

Dear parents

This is always a positive end of term, with the days getting longer and the spring colours all around us. As I write, we are looking forward to tonight's Spectacular, which marks the end of a year of relative normality following COVID. I know what a special experience this will be for all the students taking part, the staff who have worked tirelessly to prepare them, and all of you who will be lucky enough to be in the audience. It really reminds us of the value of education in its broadest sense.



At this time of year, it is Year 11 who are at the front of our minds, as they enter the last few weeks of preparation for their GCSEs, and approach the end of their time with us. They have managed unprecedented levels of uncertainty and pressure over their secondary school years. We do look forward to celebrating with them at the Prom.

It's been good to have students out and about again this term. All of Year 7 have experienced Geography field work for the first time, through their explorations of the River Pang. Consensus was that the river was wet! We were very grateful to the Henley Youth Festival for supporting all of Year 9 being able to experience 'Rude Science' at the Kenton Theatre. It sounded a brilliant and engaging performance, as well as covering lots of content. Our Year 10 art and drama students have also been out and about and our DofE students have been getting ready for their expeditions. Students in Years 7 to 10 also exceled at the First Lego League tournament, winning best robot design, best team coaches and the Lego building challenge! You will find in this newsletter much other evidence of the rich diversity of school life – I do hope you will enjoy reading about all that has been going on.

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, whiteboard – 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 improve 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

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/

School Fund

Our School Fund is an opportunity for parents to support the quality of education for their children through making regular voluntary contributions to be used directly to provide resources for use in the classroom and at home.





Why do we need your support?

Unlike many schools, Gillotts has not had a tradition of regular individual donations to support the school. However, as you will have seen from media coverage, the financial climate for all schools has become increasingly difficult in recent years. School funding is still below 2010 levels in real terms - in spite of steadily rising costs - so in real terms, our income is falling. This is making it harder for the school to deliver the excellent teaching and learning we aspire to.

How much would we like you to contribute?

There is no obligation or pressure to donate but, if you would like to, we will be grateful for whatever you can afford. Suggestions donations are below.

If you give ± 10 per month, this would give us ± 120 per year – with Gift Aid, that is $\pm 150!$

If you give £1 per day, this would give us £365 per year - with Gift Aid, that's over £450 per year!

How does this work with the support provided by the Parents' Association?

The Parents' Association has provided invaluable support to Gillotts for many years. The Association fully endorses this request for individual regular contributions. However payments will be through the school, to preserve parents' anonymity.

"The PA fully supports the school in striving to maintain a high standard of education for our children in the face of reduced income. Donating to the School Fund will be a way of trying to ensure that our children continue to receive the excellent standard of education that Gillotts at present provides. The School Fund is also a way for parents/ carers who do not have time to help with the PA to be involved with the school."

What will we spend the funds on?

We will spend the funds on ensuring all curriculum subjects are well resourced, including with the additional new online resources that we know students and their parents value so much. This will enable us to support students to continue to make the outstanding progress that has become the norm in recent years.

Please give whatever you can - fill in and return the form attached - thank you for your support.

House / Not By Ourselves Alone Update

The Spring term has undoubtedly been a very busy one at Gillotts. Our school motto of Non Nobis Solum is always at the forefront of trying to ensure the school community upholds our three key values of Kindness, Respect and Not Doing Harm. Giving students the opportunity to demonstrate these values and celebrating them when they do is an important part of school life.

From a House perspective, the spring term, with dark nights and inclement weather is always a little quieter in terms of competition, but opportunities will jump into life again as we head into the Summer term. Having said that, student continue to accumulate points for their House through their achievements in school, excellent efforts and attendance, and displaying acts of kindness and community spirit around the school site. For Orwell house, there is a change in personnel with both Sarah (House Admin) leaving for pastures new after around 10 years service at Gillotts, and also Ms Bannin (Assistant Head of House) moving on to new opportunities. We would like to thank them both for their commitment and dedication to the school and their House, and wish them all the very best for the future. We would also like to welcome Asha Waldrom who has taken over the role of House Administrator for Orwell house.

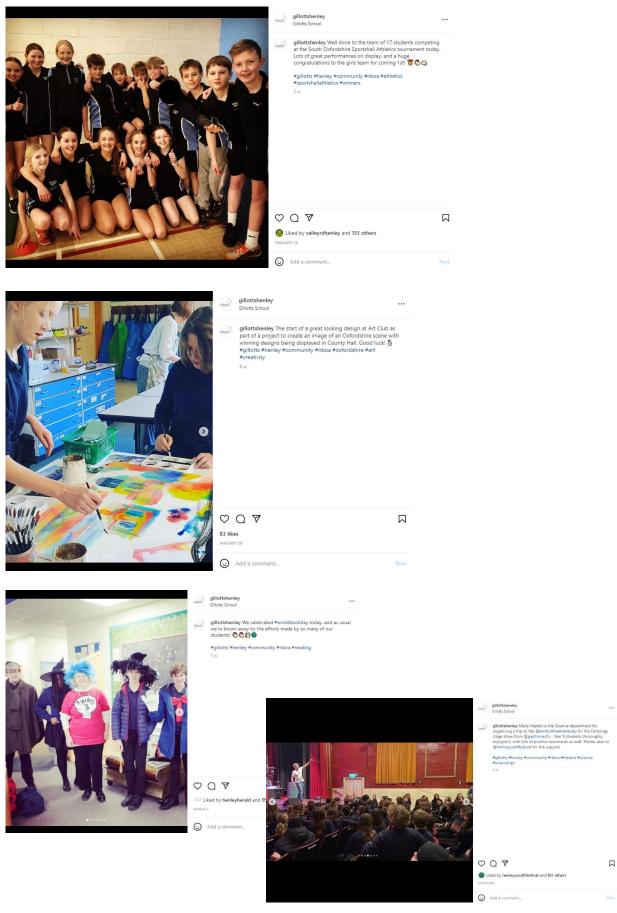
The best place to see everything else that is going on is through our school social media pages at Instagram and Twitter:

www.instagram.com/gillottshenley

www.twitter.com/gillottshenley

We are always keen to also hear of achievements and exploits outside of school as well, so if you have any newsworthy stories, please do let us know!

See the images below for what's been happening!



Darwin News

Tutee of the Term

DROM/HJR: Lena Karnacewicz

DLLF: Jack White

DAPM: Stanley Upsher

DSUS: Ella Stowell

DPJY: Monty Norman

DFMW: Ruby Coyne

DHK: Leah Carter Betts

Orwell News Tutee of the Term



OGMO: Marta Wiktorczyk

DJLG: Millie Le Beigge

DADT: Elliott Deacon

DRD/NFD: Daniel Sawyer

DCHA/CJW: Charlotte

DGS: Dorian Bednarczuk

DDI: Alice Burton

Hodgkinson

OJJ: Albert Hornsby

OJSK: Rebecca Parker

OHRW: Abraham Pita-Sanchez

OJKL: Lachlan Abry

OTWN/CST: Theo Khoury

OACM: Nicholas McGowan

ONMW: Poppy Cooper

OAD/AB: Kaitlyn Morgan

OBJB/ELD: Nuala Howard-Jones

OCG: Amber O'Connor

OPCM/TL: Jake Davidson

OHJS/SEL: Archie Croft

Pankhurst News

Tutee of the Term

PFLP: Rose Martin

PJDS: Liviya Davies

PLS/LJA: Freddie Benson

PSJW: Isla Tate

PNJK: Bisan Musa

PESS: Tomas Chamberlain

PWJH: Charlotte Carpenter-Buckett

PKLO/NM: Annabelle Van Hesldingen

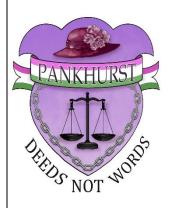
PJTP/CEC: Joseph Bruun

PGDM: Eden Kent

PSMS/HLM: Christobel Irvine

PHMJ/JJB: Louisa Jarvis

PTAG: Ellen Hagstroem





Year 7 River Pang Geography Trip

Over the last couple of weeks, the Geography Department have taken the whole of Year 7 out on a half-day fieldtrip to the River Pang. It is great that every student signed up for the trip this year.

The trips involved studying the River Pang – including looking at why it flows, the impact of the local geology on the river and its ecosystems, and the impact of the drought last summer. The students also got to measure some of the key characteristics of the river including river depth, width and velocity. This involved getting into the river at one of the sites we visited and using equipment,

ranging from metre sticks to dog biscuits to collect the data. We were also able to use the recently purchased digital flowmeters on some of the trips.

We visited three sites – one near the source at Compton, the second mid-way along its course near Frilsham and the third site was towards the end of the river near Tidmarsh.

We were a bit worried about the possibility that the river would have dried up owing to the very hot and dry summer last year and also because February was a very dry month this year. Although the four measuring stations along the river's course suggest that water levels are very low this year, there was plenty of water in the sites where we visited which was a relief. The weather also helped contribute to this, with heavy downpours on one of the days and quite a bit of overnight rain over the two weeks.



The students will use the data that has been collected as well as the knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of a river when they follow-up the trip in the classroom.

Our next trips will be for Year 8 to Lulworth Cove in May, followed by a return to the River Pang with Year 10 in June. Year 10 will then be heading to Bristol in September which will involve a superb boat trip around Bristol docks.



Dr Newbold



Learning Support Update

On Friday 3rd February 2023, the Gillotts LSA Team attended the Henley Herald Community Champion Awards after being nominated in the Top Teacher/TA category. There were several other nominations in this category, including staff from Rupert House School and Valley Road Primary School. However, when the result was announced, it was the Gillotts LSA Team who were victorious.

We were beyond proud to have won the award and we're incredibly grateful to be recognised for everything the team does to support our SEND students to be the best they can be.



Henley Youth Festival

On Saturday 11th March, several Gillotts students took part in the Henley Youth Festival Variety show at the Kenton Theatre. The multi-talented Isaac sang Elton John's "Piano Man" while accompanying himself on the guitar which was a very enjoyable performance that received many cheers from the crowd. Siblings Alix and Holly also sang a beautiful duet to "Something in the Water", and Ella performed a mesmerising dance solo to "Fire on Fire".

Closing the show was the Gillotts Senior Musical Theatre group, made up of Felix, Cam, Flo, Serena, Alix, Alice, Ella and Angelika. They performed "Seasons of Love" from the musical "Rent", something previously performed in the Gillotts Summer concert. While the Musical Theatre club was only formed recently, it has been a massive success with students, and Mrs King and Mrs Alder have helped to produce some truly wonderful performances.

YI0 Oratory Drama Trip

On Friday 17th March, the Year 10 Gillotts drama class was invited for a trip to the Oratory school in Reading, where we participated in workshops with three different theatre companies. The day was mostly focused on learning about body language and movement and how we could incorporate those into our devised pieces at the end of the year. It was also a great experience since we could meet drama students from other schools like Langtree and the Oratory, and because we were very much welcomed by the Oratory, offering us amazing meals and Oratory-branded biscuits!

Each theatre company organised a two hour workshop where we got to learn lots about a specific style of theatre. The first one was learning about how to use masks in theatre. We started by introducing each other - learning the names of Langtree students in our group during a fun game quickly turned chaotic as people forgot who was who. We then began the workshop by thinking about how to portray the masks shown to us with our facial expressions, body language, and gait. As we became more confident in expressing the emotions, we thought about different interpretations of the masks, thinking about how a smiling mask could be used to show the opposite emotion purely by posture or movements, since in a mask you can't use your face or voice. We took this into practice by playing a game of granny's footsteps, but putting an interesting twist on the game by acting and walking like our chosen mask. We then experimented with acting like our mask's emotion



in different scenarios, for example experiencing a loud noise or stepping on something sticky on the side of the road. A shocked mask would be very dramatic over it and jump up or a sad mask would burst into tears. We did this in pairs so we had a chance to direct the other person and think of new ways to do something. This workshop was loved by all students and got everyone ready and excited for the day.

During the second workshop, we did work on devising many different pieces and then by the end trying to fit them all together. First, we started with a quick warm up game then got straight into devising. We began with focusing on dance-like movement sequences, each getting a chance to lead the group which would mirror our actions. We then devised three separate pieces - one movement sequence where each group would do movements in sync or in canon, one narration where each person in a group would describe a part of our chosen location that related to our theme, and one piece where we had to think of thee people with different opinions on a subject and act like them, but in unison as a group. Finally, we had to try to merge all of these three pieces into one, which was a very challenging way to develop our creative thinking. We also each got to perform in front of everyone so we could see how others used the same stimuli and got completely different ideas. There was lots of collaborative work which was really helpful because we got to think about our actual GCSE stimulus and build our ideas for it. This workshop really gave me another point of view on devising and I think will be useful for our GCSE work this year.

Our final workshop was hosted by Frantic Assembly, a theatre company known to combine naturalism and physical theatre, and one of the practitioners we study at Gillotts. We started off with lots of sporty activities to warm up and relax our bodies before we started. These were very helpful to prepare us for the physical theatre we were about to do and get us in the right mindset for it. We then got into pairs and, to get us ready for the lifts we would do later on, we did some trust exercises. These included leading each other around the room, one person having their eyes closed, which stressed out lots of pairs, but we managed to do it without bumping into anyone. Next we got started on the lifts, where one partner had to be a base, and the other a flyer. We learnt two types of lift, and both of these included joining at the hip, lifting the flyer and then spinning them roughly 90-180 degrees, then letting them go. We then tried to



incorporate these lifts into a movement sequence with our partners, trying to use Frantic Assembly techniques like different touches or interactions moving through or around the other person. In the end we got to perform each of our sequences and then everyone talked about things we enjoyed doing or what we liked about others' performances. Overall this was a really great experience - everyone loved and it definitely taught us how important trust is among performers.

At the end of the day we got to watch some Oratory students put on a performance of The It, a play we are going to study next year for our drama GCSE. All the students were really great and the technical effects looked amazing. Overall, all of the Gillotts drama students that attended are so thankful for this experience and it gave us so many new skills and techniques we can use this year.

GCSE Art trip to Oxford

Earlier this month, Year 10 students went to The Oxford University Museum of Natural History and The Pitt Rivers Museum to gather resources for their main GCSE Art project. These two wonderful museums hold such a wide array of inspirational objects - I am really excited to see how the students develop their own work in response to this trip. I was so impressed by the way that they approached the day - there was lots of great photography and sketching going on all day long. I think the record was 567 photos taken by one student! As you can see, Mr McWhinnie and Mrs Best enjoyed their day too!

Year 10 have also been busy completing the foundation skills section of their GCSE course producing these beautiful etchings inspired by natural forms.

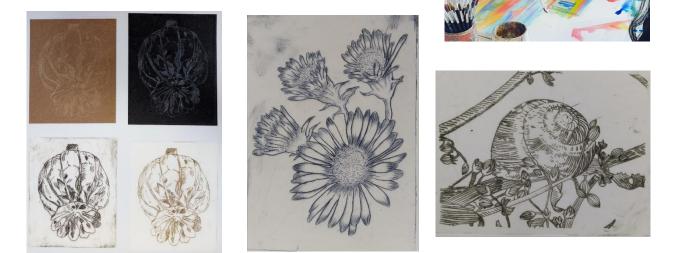






Art Club

Art club have had a productive term creating a large canvas based on scenes from Henley. This painting was part of a project organised by Oxfordshire County Council and the artwork is now on display in County Hall in Oxford.



Duke of Edinburgh Update

After successful training day in January, students are working hard on their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. They need to have made a good start in at least two of their sections, see Mrs Michael if there are any problems.

The Bronze and Silver Expeditions are coming up in May and June. A reminder of the dates: Bronze practice expedition: 6-7 May 2023 (Coronation weekend) Bronze assessed expedition: 24-25 June 2023

Silver practice expedition: 13-15 May 2023 Silver assessed expedition: 16-18 June 2023

Details of the locations and kit lists have been posted on Google classroom and have been email home to parents. Kit can be hired for a small cost from <u>BXM</u> expeditions, our expedition provider or <u>Oxfordshire Open centre</u>.



We encourage students to arrange lift shares to the drop-off and pick-up locations since parking is very limited. We ask that parents drop off their students and depart as quickly as they can. Our provider, <u>BXM expeditions</u> will be emailing to collect medical information. Please be aware as sometimes their email can end up in the spam folder.

If you have any questions then please email **DofE@gillotts.org.uk** We wish all the students taking part every success with their expeditions in the coming months.

Science Week Events

Yr9 Science Show

On Thursday 9th March, the whole of Year 9 attended a science show, hosted by Stefan Gates, at the Kenton Theatre. The performance was spectacular, including a range of experiments and demonstrations on how the human body works. Firing giant catapults into the audience, making snot and creating gunpowder being some of the highlights.



Students were highly engaged throughout and enjoyed the show. Thank you to the Henley Youth Festival for making this trip possible.



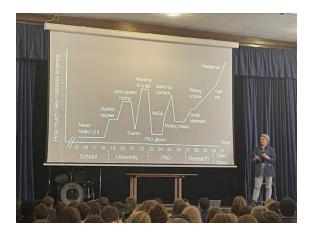




Yr10 Science Speaker

On Tuesday 14th March, the whole of Year 10 attended a talk by Dr Anna Ploszajksi, a material scientist, in the hall. Students learned about the range of careers chemistry and physics can be applied to e.g. land racing with NASA, testing properties of materials and making hydrogen powered cars.





Robotics Club

On 21st February our Robotics Team competed at the FLL tournament at Legoland Windsor and did brilliantly! They won Best Robot Design, Best Lego Build and our coaches Mr. Pentecost and Mr. Howard won best team coaches. Many congratulations to our Robotics programming, building and animation teams! Thank you to the parents of the team members for all their support too. We'll be entering again next year so if anyone else is interested in joining the team please let me know.

We're continuing the robotics clubs for the remainder of the year every week on a Monday after school 3.30 - 4.30pm (EV3 Programming), Wednesday lunch time (Robotics building), Wednesday after school (Robotics Animation Lab). Everyone is welcome.



The Robotics Programmers and Builders





The Robotics Animators



DeutschZusammen - German seminar with Warwick University

On Wednesday 8th February after school, a group of German learners from Years 9 to 11 had the opportunity to take part in a virtual seminar with a tutor at The University of Warwick. The University has recently developed the **DeutschZusammen** project which has been designed to provide mutually enriching meetings and dialogue between German practitioners in higher and secondary education.

The theme of the seminar was *Karneval*. Carnival marks the period before Lent and is a time of parades, elaborate costumes, masked balls and street parties that culminate on Shrove Tuesday. The seminar was delivered by their DAAD Lektorin Nora Michaelis.

The students really got involved with the content of the session, developing speaking skills and practising using reflexive verbs to say what they would do if they went to German Karneval. There was excellent participation and interaction from the students with the tutor and also among our group in school. Studying cultural events is something which is part of the GCSE course and this enrichment activity provided an out of class opportunity to do this.

Well done to all of those students who got involved. We hope to have more collaborative opportunities such as this in the future.

Ms Allen German teacher



Volunteering in the German Department

On Tuesday 14th March the German department was extremely fortunate to welcome back an ex Gillotts student, Eddie Handley, who is currently studying German at Oxford University. Eddie is kindly volunteering his time to help younger German learners at Gillotts. He gave a short presentation to students in KS3 and KS4 about his own German learning journey and how he came to study the subject at university. Year 8 students had some excellent questions to ask him too! He then spent time working with small groups, helping the students with their German pronunciation and speaking skills. Thank you to Eddie for returning to Gillotts, we look forward to welcoming you back later in the year.

Ms Allen German teacher





Food Technology Update

Year 7 Crudites and Salsa Knife Skills





Year 7 'All things Eggy' Homework





Year 7 Bread Making



Year 8 Victoria Sponge Homework





Year 8 Burgers





Year 9 Afternoon Tea





Year 9 Curry



Year 9 Enchiladas



Year 10

Souffle



Year 10

Meringue Foams



Portuguese Tarts Coagulation and Flaky Pastry



Year 10

Year 10

Scotch Eggs Enrobing



Library News

Library Club

Our new club started in January. This has replaced Book Club and has proved very popular. We play board games and do some craft activities as well as spending some time sharing books and reading aloud. One of our popular activities is re-purposing old books into bookmarks, trees and hedgehogs. We also have a selection of colouring books and have played games such as Jenga, Herd Mentality and Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza. We have just



decorated our Eco Tree with some spring daffodils. We recently decorated a library display board with the motto: 'Reading gives your imagination wings', along with some inspirational books. For this we tried out our origami skills and made butterflies from old library books. Next term we'll be spending some of the sessions reading the books on the Carnegie Medal for Illustration award. We welcome members from all year groups but at the moment our members are from Years 8 and 10. Despite some of the activities being potentially noisy, in particular the games, Library Club members are an example to the rest of the students and enjoy being quiet and calm at lunch-times.













World Book Day

We celebrated on Friday 3rd March. Students were invited to dress up as a book character or bring a prop relating to a book. We probably had fewer students dressing up this year; it would be nice to see more engagement next time! World Book Day at Gillotts always includes making donations to Book Aid International, the charity which provides books in sub-Saharan African countries. On the day one Year 7 class had their library lesson and so they took part in some

themed activities - designing their ideal book, creating a book character and dreaming up the five last words spoken by a book character. We also wrote the five last words of some classic book characters as one of the blackboard displays.

At break-time those of us who were dressed up, including Ms Darnton of course, assembled on the quad to be in some photo shoots.

As part of World Book Day students received a digital token to use in a local bookshop, as well as having the choice of some of the published WBD titles to choose as a free book in school.















Library Lessons and the importance of Reading for Pleasure

Students have the chance to see some of the latest publications at Gillotts School. We take part in two book awards, the Berkshire Book Award and the Children's Book Award. Students have been reading books and voting for their favourites. A select group from 7X4 is reading through the Berkshire Book Award shortlist and creating word art and book reviews. We have also been celebrating non-fiction this term and have some fabulous titles in the



library on topics as diverse as the environment, politics and fake news as well as a series of short, informative biographies.

Finally decorating our blackboards is an ever popular activity, as proved by these creative girls in Year 7, who are making it festive and colourful for springtime and Easter.









PE update

Fixtures have been quite limited this year so far - this has been largely due to bad weather. We have however recently taken part in the Year 7 indoor athletics event held at Icknield School as well as some of the B team Netball tournaments.

Year group	Won	Drew	Lost	Cancelled	Games still left to play	Any other additional comments
7 A	I	0	0	I	3	
7B	Ι	0	0	I	3	
8 A	2	0	0	I	3	
8B	2	0	0	I	3	
9A	0	0	2	I	2	
9B	0	0	2	I	2	
10A	I	0	0	I	2	No tournament
I0B	Ι	0	0	I	2	
IIA	Ι	0	0	I	3	2nd in the area B team tournament
IIB	Ι	0	0	I	3	

In the area Netball tournaments and fixtures the results are as follows:

In Football results are as follows:

Year group	Won	Drew	Lost	Cancelled	Games still left to play	Any other additional comments
7	4	Η	0	I	I	
8	I	0	0	I	3	
9	2	Ι	3	I	0	
10	4	2	I	I	I	
11	3	0	I	I	2	Still in the district cup competition

Indoor Athletics Competition

Year 7 Girls - Ist Year 7 Boys - 4th Overall team - 2nd

We also went to the Oratory school for a **swimming competition** in January, where our students performed well:

Year 7 Girls - 1st Year 7 Boys - 4th

Year 8/9 Girls - 4th Year 8/9 Boys - 2nd

Year 10/11 Girls - 3rd Year 10/11 Boys - 4th

As usual our students continue to make us and themselves proud in any sporting situation - in behaviour, attitude and commitment to their school sport - it is always a pleasure to take them to fixtures.

Hayley Rogers Head of PE

Term dates for 2022 - 2023

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2022.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	02 September - 21 October	35
October half term	24 October - 28 October	
Autumn Term	31 October - 20 December	37
Christmas holiday	21 December - 03 January	
Spring Term	04 January - 10 February	28
Spring half term	13 February - 17 February	
Spring Term	20 February - 31 March	30
Easter Holiday	3 April - 14 April	
Summer Term	17 April - 26 May	28
Late Spring half term	29 May - 02 June	
Summer Term	05 June - 21 July	35
Total		193

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on: Friday 2 September 2022 Monday 5 September 2022 Friday 30 September 2022 Monday 19 December 2022 Tuesday 20 December 2022 **Note** that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 6 September 2022. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 7 September 2022.

Monday 19 September 2022 is the bank holiday for the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. Monday I May 2023 is the May Day bank holiday. Monday 8 May 2023 is the bank holiday for the coronation of King Charles III.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 29 September 2022 Friday 16 December 2022 Friday 21 July 2023 Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Term dates for 2023 - 2024

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2023.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	04 September - 20 October	35
October half term	23 October - 27 October	
Autumn Term	30 October - 21 December	39
Christmas holiday	22 December - 05 January	
Spring Term	08 January - 9 February	25
Spring half term	12 February - 16 February	
Spring Term	19 February - 28 March	29
Easter Holiday	29 March - 12 April	
Summer Term	15 April - 24 May	29
Late Spring half term	27 May - 31 May	
Summer Term	03 June - 24 July	38
Total		195

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on: Monday 4 September 2023 Friday 29 September 2023 Monday 22 July 2024 Tuesday 23 July 2024 Wednesday 24 July 2024 Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 5 September 2023. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 6 September 2023.

Monday 6 May 2024 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 28 September 2023 Thursday 21 December 2023 Friday 19 July 2024

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening