



10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to those parents who joined us for the tutor review meetings this week. We hope they were useful to you as parents, I know from discussions with staff who are tutors that they certainly appreciated the opportunity to meet with parents at this early point in the year. It has continued to be a positive start to this academic year. Each week students across the school are averaging 30,000 merits for their on-going hard work and effort and this continues to be seen in lessons making us extremely proud!

INSET Day

As an early reminder our next INSET day is our LSP joint schools training day and will take place on Wednesday 19th November. Key dates for the rest of this term and for Term 2 are listed at the end of this letter.

Additional Year 10 and 11 photo session

There will be an additional photography session on the morning of Friday 17th October for students who were absent for the Year 10 and 11 photos as well as re-takes for students wearing PE kit on the day of the previous Year 11 photos. Parents and students will be notified via ClassCharts. If your child will be attending this session, please can you ensure that they are wearing their full uniform (with blazer), if they have PE that day, they will need to bring their kit in to change into afterwards.

World Mental Health Day 10th October

We have just completed a full week focus on mental health to support WMHD today. The national focus this year is on repeated exposure to coverage of crises and conflict, and we have used this to reflect on strategies to cope with 'doom scrolling' and to reflect on the wellbeing advantage of Yondr pouches. We have used the opportunity to signpost support services - both in school and external.

Planned Fire Drill

We have a planned fire drill taking place on Monday afternoon in line with our Health and Safety compliance routines. I will be walking through the fire drill and lockdown processes and expectations with students as a reminder during our broadcast on Monday morning, ready for our drill in the afternoon.

Inter-House Christmas Card Competition 2025

Students are invited to enter our annual competition to create an artwork or photography design celebrating the Christmas spirit and with a clear connection to Portishead. There are prizes for the winner and runner-up, and the winning design will be used as the school's official Christmas card for 2025. Entries should be submitted to tutors by Thursday 23rd October. You can find full details of the competition [here](#).

The Downs School Outdoor Cinema Event

The Downs School in Wraxall are hosting a Halloween-themed outdoor cinema event on 30th October, with a choice of two screenings: 'Hocus Pocus' at 5pm for the younger audience, and 'Sinister' at 8pm for age 15+. Links are below for more information and booking.

[Hocus Pocus](#)

[Sinister](#)

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Wishing you all a relaxing and restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 1

Monday 13 October	Year 13 Design & Technology Amalgam modelling trip
Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 October	Year 11 GCSE Dance Set Phrase Exam
Wednesday 15 October	Year 11 Weston College Visit (Learning Hub)
Thursday 16 October	Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip to Minehead
Friday 17 October	Year 10/11 photo mop up session
Tuesday 21 October	Year 11 GCSE Art Mock Exam
Tuesday 21 October	Year 11 Futures Evening
Wednesday 22 October	SEND Evening
Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 October	Year 11 GCSE Art Photography Mock Exam
Monday 27 to Friday 31 October inclusive	Holiday

Key Dates for Term 2

Monday 3 to Friday 7 November	GCSE Maths and English exams (Year 12 re-sits)
Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 November	Flu Vaccinations Years 7-11
Thursday 6 November	Bristol Old Vic KS4 Drama trip
Thursday 6 November	Ski Trip Parents Meeting
Thursday 6 and Friday 7 November	Year 11 GCSE Music Coursework Recording Day
Friday 7 November	Year 10 UPS Trip to Weston Fire Service
Monday 10 to Friday 14 November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 10 to Friday 14 November	Learning Hub Functional Skills English Exams
Tuesday 11 November	Bristol 6th Forms Maths Competition
Tuesday 11 November	Year 10-12 trip to Easton Jamia Mosque
Wednesday 12 November	Year 7 visiting author

Thursday 13 November	5pm - 7.30pm Sixth Form Open Evening (school finishes at end P5)
Monday 17 to Friday 21 November	Learning Hub Functional Skills Maths Exams
Tuesday 18, Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Wednesday 19 November	INSET Day 4
Thursday 20 November	3.35pm Years 10/11 General Knowledge Quiz
Monday 24 to Thursday 27 November	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exams
Wednesday 26 November	City of Bristol College Visit (Learning Hub)
Wednesday 26 November	Careers Teatime Networking
Thursday 27 November	Year 12/13 English Conference trip
Friday 28 November	Year 9 Eden Project trip 1
Monday 1 to Friday 12 December	Year 11 Mock Exams (two weeks)
Monday 1 December	Year 13 Textiles Mock Exam
Tuesday 2 December	A-level DT and Art trip to London
Tuesday 2 December	Christmas Concert all-day rehearsal
Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 December	6.30pm Christmas concert
Friday 5 December	Year 9 Eden Project trip 2
Thursday 11 December	Music A-Level trip to see BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Cardiff
Monday 15 to Friday 19 December	Sixth Form RAG Week
Tuesday 16 December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 December	Year 7 - Year 11 Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17 December	5pm - 6pm A-level Certificate Evening
Thursday 18 December	Year 13 Caring at Christmas Charity Delivery
Friday 19 December	Last Day of Term - 12.30pm finish for students
Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January inclusive	Holiday