



# Parents' Newsletter



Dear parents

September is of course all about welcoming new students and staff and I am delighted to say that everyone seems to have settled in really well.

We are also now in the process of analysing the summer's exam results in detail. We are delighted to have an outstanding set of results. This year 84% of students have achieved the benchmark of passing both English and mathematics at grade 4 (- the

new equivalent of C). 62% achieved a strong pass (grade 5) in both English and mathematics, against a national average for this figure of 43%. Most importantly, **our progress 8 score is 0.58, meaning students achieved almost two-thirds of a grade better in each of their GCSEs** than they were expected to, based on their performance in their end of KS2 tests. This result makes us well above average for all schools (- average is 0) and places us in the **top 15% of schools**, based on student progress. We have achieved great consistency in outcomes over the last seven years – this is impressive and the consequence of the hard work and dedication of all our staff, day in, day out.

You can see the provisional data for 2019 at [www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/137921/gillotts-school/secondary](http://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/137921/gillotts-school/secondary). More data will be added over the coming weeks.

Over recent years, we have seen a marked and consistent improvement in results at Gillotts and we are delighted to have maintained this trend, and reached new heights. These results confirm us as one of the consistently best performing schools in Oxfordshire. I am very proud of all that the students have achieved and would also like to recognise all the support that students have received from their families. These results come about through successful collaboration between student, teachers and parents.

One important focus this term has been our Open Evening and Open Day. The school was very busy on both occasions and it was great to welcome visitors both from our partner primary schools in Henley and Shiplake and also from schools further afield. The Year 5 and 6 pupils, along with their parents, seemed very impressed by both the displays and the lessons. As ever, it was our own students who were our best ambassadors, talking with confidence to the visitors and providing comprehensive guided tours. It is always great to see how proud students are of our school and how they convey the strength of our community ethos, as well as our commitment to learning. We also this year sought to welcome visitors whose children might be wishing to transfer to Gillotts other than in Year 7. Vacancies do from time to time arise and interested parents are welcome to contact us to discuss the possibilities further.

We have been working very hard this term to make sure students are well equipped for lessons. Inevitably items do get worn out or lost over the term so it would really support us if, over the holiday, you could check your child's bag and make sure s/he has the following:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Coloured pencils
- Glue
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Compasses

Exercise books should also be looked after – many student find a concertina file works well. Thank you for your support in this.

An important date for your diaries is Tuesday 3 December, the Governors' Annual Meeting for Parents. The Governors' Annual Report to Parents will be available on our website a week in advance and there will be an opportunity to ask questions about this, or indeed any aspect of school life. The event begins at 7pm in A4 (next to Reception) and we do urge you to attend – it really is a good opportunity to be engaged in the way the school is moving forward.

With best wishes for a well deserved break over the half term.

Catharine Darnton  
Headteacher

## Holidays in Term Time

You should be aware of Government to the regulations concerning pupil attendance at school. 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 means that granting leave in term time will really only be in exceptional cases.

## 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/>

# Not By Ourselves Alone

October 2019 update



Our 'Not By Ourselves Alone' programme continues to be a focus during our tutor times, assemblies and wider school activities, and is becoming an integral part of 'what we are'. The key values of Kindness, Respect and Living without harm are such important life skills that we endeavour to ensure students uphold them at all times. Students have had wide ranging opportunities to develop these key life skills and attributes, and have demonstrated them consistently across the school community.

This year, we are not focusing on any one value during a term, but are encouraging students to demonstrate the values whenever they can!

Please do speak to your children about these key values, look out for the logo, and keep up to date with the programme through our school Twitter account [@gillottshenley](https://twitter.com/gillottshenley)

## House Competition



The house competition is up and running, and students are eagerly collecting achievement points to add to their house total. It has also been pleasing to see further house points awarded for attendance, punctuality, kindness and sporting activities! Keep up the good work!

## Attendance Update

Do you know your child's attendance?

Attendance %	Short term impact	Days missed per year	Learning hours missed per year	Learning lost in a school career
100	Full attendance	0	0	0
95	Half a day off per fortnight	10	50	10 weeks
90	A day off a fortnight	19	100	Half a year
85	A day and a half off per fortnight	29	150	Equivalent to missing most of Year 11
80	A day off per week	38	200	A full year

If your child is absent it is their responsibility to catch up on work missed. They should do this by emailing their class teachers directly for the work while they are off, or if they are too unwell to do this, speak to their teachers on returning to school.

If your child is off for a period of more than 5 days we will require medical evidence in order to authorise the absence period. This should be in the form of an appointment card, provided to you by your child's Housebase (see below for relevant email address), which should be stamped by your doctors surgery reception.

**Darwin Housebase - Nicolette Wilson - [darwinstudentsupport@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:darwinstudentsupport@gillotts.org.uk)**  
**Orwell Housebase - Sarah Brittain - [orwellhousebase@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:orwellhousebase@gillotts.org.uk)**  
**Pankhurst Housebase - Tracy Millard - [pankhursthousebase@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:pankhursthousebase@gillotts.org.uk)**

Please click on the following to view guidance from Oxfordshire County Council on:

[A parent's guide to managing sickness absence from school](#); and  
[Lateness, authorised and unauthorised absence at school](#)

Well done to all students who have achieved an attendance of over 96% this year, which is our minimum expectation. An added congratulations to all students who have 100% attendance for the year. Students with 100% attendance should have received a certificate, which they should be rightly proud of.

In September, all parents will have received communication from the school, under guidance from the Oxfordshire County Council Attendance Team. This communication was a Penalty Notice Warning Letter that was issued to all parents. The content of this letter warned of the potential of a fine being issued to parents who take unauthorised holiday during the remainder of the academic year.

## Oxfordshire Parent & Carers Forum

Oxfordshire Parent & Carers Forum have set up a couple of amazing things for you to access:

Please take a look at Oxfordshire Family Support Network's website for information on the services they provide. They provide Family Support Workers and Advocates to families in Oxfordshire whom have children and adults with learning disabilities. Please see link below:

[www.oxfsn.org.uk](http://www.oxfsn.org.uk)

SHIFT is an informal support group in Abingdon but they have a Facebook support group families can join for support too. Please see link below:

[www.shift-abingdon.org.uk](http://www.shift-abingdon.org.uk)



# Gillotts Twitter Update

Please follow us at [@gillottshenley](https://twitter.com/gillottshenley)

Please also remember you can follow our other school accounts:

- [@GillottsOLC](https://twitter.com/GillottsOLC)
- [@GillottsCT](https://twitter.com/GillottsCT)
- [@GillottsPE](https://twitter.com/GillottsPE)
- [@GillottsScience](https://twitter.com/GillottsScience)

 **Gillotts School** @GillottsHenley · Sep 3  
It was the [#FirstDayOfSchool](https://twitter.com/hashtag/FirstDayOfSchool) today for our new Year 7s, and they were straight into the action with lots of teambuilding activities with the Y10s, ably assisted by our student leaders! We hope they all had a great day. Remaining students return tomorrow! [#Henley](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Henley) [#community](https://twitter.com/hashtag/community)



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 **Gillotts School** @GillottsHenley · Sep 5  
We are very grateful to ex-student George Weait for taking time over summer to design artwork for our Gateway building. Looks great!! [#Henley](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Henley) [#community](https://twitter.com/hashtag/community) [#brightspaces](https://twitter.com/hashtag/brightspaces)



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**Gillotts School** @GillottsHenley · Sep 6

It was great to read about our past and present students in the [@henleystandard](#) this summer and all the positive contributions they are making to our community. Great ambassadors! [@NCS](#) [#Henley](#) [#community](#) [#rolemodels](#)



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**Gillotts School** @GillottsHenley · Sep 12

Our BTEC group have been hard at work beginning the transformation of the Gateway garden. First up is restoring the vegetable beds that need some TLC. They made good progress in the first hour! [#Henley](#) [#environment](#) [#sustainability](#)



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**Gillotts School** @GillottsHenley · Sep 20

As part of our wider support to students and their [#wellbeing](#), we also offer Yoga to students across year groups. A great intervention and opportunity for students to engage in. 🧘🧘🧘 [#Henley](#) [#schoolwellbeing](#) [#healthybodyhealthymind](#)



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**Gillotts School** @GillottsHenley · Sep 20

Super proud of our students who conducted their own protest for [#schoolstrike4climate](#) and [#ClimateStrike](#) at school today. Having a voice is so important on this issue, and they were applauded across the school field. 🌞🌟 [#Henley](#)



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**Gillotts School** @GillottsHenley · Sep 23

Great performance with incredibly important, hard hitting narrative from [@AlterEgoCS](#) and their 'County Lines' production to Y8 today. Thanks to [@TV\\_PCC](#) who have funded this opportunity for our students [#Henley](#) [#keepthemsafe](#) [#CountyLines](#)



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 **Gillotts School** @GillottsHenley · Oct 8

We are delighted to be working with @dotbschools again, offering Mindfulness to Y9 and Y11 students. Such a positive opportunity for them #henley #wellbeing #WorldMentalHealthDay 🧡 #Mindfulness #inclusion



  1  7  

 **Gillotts School** @GillottsHenley · Oct 9

Guitars looking pristine and tidy, ready for our curriculum guitar club supporting students through our intervention programme #Henley #musicintervention #wellbeing #holisticapproach



 1  1  6  

 **Gillotts School** @GillottsHenley · Oct 10

Thanks to Ms Orlando for her assembly today for #WMHD2019 🧡. Important message ensuring we know to talk, listen, and seek support for each other #Henley #wellbeing #mentalhealth 🧡 #togetherwearestronger



  2  10  





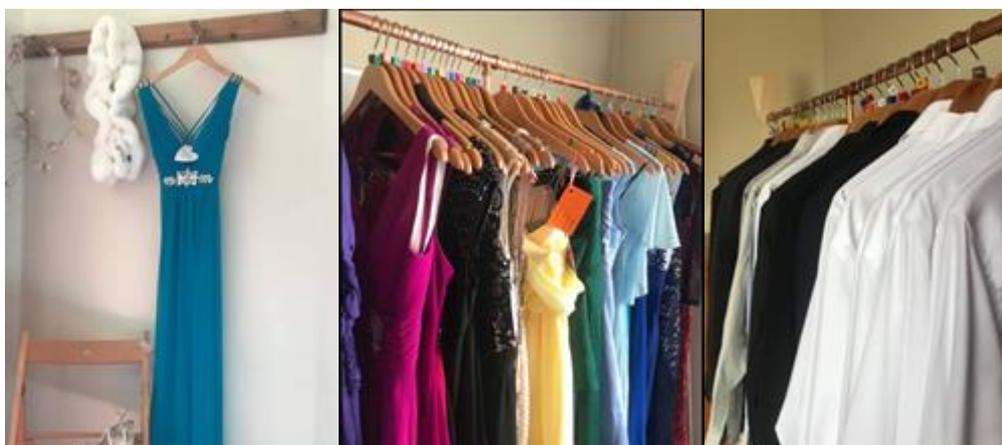
## #Promforeveryone

During the summer holidays we met with the newly formed charity The Cowshed. The aim of the charity is to provide good quality cleaned and ironed clothes and other essentials free to anyone in need. The objective is for their clients to feel they are receiving a gift to assist them in a time of crisis rather than some old clothes that are over worn, marked or damaged. Referrers to the charity include schools, doctors, social services etc. Many of the donated clothes are from retailers and manufacturers as well as the general public.

The charity has recently launched a new initiative #Promforeveryone. The project aims to tackle pressures that families feel during the school prom season simply being unable to afford either a prom dress or suit for the occasion. They are in the process of setting up a loan service of evening dresses and suits to allow students to borrow the dress of their dreams (or suit) via a free loan service.

We will be working alongside the charity to collect and deliver any unwanted prom outfits; if you have any suitable items for donation please drop them into Gillotts Reception marked for the attention of Clare Jones. Further details regarding how Gillotts parents can request the loan service will be distributed shortly.

[cljones@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:cljones@gillotts.org.uk)



## Geography Fieldtrips

Year 9 and 11 Geographers have been busily involved in fieldtrips over the past few weeks with over 200 students being involved in activities.

### Year 11 – Osmington Bay

It started in late September with the Year 11 GCSE students heading to Osmington Bay near Weymouth for a three day residential trip. This involved participating in two fieldtrips which they will be tested on in their final GCSE exams.

The first trip was to study the coastal defences at Lyme Regis. These have received a large amount of investment over the past decade and the students investigated whether they have proved beneficial – both from the point of view of protecting the coast from erosion but also in terms of their environmental impact. The students measured and created several beach profiles as well as to sample to size and angularity of sediment. They also completed environmental impact assessment in a number of different locations.

The second trip was to look at the regeneration of areas in Weymouth town centre. These included the harbourside as well as the redevelopment of a former brewery. Again, the students completed environmental impact assessments and also counted pedestrians to assess how busy each of the areas is following different levels of regeneration.

### Year 9 – River Pang

The Year 9 River Pang fieldtrip was run for the fourth successive year. This involves taking Year 9 students out on successive days (6 trips in 3 days this year) with minibuses shuttling back and forth across the roads of Oxfordshire and Berkshire. The students visited several sites along the course of the 'mighty Pang' although it was not so mighty in some places as there wasn't any water in it! This, in itself, is of interest raising questions about the possible impact of climate change and over-abstraction of water for farming and drinking water.

The students were able to get in the river at the last site visited and measure a number of characteristics including width, depth, velocity and wetted perimeter. They will follow this up in their geography lessons over the next few weeks – producing and analyzing a series of graphs to describe and explain the changes in these characteristics along the river's course.

We were lucky with the weather until the last afternoon when it poured and poured. While the students got rather wet this did not seem to dampen their enthusiasm for getting in the river – where some of them got even wetter!

Dr Newbold

## Darwin News

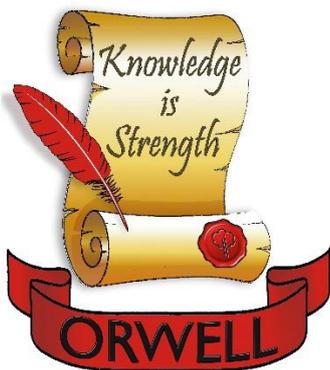
### Tutee of the Term

DABY Jessie Markham	DRD/NFD Gaia de Gaspari
DJAS/CEC Emma Francis	DGS Carrie Lyden
DHK Chloe Musgrove	DPJY Matthew Hill
DFMW Leena James	DROM/DGB Kiera Green
DHJR/DS Mimi Whitfield	DCJW/CF Jack Hutchins
DJLG Diya Jaj	DLCM Serena Chilvers



## Orwell News

### Tutee of the Term

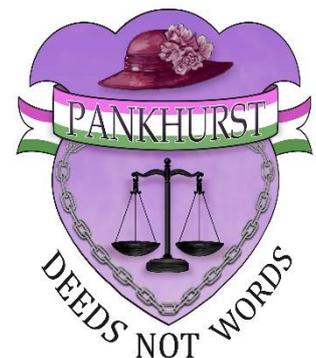


OACM Nuala Howard-Jones	OJSK Jess McDonagh
OBEG Emily Williams	OLEP Alisha MacArthur
OCG Liliana Franklin-Fernandes	OGMO Leo Golledge
OCH Felix Richardson	OPCM/EJB Nina Govett
OJDG Bethan Toward	OTWN Theo Davis
OHRW/CST Amelie Waller	OGDL/ELD Alicia Taylor-Sabine

## Pankhurst News

### Tutee of the Term

PACF – Maria Pereira	PKLO/LOA – Kalila Combridge
PASA/JFP – Elsa Bruun	PSMS/HLM – Daisy Piercey
PCD/LS – Lauren McLean	PSWJ – Lucinda Barrett
PFH/HJS – Michelle Belinski	PREA – Florence Rait
PFLP – Neve Phillips-Moore	PTAG/SH – Holly Winch
PGDM – Zahra Beagin	
PHJ/ JJB – Yana Feys	



## National Poetry Day 2019 – Celebrating in the Library

This year we celebrated National Poetry Day in a big way, as the annual day reached the age of 25 on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. To give more students a chance to take part, the activities extended over the two week timetable, so that all Year 7 classes had the opportunity to get involved in some lively poetry writing sessions.

To start off the celebrations Mrs Best, our Art Technician, created our Poet Tree, which is becoming an annual part of our displays. Visitors on Open Evening, added leaf poems to our tree. Some of the Year 8 library helpers also created their own poems to add, with the majority of the poems being written by Year 7 in their library lessons. We also used a 'Share a Poem' blank sheet for students to write longer poems on. To help them along the way and get the creative juices flowing, they were given some suggestions of poetry formats including acrostic poems, limericks, haikus and alphabetical poems.

Year 8 helpers helped to spread the word by taking a selection of poems round the school and displaying them in various locations, including classrooms and toilets.

On National Poetry Day itself we created two alphabetical poems, which students and staff added lines to throughout the day.

As a final thought, here is a poem written by Amelie Cazey's grandfather, which the family found recently and allowed us to use:

*Your love means  
more to me, my dear  
Than sunlight means to flowers  
More than the stars  
However so clear  
To night's dark dreary hours*

*Your love means life itself to me  
For all it holds most bright  
Is scented in the thought of thee,  
All you,  
My heart's delight*

**(Ronald Redvers Martin)**

Mrs Seddon

OLC Manager

# Update from Thames Valley Police



**Duncan Wynn**  
**Detective Inspector**  
**Economic Crime Unit**  
**Kidlington, Oxon OX5 1NZ**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We need your help to warn young people about the dangers and consequences of becoming a money mule. We have identified a significant increase in instances of this nature and many young people across the Thames Valley Police area may be vulnerable to being drawn into this criminality.

### **What is a money mule?**

A money mule is someone who transfers stolen money through their own bank account on behalf of someone else and is paid for doing so.

Criminals need money mules to launder the profits of their crimes.

Young people are increasingly being targeted to become money mules. They are approached online or in person, including through social media, at school, college or sports clubs. Sometimes people they know persuade them to take part, often because they are also acting as money mules.

Mules will usually be unaware of where the money comes from – commonly fraud and scams – and that it can go on to fund crimes such as drug dealing and people trafficking.

### **Being a money mule is illegal.**

When someone is caught, their bank account will be closed, and they will have problems getting student loans, mobile phone contracts and credit in the future. They could even face arrest for money laundering which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

### **What to look out for**

Tell-tale signs that someone might be involved could be them suddenly having extra cash, buying expensive new clothes or top-of-the-range mobile phones and gadgets with very little explanation as to how they got the money. They may also become more secretive, withdrawn or appear stressed.

You and your child can learn more and get advice by visiting [www.moneymules.co.uk](http://www.moneymules.co.uk) together.

If you are worried that someone close to you might be caught up in money muling, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

### **Please do not attempt to contact any individual you suspect of organising money muling.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours Sincerely,

Detective Inspector Duncan Wynn – Head of Economic Crime Unit

**DON'T BE FOOLED**

**STRONGHOLD**  
Fighting Organised Crime  
and Exploitation in Partnership

## Parents Association Quiz Night 2019 – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Tickets on sale NOW!

The PA's annual Quiz Night is our biggest fundraiser of the year, typically raising £2-3,000 - it's a really fun night for teams of parents & staff hosted by our brilliant Quiz Master Steven Galvin, a former parent.

The Quiz takes place in the School Hall and the doors and bar open at 6pm.

The Quiz runs from 6.30pm until approx 10pm with a mix of traditional themed rounds, picture rounds, puzzles and a practical challenge! There are breaks for fundraising games, lucky dips and to make use of the bar, of course!

Tickets cost £10 per person and include nibbles and snacks throughout the evening.

Tables/Teams are for 8-10 people and can be booked by emailing [gillottspa@gmail.com](mailto:gillottspa@gmail.com)

Payment is made by cheques payable to Gillotts Parents Association and can be dropped off at Student Services. Please clearly mark an envelope for the PA Quiz night with your name & contact email.

If you are a smaller group or couple, you can still book your tickets at [gillottspa@gmail.com](mailto:gillottspa@gmail.com) and we will make up teams of parents. We always have a few teams made up this way & it's a great way to meet new people.

This is a very popular event and tickets will sell fast - book now to avoid disappointment at [gillottspa@gmail.com](mailto:gillottspa@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing you at the Quiz!

The PA Team



It seems incredible that our Teaching School activity only began in earnest in January 2018 with the appointment of our Teaching School Director.

We have set-up and coordinated School Experience Placements across the county and now have schools available in every week of the school year to ensure people interested in teaching can get the experiences they need to apply to train. In addition, we have developed an Application Support Workshop to support candidates in preparing for their recruitment days. These ran as a pilot at Gillotts School in 2018 and in 2019 at two other partnership schools located in the centre and the north of the county. Finally, we are in our second year of running the DfE funded internship for undergraduates eligible to teach Maths and Physics with the aim of increasing the number of subject specialists teaching these subjects in our schools. One quarter of the cohort who we trained last year have been accepted onto initial teacher training (ITT) courses for September 2019 and we have increased the number of interns on the course this summer by 50%.

The truly exciting development for 2019 is that Gillotts is now the 'Southern Hub' for Oxfordshire Teacher Training (OTT). In total, 18 associate teachers (ATs or 'trainees') will be based at Gillotts for their central training over the coming year, although most will be undertaking their teaching practice in other schools. We have also secured funding to offer the subject-specialist training for the Maths Associate Teachers across the county.

## Term dates for 2019 - 2020

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2019.

Term	Dates	Number of days
<b>Autumn Term</b>	02 September - 25 October	40
October half term	28 October - 01 November	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	4 November - 19 December	34
Christmas holiday	20 December - 03 January	
<b>Spring Term</b>	06 January - 14 February	30
Spring half term	17 February - 21 February	
<b>Spring Term</b>	24 February - 03 April	30
Easter Holiday	06 April - 17 April	
<b>Summer Term</b>	20 April - 22 May	24
Late Spring half term	25 May - 29 May	
<b>Summer Term</b>	01 June - 21 July	37
<b>Total</b>		195

### INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Monday 2 September 2019

Friday 27 September 2019

Friday 3 July 2020

Monday 20 July 2020

Tuesday 21 July 2020

**Note** that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 3 September 2019. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 4 September 2019.

Friday 8 May 2020 is the May Day bank holiday. (Note this has been changed from Monday 4 May.)

### Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 26 September 2019

Thursday 19 December 2019

Friday 17 July 2020

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

## Term dates for 2020 - 2021

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2020.

Term	Dates	Number of days
<b>Autumn Term</b>	01 September - 23 October	39
October half term	26 October - 30 October	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	2 November - 18 December	35
Christmas holiday	21 December - 01 January	
<b>Spring Term</b>	04 January - 12 February	30
Spring half term	15 February - 19 February	
<b>Spring Term</b>	22 February - 01 April	29
Easter Holiday	02 April - 16 April	
<b>Summer Term</b>	19 April - 28 May	29
Late Spring half term	31 May - 4 June	
<b>Summer Term</b>	07 June - 21 July	33
<b>Total</b>		195

### INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Tuesday 1 September 2020

Friday 25 September 2020

Monday 19 July 2021

Tuesday 20 July 2021

Wednesday 21 July 2021

**Note** that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Wednesday 2 September 2020. The remainder of the school returns on Thursday 3 September 2020.

Monday 3 May 2021 is the May Day bank holiday.

### Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 24 September 2020

Friday 18 December 2020

Friday 16 July 2021

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening