



Parents' Newsletter

Dear parents

We have finally reached the end of another hectic, enjoyable and successful year.

As ever, this term is all about hellos and goodbyes. Year 11 certainly went out in style at their Prom, which we held again at Badgemore Golf Club. The elegance of the surroundings was certainly appreciated by the students and added significantly to the sense of celebration. It was a lovely occasion for both staff and students, and we were all very proud to see how grown up they have become! They were a pleasure to celebrate with and it was lovely to have so many of you with us to see their arrival. We look forward to seeing you all again on GCSE Results Day, Thursday 21 August.

The Key Stage 3 Celebration of Success evening was a lovely way to mark the varied successes of our students, and the way they contribute to the school. Year 9 are now 60% of their way through Gillotts and it felt a fitting moment to reflect on what they have achieved so far and look forward to what is to come. With awards as diverse as subject contribution, attendance, house points and modelling the school's values, we were able to acknowledge a range of skills and talents, including perseverance, resilience and dedication. We are very grateful that our Chair of Governors, Emma Hunt, was able to be our guest speaker and to present the awards. She shared some of her personal journey in a way that I am sure will inspire our students to even greater heights.

We have run four very successful Pioneer experiences for all Year 6 students joining us in September. Feedback from the students on the events was very positive. Favourite things included throwing javelins in PE, and of course the choice in the canteen and the space on the field. At the end of the week, parents told us that the worries had been allayed and their children 'couldn't wait' for September! It was lovely that many of our Pioneers and their parents joined us at the Parents' Association BBQ – the perfect weather made the Mansion block lawn the perfect setting, and we had an impressive turnout. The PA raised over £3,000 for the school that night – my thanks to them for all the fundraising throughout the year.

A highlight of the term was definitely a group of Year 10 students having a fantastic four days in Valencia, Spain, under the brilliant leadership of Mrs Steele. Year 7 had a wonderful weekend at Skern Lodge and, as I write, some of Year 9 are making their regular visit to Woodlands, with students taking part in gorge walking, caving, canoeing and climbing. As ever, we have done incredibly well in all the Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire inter-school sport competitions. Sports Day is still to come and I hear that the desire to support your House is as great as ever – there has been lots of preparation and trialling going on in advance! We are looking forward to the last events of term - including a performing arts 'celebration', and then our final assembly, including academic prizes, on the last day.

Inevitably there are some staff goodbyes too. All those who are leaving us will be much missed and we thank them heartily for the way they have contributed to the overall success of the school.

We look forward to welcoming back Year 7 and Year 10 on Tuesday 2 September and all other students on Wednesday 3 September.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all the support you give the school, which is invaluable, and wish you all a very happy and refreshing break.

Best wishes
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.

Change to all school email addresses from 24 July 2025

Following our joining RLT, all our email addresses are changing. The good news is that the change is very simple – we are just losing the .uk from the end. So for example, the new office address is: office@gillotts.org

All emails sent to the 'old' addresses will be automatically forwarded, but we would be grateful if you would start to use the new addresses.

Feedback on the parent survey

First of all, very many thanks to the half of all parents who took the time to complete the survey. This is an impressive response rate and means we can be very confident in the accuracy of the results.

These are the key strengths you told us about:

- **Dedicated and Caring Staff:** Parents consistently praise the commitment, care, and approachability of teachers and support staff. They feel that staff genuinely care about their children's well-being and academic progress.
- **Effective Communication:** Many parents appreciate the regular and clear communication from the school regarding their child's progress, school events, and general updates.
- **Academic Progress and Support:** Parents acknowledge the school's role in their children's academic development and appreciate the support mechanisms in place for learning.
- **Safe and Nurturing Environment:** The school is widely perceived as a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where their children feel comfortable and happy.
- **Overall Satisfaction:** A strong theme of general satisfaction with the school's provision and their child's experience.

The key area that you, in common with students and staff, want us to continue to work on is **Consistency in Discipline**. Similar to student feedback, some parents expressed concerns about the consistency of behaviour management and discipline across the school. This is already part of our School Development Plan and we are absolutely committed to further improvements in this area.

Feedback on the parent survey – from RLT

As we come to the end of term, I'm writing to give you some feedback on the stakeholder survey we carried out earlier in the year, and to thank you for your contribution. Overall we had 14,000 students, 5,000 parents, 2,000 staff and 200 governors completed the survey. I provide below some headlines from pupil, staff, and parents and carers surveys.

Every Headteacher has a detailed analysis of feedback on their own school: a careful consideration of the trends for your school will inform areas for attention in the coming year. Please be assured that your feedback is valued and does support improvement planning.

Pupils

The overall results are fairly stable from previous years for both Primary and Secondary pupils. There have been slight improvements in responses from pupils about how well schools respond to bullying and how they are supported to learn about and look after their physical and mental health. As a Trust we place real value in the work schools do with personal development education, learning beyond the academic curriculum and the importance of treating each other well, so this was pleasing to see.

This year we added some new questions that we can compare with national data. For the question "How often do you find what you do at school interesting?" Primary pupils were considerably more positive than the national comparison, and Secondary slightly more positive. For Secondary, the extent to which pupils felt they were asked to read to support their learning was in line with national; we would rather this was more positive, as reading is an important focus for our pupils at both Primary and Secondary.

Staff

The overall responses from staff were similar to previous years, but some new questions this year have allowed us to compare ourselves to national data. We are pleased that for each of these questions (workload, wellbeing and being confident that being part of a Trust/RLT is beneficial) staff in RLT were more positive than in schools nationally. There continues to be a national recruitment crisis for teachers and support staff, so we will continue to support developing schools that are great places to work as well as in which to learn.

Parents and carers

Overall, Secondary parents and carers are more positive this year than in 2024, and Primary parents and carers are similar to last year. Some particular positives to value are that:

(P = Primary, S = Secondary)

- 96%(P) and 89% (S) have a member of staff they can speak to if concerns arise
- 94% (P) and 88% (S) are overall satisfied with most aspects of the school
- 88% (P) and 83% (S) would recommend the school to another parent

Communication was indicated as an area for improvement across both phases, including letting you as parents and carers know what is being studied at school.

Your survey included, for the first time, a separate section for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - these additional questions will give us a starting point to compare in future years. Supporting our pupils with SEND and communicating well with their parents has been, and remains, a priority for us as a Trust. We have seen positive improvement over the years, but also know there is some variation between our schools and this survey helps us to further understand where specific support is needed.

Concluding thoughts

It's been a busy year: two new schools (Gillotts Secondary School and Edward Feild Primary), and Oxfordshire's largest Alternative Provision provider (Meadowbrook College) have joined RLT, 7 schools have been inspected by Ofsted (well done to all!) and there are too many successes at school level to write about here. We continue to support all our schools to deliver what we aim to be excellent and inclusive education which supports pupils' personal development alongside academic achievement. Further details about our work in the Trust is provided in our Annual report to stakeholders, released in December each year (previous versions can be found on our website [here](#)).

As we approach the end of this academic year I would like to thank you for your support - we know that positive relationships between schools and parents and carers, makes a significant difference as we work together to support your children in our schools.

I hope you enjoy a wonderful summer.

With best wishes



Paul James
Chief Executive

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.

House Award Update



As always, it has been another action packed year of House activity at Gillotts School, culminating with Sports Day this week, which is always a joyous occasion, full of colour, enthusiasm and passion for respective Houses.

Throughout the year, students have been working towards collecting points for their House, through their actions and commitment to learning every day (classwork, homework, punctuality, attendance), their engagement in the wider school community (open evening, tours of the school, helping the local community), and taking part in the myriad of House competitions that go on across the school over the course of the year (sports competition; Rock, Paper, Scissors; House quizzes; Maths challenges; Origami making; Paper Aeroplane competitions etc).

We continue to view house competition as a vitally important part of our school community and developing a sense of belonging, and our student voice body regularly request for us to run even more competitions! We will endeavour to do this for them next year! We love to offer such a wide range of opportunities for students to be involved in, making positive contributions to our school community, and building that sense of working towards a common goal. A bit of friendly rivalry is never a bad thing as well!

At the end of the year, Ms Darnton was able to award the House Cup to the House with the most points, which this year was Orwell!

Well done Team Orwell!

Darwin News Tutee of the Term

DGS: Toby Nicholson
 DHLS: Sebastian Froehlich
 DAPM: Samuel Jackson
 DLLF: Eden Scivyer
 DROM/BJB: Frances Sadler
 DCHA: Andreas Vuckovic-Kihlstrom
 DSGG: Carnell Collier

DHLK: Ewan Boyd
 DPJY: Iris Hawkins
 DVLL: Emily Palmer



Orwell News Tutee of the Term



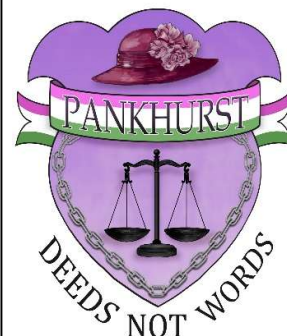
OHJS/SEL: Harrison Noble
 OPCM: Mia Day
 OJSK: Megan Foulkes
 OGMO/RD: Freya Weatherstone
 OJJ/SMS: Ariane Oliver
 OHRW: Amara Uwaezuoke
 OCG: Anthony Mahoney

OTL/NFD: Lachlan Abry
 OJRE: Ben Kirkland

Pankhurst News Tutee of the Term

PHJ: Zara Tate
 PCJW/ELD: Amus Hui
 PLJA/LS: Flora Strmen Ogden
 PFLP: Alfie Blyton
 PJDS: Chantelle Chananda
 PNGK: Adella Streather
 PSJW: Isabel Nicholson

PESS: Jackson Bate
 PGDM: Milly Pready
 PCEG: Florence Irving



Introducing Gillotts Head Students



A rigorous application process (including letters of application, promotional videos and formal interview) led to us recently appointing our new Head Students for 2025/26 to lead Student Voice at Gillotts. A huge congratulations to Freddie Williams, Etna Mercade and Isaac Urch on their appointments. We had huge interest in the post so they did incredibly well to succeed. We look forward to working with them on improving the school further.



Year 7 Flamenco Workshop

We welcomed Danielle Yglesia to our Spanish lessons for an immersive experience of dancing flamenco. The pupils enjoyed watching Danielle impress us with a performance and she then taught both groups some steps. Our pupils were interested to learn about the origins and the characteristics of flamenco. We also had the hot Spanish weather to accompany us through this, olé!



Year 8 Lulworth Cove



Lulworth Cove was really fun and interesting as there was a lot to do and visit. It was a great experience and there was a lot to learn. Even with a long coach journey it was worth it because when you get there you can go on a nice peaceful walk up a small hill and get to the amazing views of Lulworth Cove and then head over to Durdle Door where you get to go down to the beach and where sometimes there is a seal for you to see but also the amazing Durdle Door arch. After we headed back down the hill and all got treated to ice cream!

Izzy Coleman

The Lulworth Cove trip was very fun because you got to see and experience amazing views and travel along the coastline and see Durdle Door. Even though the coach journey was a few hours it was definitely worth it. You got to sit on the beach and breathe in the fresh ocean air. Some people even saw the seal on the beach. It was a very nice sunny day and a very enjoyable trip. To finish off the trip everyone got treated with an ice cream of their choice which was a surprise to everyone!

Estelle Rogers

Year 8 Bletchley Park

120 Year 8 students had a great day at Bletchley Park. Students had a guided tour around the whole park, where they were taught about the whole process of code breaking during WW2. Students also took part in a Codes and Ciphers session, where they learnt about and used some common code breaking techniques and were able to use a real life Enigma machine!



Year 9 Woodlands Trip

Our recent residential trip to The Woodlands Centre was a resounding success, enhanced by fantastic weather and the unwavering enthusiasm of our students. Across all activities, they demonstrated exceptional teamwork, courage, and resilience.

On the water, canoeing groups quickly mastered their skills, navigating rapids with impressive coordination. The days were hot and so students were given the chance to jump in the water, splashing and swimming. Some spotted the crayfish amongst the rocks and a rare egret sighting provided a moment of calm. Similarly, the gorge walking groups showed incredible mutual support, encouraging each other to tackle their fears, crawling under waterfalls and completing jumps off heights into deep water.

At the quarry, climbers demonstrated outstanding teamwork, belaying and coaching each other up challenging routes. Their determination was inspiring, with some discovering a passion for a new sport. This bravery was mirrored underground, as caving groups faced their fears to navigate the infamous 'Letterbox' squeeze and underground rivers.

New friendships were formed and many students overcame challenges they didn't know they could. As Lyla Massie put it, "This trip has motivated me to keep going even if I am in a situation where I feel like I'm being squashed like a pancake." The experience has undoubtedly created lasting memories and valuable life skills.



Year 10 Geography Trip to Bristol

In June, we took the three Year 10 GCSE Geography classes to Bristol on a fieldtrip to help them prepare for their final exams. This involved studying regeneration around the Bristol Docks and the wider city.

While the journey to Bristol by coach went very smoothly, the deteriorating weather conditions as we approached the city meant that we were a little bit worried about whether it would be a complete wash out. While the first hour did involve us all getting a bit drenched, the sun came out just in time for the highlight of the trip (at least for me)- the boat trip around the docks.

The students spent time in the morning visiting Broadmead, the main shopping street in Bristol. This area has been partially re-generated although footfall has been affected by the opening of the Cabot Circus Shopping Centre a decade ago. While there, the students completed environmental quality

surveys to examine the impact of regeneration on this area. They also asked members of the public to complete a questionnaire to get their perspectives on the impact of regeneration in this area.

In the afternoon we visited the Temple Meads Quarter of Bristol around the railway station. When we last completed this trip a couple of years ago this area was very quiet and the regeneration which had been taking place before Covid was clearly on hold. However, this time there were more people around and there is a lot of building work taking place – with one of the universities in Bristol being at the forefront of this development.

The students also went on the boat trip around the Bristol Docks. This was accompanied by a very informative commentary which is aimed at GCSE students. This took us through the history of the docks and their impact on Bristol as well as the decline and subsequent regeneration of this area. We had to have three separate trips this year because of the high numbers of students taking GCSE Geography.

Looking ahead to next year, the first trip will be for the new Year 11s heading to study the River Pang from source to mouth. We will then be taking Year 9 to the Natural History Museum in London followed by the annual trip to the south coast, visiting Lulworth Cove in Dorset, with Year 8 in May. The fieldwork year will finish off with the Bristol trip again for the new Year 10.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff for helping to organise and run these trips. The students have also behaved superbly on all the trips and I would like to thank them as well.

Dr Newbold

Year 10 Trip to Valencia 2025

GCSE Spanish students recently spent 4 days in the city of Valencia and although we were there during a heatwave we all still had an incredible time. A huge well done to all pupils who attended; you did Gillotts proud.

Day 1: This was a day of travel and the pupils conducted themselves brilliantly around the airport and on the flight. There was excitement upon check-in at the hotel as we realised we had been allocated the upgrade rooms - this must have been a result of the current Year 11 Spanish pupils being so brilliant on their trip last year! Pupils had their first taste of Spanish food and ordering in Spanish that night.

Day 2: We walked along the Jardines de Turia to the Torres de Serrano (one of oldest and most important gates to the city) to absorb our first views of Valencia. We then walked to the Mercado central where we admired the wonderful building but, most importantly, allowed the pupils free time to explore and order their lunch. After lunch we continued to one of the beautiful plazas for more exploration before experiencing the Spanish metro system back to the hotel. In the evening we went to the ciudad de las artes y ciencias, some famous architecture in Valencia, where we watched a 3D film in Spanish.

Day 3: We visited el museo fallero in the morning to give insight to one of the Spanish festivals they study at GCSE; las fallas. A paella lunch at the beach was then devoured and some refreshing time on the beach was enjoyed!

Day 4: We were given a wonderful and informative tour of the Mestalla football stadium; one of the oldest in Europe. This was another opportunity for understanding and interacting in Spanish. Lunch was had in the city centre around the cathedral where we later had a wonderful tour. We flew home the same day and all pupils left the city smiling.



Art Update

This term, Year 7 students have tried their hand at ceramics producing these fantastic masks inspired by Kimmy Cantrell and masks from around the world. They are painted with poster paint and given an aged and distressed finish with metallic paint.



Inca mask



Kimmy Cantrell

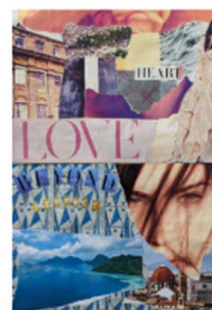


Year 8 students have been studying cubism and portraits by Pablo Picasso, where the faces are simplified and include many different angles in the same painting. They have experimented with watercolour paints and oil pastel resist to add colour.

Year 9 have been looking at the work of American Street artist Shepard Fairey. They have discovered that he uses collage to design his artwork before stencilling it onto walls. They have considered how using a word within an artwork can influence how people view this work and how this could be a powerful tool in influencing the way that people think.



Shepard Fairey



Duke of Edinburgh Award at Gillotts

Over 120 students have been working on their Bronze award at Gillotts this year, our best year yet. Students have been making a real difference in the community contributing an amazing 1430 hours from April 24 to March 25. Amongst their activities are running chess club, volunteering at local charity shops, coaching youngsters at sports, dance and drama clubs and contributing to citizen science projects. They should all be very proud of the difference they have made this year and also for the dedication they show to the variety of different skills they are working on for their skills sections. We would like to thank all those in the local community who are going out of their way to support our students to complete their DofE award.

Expeditions

Congratulations to all the students who successfully completed their Bronze expeditions in May/June and especially to those for whom this was their final section to complete so have achieved their full Bronze award. We hope that the others will continue working on their sections over the summer and ask their assessors to complete their assessor reports to enable them to register for **Silver award** in the new school year. Look at the Bronze award Google classroom and [Gillotts DofE Website](#) for guidance and email DofE@Gillotts.org with any queries.

Silver Award

Students have been working on Silver award this year completing sections with an eclectic mix of activities from synchronized swimming, to gaining digital skills credentials through [IBM skills build](#) platform.

New Year 9 students will be invited to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh award in September/October next year and we hope that everyone will consider taking part.

Library Update

This term students have appreciated being able to access fiction books by genre, rather than by author. This has aided their selection of books by interest area. The top genres which are borrowed are:

Murder Mystery

Dystopia

Historical and Wartime/Sport Biography and Stories (joint third place)

For the last two weeks of term some classes are taking part in a genre activity to help choose a book for the summer holidays. This involves group discussions at tables.

Mrs Waelend's Year 7 class has been taking part in the Carnegie Illustrated project. This involves groups picking a book on the shortlist and preparing a presentation on one of the suggested themes. They are due to present to the class in their lesson in the last week of term. The full list of books is in the link here, with the winner already having been announced: [Carnegie Award](#)

Classes have also been creating posters (hand drawn or on google slides) to celebrate a favourite book. They have had completely free choice in what to base the poster on. Some have chosen a favourite book from when they were younger. The value of the Library Lesson is the free choice and the opportunity to read for pleasure with all the benefits that this brings, for example:

Mental wellbeing

Increasing vocabulary

Exploring new worlds and experiences in a safe way

Performing better in exams

Developing empathy

Some examples of the posters created are shown below. I shared one of the Skandar posters with the author, A F Streadman, on X. Her response was: 'Oh this is absolutely brilliant! Thank you for reading Skandar.'

Berkshire Book Award

Voting took place to decide on the winning book. This award is entirely voted for by young people in Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The Reading Group, who went on the trip to Reading Blue Coat School in January, made sure to get their votes in as well as creating some artwork to share with the authors.



This term has been fairly quiet, with fewer students attending clubs with the appeal of sunshine and enjoying the outdoors. We have had some sessions making portfolio work for authors on the Top Ten for the Children's Book Award. In the older category the books were:

Seven Million Sunflowers by Malcolm Duffy

Ditching Saskia by John Moore

The Clockwork Conspiracy by Sam Sedgman

Here is some of the artwork produced based on these books and some group sessions enjoying the books:



Sometimes at Arts and Crafts Club students help with displays and decorating the blackboards:



This board was decorated by Penny White, who says of attending clubs in the library:

This year we've been doing lots of fun arts and crafts, from origami to wooden spoon characters, we've been finding creative ways to reuse and recycle, taking inspiration from the eco club! We've taken lots of inspiration from a variety of different books, from picture books to fantasies to mysteries and beyond, to make drawings and posters and lots of other crafts. We've been decorating the boards in the library, thinking about fun things to do in each season and looking further at many of the incredible books we find. There's something for everyone!

Eco Club

This term we have met up weekly to talk about concerns about the environment and how we aim to re-use and recycle. New members joined when I appealed for helpers for the Great Big School Clean in March. Since then we have been keeping an eye on the quad planters, identifying plants and birds and promoting an awareness of the importance of eating more plants in our diet.

A few weeks ago, some students met Sarah Ronan from Greener Henley, who came into school to talk about the importance of solitary bees and why we should encourage them into our gardens. One of our aims at Eco Club is to get students to the point where they are not regarding bugs and insects as 'scary' or a negative in our lives. These Year 7s and some staff members were truly inspired by the presentation.

Some students supported Greener Henley at the Great Big Green Fair in June. We ran a Mini Science Fair for children and members of the public visiting the Fair in Henley town centre.



Our highlight of the term was the Vegetarian Picnic on the lawn behind the Mansion. Eco Club members, regular library users and members of other clubs as well as some staff, were invited to a bring and share picnic to celebrate the end of Great Big Green Week. Happily the sun shone for us that day, but it was not unbearably hot.

We had a good selection of food including elderflower cordial made from local elderflowers, home made bread, fresh fruit and home made jam tarts.

Scarlett Freeman, a regular at Eco Club said:

I did the Eco club fair in Henley market place and what I really enjoyed about it was that it's all about plants and animals which was great fun. I also did the Eco Club fair at the Henley College which was also really good, because we taught all the Year 6s. (The latter event took place last autumn).

Recommended websites for reading inspiration:

A reminder of our [Library Catalogue](#), which can be accessed from home. There are book recommendations and links to other sources, as well as our own stock of library books, including e-books. There will be some reading suggestions displayed, including The Best of the Genres and Sizzling Summer Reads.

The [Reading Jackdaw](#) website has some great recommendations and is worth looking at.

[Fantastic Fiction](#)

[Children's Book Sequels](#) is great for checking the order of a book series.

Public Libraries are running the [Summer Reading Challenge](#), which is well worth looking at.

All students and parents can use [First News online](#) over the summer holidays.

KS3 Science Club

Three Science club students have been awarded a Science Bronze Crest award for their project looking at suitable plants and growing mediums for a Green wall. Club members also set up the hydroponics kits bought using a part of a grant from the Cadbury Foundation kindly arranged by a Gillotts parent. The grant is aimed at giving students the opportunity to learn about food production. Hydroponics is an emerging technology that is being used to grow food crops, for example salad leaves and herbs, in water with added nutrients which gives a high yield but uses low amounts of water and land.



PE update for summer 2025

We have again hosted all the Rounders tournaments here so far with the results as follows:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Tournament position
10	6	5	0	1	2nd place on rounders scored
11	4	4	0	0	1st place

We have also been fortunate enough to have Henley Cricket Club coaches coming in again during lesson time and lunch time club working with students in Year 7, 8 and 9.

Out of season our Year 7 boys competed recently in an area touch Rugby tournament which they won.

In Athletics we did really well in the South Oxfordshire Area Athletics, which took place at Tilsley Park in Abingdon on Thursday 16th May - it was another very successful day, the students were excellent and many of them were chosen to compete in the county athletics event on Sunday 9th June. The results were as follows:

Year 7 Boys

Position	School	Total Points
1.	Langtree	137
2.	Wallingford	136
3.	Gillotts	120

Year 8/9 Boys

Position	School	Total Points
1.	Gillotts	306
2.	Wheatley	272
3.	Wallingford	266

Year 10/11 Boys

Position	School	Total Points
1.	Gillotts	306
2.	Wheatley	269
3.	Wallingford	240

Year 7 Girls

Position	School	Total Points
1.	Gillotts	147
2.	Langtree	136
3.	Wallingford	134

Year 8/9 Girls

Position	School	Total Points
1.	Gillotts	252
2.	Wallingford	206
3.	Langtree	190

Year 10/11 Girls

Position	School	Total Points
1.	Gillotts	329
2.	Wheatley	254
3.	Icknield	215

We were also Overall Team Champions!

Every single student did their bit whether they came first, last or somewhere in the middle and **once again** we were the only school to enter 2 students into **every single** event in **every year group** – totalling 132 entries. It was a very successful day and all the students did themselves and Gillotts proud. Their behaviour was impeccable and their support for each other, their willingness to participate in any event if needed and their drive to do well for the school was great to see – the students were brilliant. There were some outstanding individual achievements as well and many of our students went on to compete in the County schools event in June.

The summer term will finished off in the last week of term with our own schools sports day - the field events were held on Tuesday 15th July and the track events on the afternoon of Wednesday 16th July.

So all in all another excellent summer term of sport - so many successes from all year groups with over 200 students being involved in one if not more of the sports events that took place. We are still waiting for the final points and medals tables for the year to see where we have finished in the South Oxfordshire Area.

Now after a summer off, the PE department will be looking to replicate this success in the autumn term with Hockey, Rugby, Cross country and Duathlon competitions taking place.

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

Term dates for 2026 - 2027

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2026.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	01 September - 23 October	39
October half term	26 October - 30 October	
Autumn Term	02 November - 18 December	35
Christmas holiday	21 December - 01 January	
Spring Term	04 January - 12 February	30
Spring half term	15 February - 19 February	
Spring Term	22 February - 25 March	24
Easter Holiday	26 March - 9 April	
Summer Term	12 April - 28 May	34
Late Spring half term	31 May - 4 June	
Summer Term	07 June - 21 July	33
Total		195

INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Tuesday 1 September 2026

Friday 25 September 2026

Monday 19 July 2027

Tuesday 20 July 2027

Wednesday 21 July 2027

Note that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Wednesday 2 September 2026. The remainder of the school returns on Thursday 3 September 2026.

Monday 3 May 2027 is the May Day bank holiday.

Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 24 September 2026

Friday 18 December 2026

Friday 16 July 2027

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening