

Naming Belongings

Please make sure all items of uniform and other belongs are clearly named.

If named items are found they can then be taken to the relevant housebase and given back to the pupil.

Easter Reading List

With Easter nearly upon us, most are set for the normal chocolate frenzy, but if you fancy a change from Easter eggs, why not head to the book shop for a calorie-free treat? Unsure what to buy? There are lists of new books on the school website recommended by year group.

The intention is not to limit students to only reading books suggested for their age, but are suggestions of what is enjoyed at that age. All of us sometimes want a challenging read or an easier one, as the mood takes us.

The Reading List for Easter can be found on the website under the Parents' tab– in Updates for parents.



Advice and Guidance

Oxcentric

www.oxme.info/opportunities

This website is regularly updated with opportunities around Oxfordshire. It is suitable for young people looking for work, apprenticeships, training, volunteering and much more.

Webchat: you can contact The Opportunities Team on 01865 328460, by email opportunities@oxfordshire.gov.uk or online. You can chat to the team about jobs, opportunities and other issues go to the Oxcentric homepage and find the icon on the right of the page.

Resources and tips: download worksheet on interview techniques, CV writing and much more from your first job (put into search bar) section of Oxcentric.

National Careers Service

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx> - this offers information and professional advice about education, training and work to people of all ages. The website, helpline and web chat offers confidential and impartial advice supported by qualified careers advisers. The telephone number is 0800 100 900

National Apprenticeship Service

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/> - this supports, funds and co-ordinates the delivery of Apprenticeships throughout England.

Adviza

Adviza is offering a **Parent Adviza** service. Their careers advisers are able to work through a range of concerns with parents to help them support their son or daughter. Appointments are for one hour and are delivered one-to-one with a qualified and experienced Careers Adviser at a convenient time and location. A fee will be charged for this service, please see the Adviza website for details:

www.adviza.org.uk

Adviza is also offering a **Graduate Adviza** service which is designed to help those students who have graduated in the last five years, and those about to graduate, to take their next step. Sessions are for one hour and are delivered one-to-one with a qualified and experienced Careers Adviser at a convenient time and location. For further information and to book go to www.adviza.org.uk/



[shop](#)

eCLIPS

eCLIPS is an easy-to-use online careers resource that provides regular updated information on over 1,000 jobs and careers.

Please contact Mr Bull for the login.



Term dates for 2017 - 2018

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2017.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	4 September – 20 October 2017	35
October holiday	23 October – 27 October 2017	
Autumn Term	30 October – 19 December 2017	37
Christmas holiday	20 December 2017 – 3 January 2018	
Spring Term	4 January – 9 February 2018	27
Spring half term	12 February – 16 February 2018	
Spring Term	19 February – 29 March 2018	29
Easter holiday	30 March – 13 April 2018	
Summer Term	16 April – 25 May 2018	29
Late Summer half term	28 May - 1 June 2018	
Summer Term	4 June - 25 July 2018	38
Total		195

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Monday 4 September 2017

Friday 29 September 2017

Monday 23 July 2018

Tuesday 24 July 2018

Wednesday 25 July 2018

Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 5 September 2017. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 6 September 2017.

7 May 2018 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 28 September 2017

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Tuesday 19 December 2017

Friday 20 July 2018

Term dates for 2018 - 2019

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2018.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	4 September – 19 October 2018	34
October holiday	22 October – 26 October 2018	
Autumn Term	29 October – 21 December 2018	40
Christmas holiday	24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019	
Spring Term	7 January – 15 February 2019	30
Spring half term	18 February – 22 February 2019	
Spring Term	25 February – 5 April 2019	30
Easter holiday	8 April – 22 April 2019	
Summer Term	23 April – 24 May 2019	23
Late Summer half term	27 May - 31 May 2019	
Summer Term	3 June - 24 July 2019	38
Total		195

INSET days

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Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Wednesday 5 September 2018. The remainder of the school returns on Thursday 6 September 2018.

6 May 2019 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 27 September 2018

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Friday 21 December 2018

Friday 19 July 2019