



Parents' Newsletter

Dear parents

This is always a positive end of term, with the days getting longer and warmer. As I write, memories of the school musical, Annie Jr, are very fresh in my mind. The cast of over 100 delivered an incredibly professional performance, with everyone putting their all into their roles. It was truly impressive. I would like to thank everyone for the hard work that went into it - the cast, the tech team and, especially the team of staff, led by the Performing Arts Team, without whom none of this would have been possible. I know everyone involved in any way will never forget the experience.

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 this term. We were very grateful to the Henley Youth Festival for two very special drama workshops with the Globe Players. Years 7 and 8 saw 'What you Will'. This was a fascinating introduction to Shakespeare, following the development of Shakespeare's career and featuring many of his most famous scenes along the way. There were extracts from A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, The Tempest, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet and more. Years 10 and 11's preparation for GCSE was supported by a performance of 'Romeo and Juliet'. Romeo and Juliet tells one of the world's great stories: that of love transcending social barriers. A dream is set against reality. The dream, of a perfect love between Romeo and Juliet, is set against the reality of a competitive, feuding and violent society. Love and Death are constantly mentioned together, foreshadowing the end that Fate has in store for the "star-crossed lovers". Also in school, the Royal Institution treated Year 7 and 9 to a Science show, and followed up with a community event in the evening. Year 11 also attended 'Poetry - live' in Oxford and we've had an outing to 'Matilda, The Musical'. Our DofE students have been getting ready for their expeditions. 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! Also please encourage your children to check their bags in the morning so they bring in belongings themselves. We currently have quite a lot of parents bringing forgotten items in!

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

Change in term dates for 2025-26

With the permission of the governors, we have added an additional INSET day on Monday 5 January 2026. This is because, following our joining River Learning Trust, we need to align our management information system which will require significant staff training in support.

Uniform

Our uniform at Gillotts is designed to be functional but also appropriate for school. When it is worn as intended, students do look well presented and their appearance is consistent. Unfortunately when students try to modify the uniform, its impact is reduced. Here are a few key reminders.

Skirts - please make sure skirts are the best size to achieve a good fit and that all the fastenings are in place and can be done up. The skirt should be worn as designed - please support us by making clear that it is not to be 'rolled'. It is important all students learn to make choices about what they wear, appropriate to context.

Jewellery - No jewellery should be worn except a light chain with a religious symbol, and a maximum of one stud earring in each ear.

Hair styles - No extreme hairstyles, or non-natural colours (or combination of colours that are stark in contrast).

Pharmacy First - helping to improve school attendance

Pharmacy First is a free NHS service that allows people to get quick access to healthcare advice as they can walk into a pharmacy and access the service, removing the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment. The service supports seven common conditions and the pharmacist will provide advice and, if clinically necessary, a prescription medicine to treat the condition. For more information, visit nhs.uk/thinkpharmacyfirst.

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 £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.

Train to Teach at Gillotts School



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TEACHER TRAINING

Gillotts School is proud to be part of a growing partnership of schools leading the way in school-led teacher training, through our collaboration with Oxfordshire Teacher Training (OTT SCITT). We are excited to offer training placements across a variety of courses and take great pride in the role our staff play as mentors, co-deliverers, and supporters of the Associate Teachers training with OTT SCITT.

OTT SCITT provides a range of flexible training options, including full-time and part-time SCITT programmes, a salaried apprenticeship route, and an assessment-only pathway to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). With multiple Training Hubs across Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, and Berkshire, OTT SCITT ensures a local base for your training, supported by a network of schools, peers, and experienced colleagues in your area.

If you are thinking about training to teach, please visit the OTT SCITT website for full details and to book onto an information event or application support workshops: www.ott-scitt.org.uk

Here are the thoughts of an Associate Science teacher who trained with us this year:

“As I near the end of my training year with OTT SCITT, it’s been incredibly rewarding to reflect on how much I’ve learned and developed. My confidence as a teacher has grown immensely throughout this journey.

During my placement in the Science Department at Gillotts School, I’ve had the opportunity to gain invaluable experience. The department’s highly intentional processes have significantly enhanced my teaching practice and deepened my pedagogical knowledge. The team around me has been incredibly supportive and welcoming, always ready to offer guidance and answer my endless questions. Collaborating with such experienced professionals has been a highlight - whether it’s been through planning lessons, engaging with educational research, or gaining insights through their teaching methods and observations.

The structured support from the team has allowed me to fully understand the inner workings of the department, and their continuous encouragement has helped me grow both in confidence and skill. One area that particularly stood out to me has been exploring how scientific inquiry and practical experiments can be used to deepen students’ understanding of complex topics. I’ve enjoyed seeing how hands-on learning and real-world applications of science can ignite curiosity and enhance student engagement. I look forward to continuing to develop this approach in my future teaching career.

Beyond the classroom, working with a tutor group has allowed me to embrace the pastoral side of teaching. Building relationships with students outside of lessons has been truly fulfilling, and I'll miss the daily check-ins with my tutor group!

Overall, my experience at Gillotts School has been fantastic. It's a school that genuinely embodies its values, providing ample opportunities, fostering a strong community, and promoting excellence in all areas. I'm so grateful for this experience."

The influence
of a great
teacher can
never be
ERASED

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House Award Update



The Spring term always seems to fly by but we have still had time to ensure that our House system is contributing to supporting our fantastic school community. 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 builds on the activities and opportunities that students had in the Autumn term. By the end of the Autumn Term, Darwin House had a very narrow lead in the overall House points total, very closely followed by Orwell, with Pankhurst chasing their tails!

During the Spring term, Houses have participated in:

- Inter House Sports
- Fortnightly House Quizzes in Tutor Time (physical and mental!)
- Taskmaster Team Tasking events (recreating Nursery Rhymes on video, creating new class handshakes)
- And much more!

Students also 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.

The updated House points score will be revealed at the start of term in tutor time, and also posted on our social media! Can Darwin maintain their slender lead??

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

www.instagram.com/gillottshenley

www.x.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!

Darwin News Tutee of the Term

DGS: Matty Malone

DHLS: Jack Ingram

DAPM: Ava Douglas

DLLF: Cain Tilley

DROM/BJB: Adam Hanley

DCHA: Julia Worowska

DSGG: Ruby Ahara-Miller

DHLK: Tijen Mercangox

DJLG: Will Sadler

DFMW: Eleanor Costa

DPJY: Biba Vincent

DVLL: Freddie D'Arcy



Orwell News Tutee of the Term



OHJS/SEL: Duru Aslan

OPCM: Dylan Cox

OJSK: Chris Booth

OGMO/RD: Dominik Szumilkin

OJJ/SMS: Scarlett Jones

OHRW: Jessie Duncan

OCG: Lois Bowley

OCST/AB: August Greenway

OTL/NFD: Yeva Kriachko

OACM: Jan Karpowicz

OADT: Hadiyah Zaman

OJRE: Willow Gosby-Dolby

Pankhurst News Tutee of the Term

PHJ: Samuel Beverley

PCJW/ELD: Ruby Urch

PLJA/LS: Darcy Kenny

PFLP: Amelia Lines

PJDS: Emma Jean-Jean

PNGK: Bisan Musa

PSJW: Ayah Mus

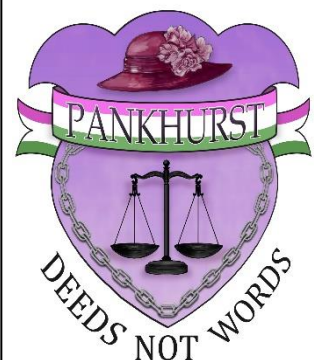
PESS: Toby Mynott

PKLO/CLF: Ewan Jacob

PWJH: Edie Turner

PGDM: Gabriela James Saraiva Dos Anjos

PCEG: Dakota Stevens



Performing Arts Update

Year 7 Theatre Trip - Matilda

In January, 90 Year 7 students, accompanied by some lucky staff members, travelled to the Cambridge Theatre in London to see the West End performance of Matilda. It was a magical experience for our students who were all impeccably behaved as they watched the fabulous cast. There really is nothing like live theatre and the late weekday night was well worth it.

Year 10 Drama Visit from Kerry Frampton - Splendid Theatre

Our Year 10 GCSE Drama group was joined by Kerry Frampton, artistic director of Splendid Theatre for a workshop on Bertolt Brecht. Some year 10 students share their thoughts

“Kerry was 10/10, made us feel more comfortable with the ideas behind Brechtian theatre in a practical way. Within minutes she got people out of their comfort zone and was engaging the whole class. She was outgoing and she had so much positive energy which quickly radiated onto everyone else in the room, the day went by so fast and by the end the workshop had changed our idea of Brecht. We were able to work in groups and produce a mini performance displaying our new understandings.” (Elodie, Isabel, Tyron, Rosie)



Key Stage 4 Performing Arts Showcase Evening



In early February Some of our wonderful GCSE Music and Drama students performed their GCSE pieces in front of their family and friends, with prospective GCSE Performing Arts students from year 9 joining them to see what the future holds!

The evening was a wonderful show of talent, including, drumming, guitars, singing and cornet playing, pianists and actors, as well as showcasing the amazing work of costume designers and sound designers as part of the Drama GCSE. Thank you to everyone involved.

Annie Jr.

We were absolutely delighted with our production of Annie Jr! Enormous thanks to the amazing cast and crew who lit up the stage for three nights earlier this term with a truly amazing display of talent. This is one of the (many) times I feel truly lucky to have this job and I couldn't be prouder of the young people I am fortunate enough to work with. All their hard work paid off and the feedback we have had is incredible. The team is already planning for 2026! Thank you to Mrs Best and Mrs Michael (set and props).

And my heartfelt thanks to Mrs Jansen (Dance), Mr Grice (Tech), and Ms King (Music)!

The performing arts team is a brilliant one to work with!

Charlotte Alder, Drama.

Clubs and Extracurricular

We continue to have many students who regularly attend Drama, Dance and Music rehearsals and it is lovely to see their dedication and enthusiasm. The Performing Arts Department is thriving as a place to learn as well as socialise. Please see the extra curricular schedule for details of how students can get involved.

Specialist Instrumental and Voice Lessons

A reminder that if your child is interested in instrumental or vocal lessons, please contact the school for an information sheet.

Thank You to our Student Leaders

As we approach GCSE Exams We would like to offer our thanks to our student leaders who have supported us for the last year and wish them all the best for their exams.

DRAMA - Tinashe Kapalamula, Betty-Mae Cowley, Violet Dix, Izzy Swanwick, Louisa Coultas, Edie Turner

MUSIC - William Sadler, Morgan Abry, Georgina Haigh, Daniel Wigfield

DT Update

Celebrating 10 Years of Gillotts Robotics 2015-2025

For the last 10 years Gillotts Robotics teams have competed at First Lego League tournaments at Reading University, Oxford Brookes University, Rutherford Appleton Laboratories in Didcot and Legoland, winning many accolades. Many thanks to all our students, STEM ambassadors and coaches for their achievements and support over the years.



Well done to our team this year for a brilliant performance at the FLL UK tournament at Oxford Brookes School of Engineering, Computing, Mathematics on 14th January 2025. They delivered fantastic programming and presentations, and were placed 5th out of 31 teams in the competition. Many thanks to Ian Howard for his support in coaching the team. We look forward to taking part again next year.



Maths Challenge

Some students in Year 9 and Year 10 had the opportunity of competing in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. The Maths Challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. Students were awarded with Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates, depending on their overall score. The results are below:

- In Year 9 we had 22 students achieve Bronze, 7 students achieve Silver and 2 students achieve Gold.
- In Year 10 we had 14 students achieve Bronze, 14 students achieve Silver and 6 students achieve Gold.

Three students scored so highly that they are through to the next round. Year 9 students Livia Baker and Oscar Wallis-Robinson got through to the Grey Kangaroo. In Year 10, Theo Khoury made it through to the Pink Kangaroo.

A special mention goes to Oscar Wallis-Robinson for the best score in his year, and Theo Khoury with the best score in the school.

Duke of Edinburgh award updates

Bronze Award

Over 120 Year 9 students have been making great progress on their Bronze award activities and completed the expedition training day in January. We are looking forward to the Bronze expeditions on the following dates:

Practice expedition 10/11 May 2025

Assessed expedition 21/22 June 2025

Families should have received location details for the practice expedition and kit list by email and they can also be found on the Bronze DofE Google classroom. Groups will be provided with tents, stoves and gas for cooking and maps. Students will need to bring their own kit and food for the weekend.

Please contact DofE@gillotts.org.uk for any queries or contact our provider [BXM Expeditions](#).

It is important that students break in their walking boots before the expeditions to reduce the risk of blisters.

There is a regular drop in session on Tuesday break times in S3 for students to come for advice, help with their activities and any questions.

Silver Award

Well done to those continuing with Silver DofE. There is a [list of expedition providers](#) on the DofE.org website for anyone still needing to arrange this. Students can come to drop in sessions for advice or help.

We wish all our DofE participants every success with their forthcoming expeditions.



Crochet Club



VE Day in 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. To commemorate this day there will be a big crochet installation of 100's of crochet poppies in Henley Town Square. Gillotts Crochet club has been busy making crochet poppies in memory of those we lost and in hope for a peaceful future.

Art Update

KS3 Art club



Year 7 pupils have been getting creative this half term. They designed weird and wonderful creatures using animal pictures and then used the technique of monoprinting to bring them to life. They added watercolour to their prints. Can you tell what animals they included?

Year 8 Art



Michael Craig-Martin inspired us this half term. His bold, graphic art work gave us the idea to use lettering and everyday objects that reflect different subjects at school and hobbies.

GCSE Art

Year 11 students are busy preparing for their final exam. I can't share pictures of their live work with you, but here are a few from last year.



Freddie Hodges, who left Gillotts last year, won the Art Spark award organised by the Henley Arts Trail in 2024. He will be exhibiting his work on this year's Trail, which runs from 3 - 5 May. It's a great event featuring arts and crafts from lots of local artists and is well worth a visit over the Bank holiday weekend. [Henley Arts Trail 2025](#)

PE Update

This year most of our netball games organised by the league were played before half term so light was a bit on issue meaning many of the games were shorter. However it has been a really good season with our Year 7 and Year 9 teams both winning their area tournaments which meant they qualified for the County tournament - which was also a success with the both teams winning all their games and coming out county champions.

So far in the **Netball** league the results are as follows:

Year group	Won	Drew	Lost	Cancelled	Any other additional comments
7A	10	0	0	0	A team are unbeaten also winners of the County Netball Tournament
7B	5	0	2	0	
8A	6	1	2	0	The B team have had fewer games as many schools only wanted to play one team
8B	2	0	0	0	
9A	8	0	1	0	A team have only lost one game all season and also winners of the County Netball Tournament
9B	1	0	5	0	
10A	7	0	2	1	Both teams still have one game each left to play - the A team also came second in the area tournament
10B	1	0	2	1	
11A	1	0	4	0	We only have one team in year 11

In **Football** the results so far are as follows:

Year group	Won	Drew	Lost	Cancelled
7	2	2	0	1
8	4	0	1	0
9	4	0	0	0
10	3	0	0	0
11	1	0	2	1

South Oxfordshire Indoor Athletics

Our year 7 team won the above event - the girls came 1st and the boys came 3rd which meant we won it overall which is an excellent result.

We also sent three students to the County Cross Country event at Cokethorpe School - two of the students involved qualified for the English Schools cross country which is a fantastic achievement.

Slightly out of season we also entered the **UI4 State Schools Hockey Tournament** which was held on Tuesday 18th March - this was a great opportunity for the students to experience playing matches on an astroturf. We took a mixed team of Year 7, 8 and 9 and came up against some tough Year 9 opposition from other schools from different counties. However we made it through to the quarter finals which we won 2 – 0; in the semis it went to penalty flicks which we won; and in the final we beat Borlase 2 - 0 which was a fantastic result. This was a fantastic achievement for the girls and the school.

Moving on from there the department will look forward to the summer term with Cricket, Rounders and Athletics fixtures.

Hayley Rogers
Head of PE

Careers Update

Year 10 Mock Interviews

On Wednesday 12th March, as part of the PSHE careers programme, all of our Year 10 students had a mock interview by a local employer. It was lovely to see our students dress for work and make such a good impression. The skills they have developed from this will no doubt prepare them for future interviews. A huge thank you to all those parents who gave up their time to conduct the interviews; it is much appreciated.



Year 11 Piggott Interviews

On Monday 17th March, over a hundred of our students had their Piggott Sixth Form Interview. Students were well prepared, polite and enthusiastic about their post-16 choices. Piggott staff were very impressed by our students and look forward to seeing many of them in September.



National Careers Week

This term, we celebrated National Careers Week with a focus on creative careers. In tutor time, students, in all years, learned about the skills and qualifications needed to pursue careers in this field and watched short clips from professionals.



Skills Shortages - UK Creative Industries

Production Location marshal Accountant Production secretary	Costume Costume designers Prop makers	Distribution Business/Financial analysts Rights and sales analysts	Marketing Pay Per Click Executive Data experts	Facilities Caterers Venue managers Security staff
Fashion and Textiles Sewing machinist Pattern cutter	Post Production VFX Effects VFX - Rigging Sound effects	Construction Carpenters Painters Plasterers	Electrical Lighting technician	Craft Marionette making Violin bow making

Year 10 Careers Workshop

A selection of Year 10 students, chosen by their tutors, have continued to work on skills and confidence this term. The most recent session focussed on reviewing CVs and preparing for mock interviews. Thank you to Rhian Burrell who has run these fantastic workshops.

Year 8 PSHE Talk

On Tuesday 28th January, Georgina Bradley, former CID detective, delivered a session on stereotypes and adversity in the workplace, focussing on her time in the police force. Students were gripped as Georgina spoke about how women were treated at the start of her career and the challenges she faced.



Gillotts Alumni: Year 11

We are beginning to build a Gillotts School Alumni for ex-students. In the future, we hope to share news of destinations and experiences, organise events and invite students into school, as good role models to our current students. We all know Gillotts is a special place and we are very proud of all our students; it would be lovely to keep in touch. If your child is in Year 11 and would like to join our Gillotts Alumni, please fill in the following form sharing your child's personal email address, with their permission:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8ckBFeg7VQbssolrNPjoklDO2fKk9jqvml_DvzcPVylkk4w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Thank you to those parents who have signed up to volunteer to deliver a careers talk / event at Gillotts. If you would like to volunteer to come into school, please do contact me on the below email address.

Mrs Chloe Tristem

Careers and Guidance Lead

ctristem@gillotts.org

Library Update

Berkshire Book Award

At Gillotts we take part in the Berkshire Book Award, an award for which the books are entirely nominated by students in Berkshire and Oxfordshire schools. They choose the longlist which is then narrowed down to a shortlist. This year I had the opportunity to select a group to read the books in more detail and take them on the shortlist event in January held at Reading Blue Coat School. The students were from Year 7 and they continue to read and rate the books; the winning book will be announced in May.

At the event our six students split up and sat at tables with students from other local schools. The afternoon event included hearing the announcement of the shortlist and discussing some ice-breaker questions about the books to get to know about the reading habits of the other students at their tables. They also met the local author David Barker, whose latest book in the Pax series appeared on the longlist. David talked to the students about his plots and the writing process. They also had the opportunity to buy signed copies of David's books and the books on the shortlist.



Since then the students have been enjoying reading the shortlisted books. Some of them have made brilliant word clouds to celebrate the authors and books. Here are some from Emily Palmer:



One of the books on the shortlist is Jack Splash, by Simon James Green and Tom Daley. The themes of the book are diving and knitting. As we have a crochet club in school, we met up with them to learn the basics of crochet stitches, as we understand that Tom Daley also loves crochet! Here are some pictures of Crochet and Book Club members enjoying a session at lunch-time in the library. After this I posted some pictures on X. Simon James Green's reaction was: 'Love it!'



World Book Day

At Gillotts we celebrate in the two week timetable starting after half-term. Classes in Years 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to take part in an Alternative Book Titles or Batman or the Bard quiz. These always go down very well.

On the day quite a number of students and some staff dressed up as book characters or just wore themed hats or t-shirts. We also held a Cake Sale at break-time. Both of these endeavours were in aid of Book Aid International. We are due to give the charity £357 for our efforts on the day. Year 11 Head Students and other students in the year group helped to make cakes and sell them on the day. They joined in with the spirit of the event by wearing various themed hats and wigs.

Students were given £1 book tokens to exchange for the special books published for the day.

Some artistic students joined in with arts and crafts activities at lunch-time and made bookworms and wooden spoon book characters. We repeated this activity at Arts and Crafts club a couple of weeks later.



Fiction Genre Project

After re-organising all of our fiction into genres in the autumn term, students are enjoying finding it easier to make their reading choices in library lessons and when they choose books in their free time. The clearly labelled sections and stickers on the books ensure that they know where to look for books and put them back in the right place. The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze volunteers have been helping to add the details to our library catalogue.

We have recently also acquired some foreign and dual language fiction in French, Spanish, German, Polish and Ukrainian. We have also been looking at the options for translating some of our e-books into a whole range of different languages.

Eco Club and Committee

This term students have been thinking about litter and the impact on our environment. We are taking part in the Great Big School Clean and designing some posters to encourage people not to drop litter. We also recently met with Cathrine O'Dell from Let's go Zero. She enjoyed hearing what students think about climate change and how we are trying to make small changes in school that will have an impact.

We have designed a game of Jenga which has both reading and eco questions. This can be played spontaneously by anyone who comes into the library.



Term dates for 2024 - 2025

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2024.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	02 September - 25 October	40
October half term	28 October - 1 November	
Autumn Term	4 November - 20 December	35
Christmas holiday	23 December - 03 January	
Spring Term	06 January - 14 February	30
Spring half term	17 February - 21 February	
Spring Term	24 February - 04 April	30
Easter Holiday	07 April - 21 April	
Summer Term	22 April - 23 May	23
Late Spring half term	26 May - 30 May	
Summer Term	02 June - 22 July	37
Total		195

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Monday 2 September 2024

Tuesday 3 September 2024

Friday 27 September 2024

Monday 21 July 2025

Tuesday 22 July 2025

Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Wednesday 4 September 2024. The remainder of the school returns on Thursday 5 September 2024.

Monday 5 May 2025 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 26 September 2024

Friday 20 December 2024

Friday 18 July 2025

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Term dates for 2025 - 2026

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2025.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	01 September - 24 October	40
October half term	27 October - 31 October	
Autumn Term	03 November - 19 December	35
Christmas holiday	22 December - 02 January	
Spring Term	05 January - 13 February	30
Spring half term	16 February - 20 February	
Spring Term	23 February - 27 March	25
Easter Holiday	30 March - 10 April	
Summer Term	13 April - 22 May	29
Late Spring half term	25 May - 29 May	
Summer Term	01 June - 20 July	36
Total		195

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Monday 1 September 2025

Friday 26 September 2025

Thursday 23 October 2025

Friday 24 October 2025

Monday 5 January 2026

Monday 20 July 2026

Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 2 September 2025. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 3 September 2025.

Monday 4 May 2026 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 25 September 2025

Friday 19 December 2025

Friday 17 July 2026

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening