



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

On Tuesday and Wednesday evening we were treated to a superb Easter concert. The first half of the concert showcased so many talents from across the school with an array of fantastic musical performances from students. During the second half we were able to see the preview of the Netherlands tour set which was stunning and I sometimes have to remind myself that we are in a secondary school and not watching a professional jazz orchestra. Thank you to every student involved and our wonderful music team led by Dr Humphries. We wish all the students and staff going on tour next week a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable week!

Thank you to the parents of students in Year 9 who were able to join us for our progress evening last night. We hope the feedback was useful in highlighting your child's successes so far and any areas for further development.

On Wednesday morning we conducted our annual lockdown drill. I would like to commend our students for the mature and sensible way they supported the drill which is an essential part of our Health and Safety processes.

Year 10 Mock Interview Day

We look forward to supporting Year 10 students through their Mock Interview Day on Wednesday - thank you if you are an employer supporting us on this day as well as wearing your parent hat!

Students have been assured of support through the day from the Careers, SEND and pastoral team; we know that the thought of an interview can be intimidating, but know from experience how this event boosts student confidence and allows our young people to think about future pathways. Students have been reminded that they should attend their interview in smart school uniform (blazers should be worn).

Can we also remind parents of Year 10 to double check that their son or daughter has their Work Experience placement now confirmed for Activities Week.

Supporting Students Through Exams

We continue to support students as they prepare for summer assessments. The following link from YoungMinds offers some useful strategies for parents and carers to discuss at home.

[Exam Self-Care](#) | [Mental Health Advice For Students](#) | [YoungMinds](#)

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Year 11

We are beginning to plan for an appropriate time for some Year 11 students to be offered optional study leave. This is likely to be offered after Celebration Day (2nd May). This day falls earlier than in previous years, because exams start in earnest the following week.

This optional study leave will be offered to students who are on track to achieve their target grades and have demonstrated that they can study/revise independently. These students remain welcome to attend any revision lessons; there will also be a supervised study space on site. For students we ask to stay in school rather than going on study leave, the aim is to provide structured support and guidance; we will also be planning well-being and reward opportunities as part of this provision.

This is not a punishment in any way; we just know that some students will still need and indeed want our guidance, and we don't want to remove this structure and support too early.

After May half term, study leave will be offered to everyone, but revision lessons and bespoke support as appropriate will still run during the school day. We aim to inform students and parents of the plan for each individual student towards the end of the week beginning 22nd April.

Final Deadline for Activities Week Payments

Please note that the final deadline for payments for Activities Week for all year groups is Monday 31st March. Our Trips Team will be sending reminders for any outstanding amounts over the next week. If you have any questions, please contact the [Trips Team](#).

Portishead Youth Centre

The Youth Centre are looking for young people to join their Youth Planning Committee to share their ideas about trips and activities they would like to see at the Youth Centre. Other activities coming up include a Silent Disco on 28th March and a Monday afternoon revision cafe starting on 5th May. They will also be running activities and trips during the Easter holidays. You can find information on all these events on our website [here](#).

Wishing you a relaxing weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 4

Monday 24th to Friday 28th March	Year 11 DT Mock Exam Week
Monday 24th to Friday 28th March	Learning Hub Functional Skills Maths Exams
Monday 24th March	Year 10 Cambridge National Sports Studies Assessment
Tuesday 25th March	Flying Start Engineering trip to UWE (selected Year 8/9 students)

Tuesday 25th to Sunday 30th March	Year 10-13 Music Tour to the Netherlands
Wednesday 26th March	Year 10 Mock Interview Day
Wednesday 26th March	Year 12 Aspire HE+ visit to Kings of Wessex
Thursday 27th March	LSP Inter-school English Challenge at Backwell School
Friday 28th March	UKMT Maths Challenge at Sidcot School (Year 8/9)
Monday 31st March to Wednesday 2nd April	Year 10 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Tuesday 1st April	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd April	Year 11 Dance Choreography and Performance Exam
Thursday 3rd April	4pm - 7.30pm Year 12 Progress Evening
Friday 4th April	Year 13 Drama trip to Bristol Old Vic
Monday 7th to Friday 18th April inclusive	HOLIDAY

Key Dates for Term 5

Monday 21st April	EASTER MONDAY BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 22nd to Thursday 24th April	Year 11 GCSE Textiles Practical Exam
Tuesday 22nd to Friday 25th April	Year 13 A-Level MFL Speaking Exams
Wednesday 23rd April	Year 7 General Knowledge Quiz
Thursday 24th April	Year 13 A-level Music Composition Arrangement Exam
Thursday 24th April	3.30pm - 4.30pm Careers Teatime Networking
Thursday 24th April	4pm - 7.30pm Year 8 Progress Evening
Friday 25th to Sunday 27th April	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
Monday 28th April to Friday 2nd May	Year 11 GCSE MFL Speaking Exams
Monday 28th April to Wednesday 30th April	Year 13 A-Level Textiles Exam
Monday 28th April to Thursday 1st May	GCSE Art and Photography Exam
Monday 28th April	Dance Show Technical Rehearsal
Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th April	7pm Dance Showcase
Thursday 1st May	Junior Maths Challenge
Friday 2nd May	Sixth Form May Day Challenge
Friday 2nd May	Year 11 Celebration Day (Year 11 students finish school at midday)
Monday 5th May	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 6th to Wednesday 7th May	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition Group A
Tuesday 6th to Thursday 8th May	Year 13 A-Level Art Exam
Tuesday 6th to Wednesday 7th May	Year 12 Mock Art Exam
Thursday 8th to Friday 9th May	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition Group B

Thursday 8th May	Start of GCSE written exams
Thursday 8th May	5pm - 7pm Year 6 Parental Information Evening
Thursday 9th May	Year 13 Leavers' Celebration
Monday 12th May	Start of A-Level written exams
Tuesday 13th May	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 14th May	Year 9 MenACWY/DtP Vaccinations
Thursday 15th May	4pm - 7.30pm Year 10 Progress Evening
Monday 19th May	Year 8 Geography Trip to Cheddar Gorge - Group 1
Tuesday 20th May	Year 8 Geography Trip to Cheddar Gorge - Group 2
Wednesday 21st May	Year 8 Geography Trip to Cheddar Gorge - Group 3
Wednesday 21st May	Year 12 UWE Business Day
Thursday 22nd May	Year 12 Trip to Oxford University for potential Oxbridge entrants
Thursday 22nd May	6pm Year 7 Celebration Evening
Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th May	Gold Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
Monday 26th to Friday 30th May inclusive	HOLIDAY