

**PARENT & CARER
WEEKLY BULLETIN
Friday 2nd May 2025**

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

The summer term has got off to a good start. Students are working well despite the record temperatures we have seen in the past few days. Our Year 11 students have started their GCSE exams and the Year 13 exams are about to begin.

I know that all of the staff are looking forward to working with all of our students over the coming weeks to ensure that this term is extremely successful for them all.

Mark McKelvie
Headteacher

GENERAL NOTICES

Reminder – Bank Holiday on Monday 5th May 2025

A reminder that Monday 5th May is a Bank Holiday and the school will be closed. The school will re-open on Tuesday 6th May at the normal time.

Helen Frost
PA to the Headteacher

Changes to lunch and breaks

With Year 11 going on stand down soon we have decided to make a number of changes to breaks and lunches from Tuesday 13th May. Year 9 will move to the Year 11 breaks and lunches. This means that Year 9 will move from the first slot (Break 10.30am-10.50am, Lunch 12.40pm-1.10pm) to the end slot (Break 11.30am-11.50am, Lunch 1.40pm-2.10pm). By doing this Year 8 will have the first break and lunch on their own, Year 7 will have the middle break and lunch on their own and Years 9 and 10 will have breaks and lunches together. For the end break and lunch for Year 9 and 10 only we will be opening the bottom yard to give them more space (where the Green Outdoor Gym used to be). These 2 year groups will continue to have breaks and lunches together in September. This will be communicated to students next week and in assemblies.

Mr Tierney
Deputy Headteacher

Mr McCroakam
Assistant Headteacher

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Student Feedback

Mitie, our PFI Facilities Management provider, has asked that we share a Customer Satisfaction survey with students as part of their ongoing commitment to providing services at the school and looking at how this can be improved. Mitie have stated that school feedback is incredibly important to them as it helps them to understand how they are performing and identify areas where they can improve. We kindly ask for your support in asking our students to complete the survey.

The survey not only covers the building and school environment but also catering, so it is a good opportunity for students to share their thoughts on the food and dining experience offered by Chartwells through the Mitie contract.

Students can access the survey using the link below or by scanning the QR code on the link below. The survey should take no longer than a few minutes.

Link to QR code - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1DNQJin9yF2kuzN5ISca1BjOeNJb0lha0>

Link to feedback form - <https://forms.office.com/e/bwQgPeQ3BE>

Student Feedback Forums

In addition to the survey, Mitie will be looking to introduce student feedback forums. These sessions will provide students with the opportunity to give direct feedback and input in a face-to-face setting. The forums will be held periodically and will be facilitated by our team to ensure that students feel comfortable and encouraged to share their thoughts.

Key Objectives of the Student Feedback Forums:

Direct Engagement: Allow students to voice their opinions and experiences directly to the Mitie team.

Actionable Insights: Gather detailed feedback that can be used to make immediate and impactful improvements.

Inclusive Environment: Create a supportive and inclusive environment where all students feel heard and valued.

Thank you for encouraging your child to complete the survey and provide feedback into the services provided. School will receive feedback from the survey which we will use to shape discussions and priorities through the PFI contract.

Mrs Byrne
Director of Operations

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Year 7

Residential

A reminder that there will be an information evening on Tuesday 6th May 5.00pm-6.00pm at school. This will be with myself and Mrs Swithenbank and will provide you with an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the upcoming residential.

Changes to borrowing uniform

There will be a new system in place starting next week regrading borrowing uniform. Students have been made aware in assemblies. Please can we ensure students have the correct uniform each day to avoid any unnecessary sanctions.

Revision

The focus of this week's assembly was revision. Students will sit end of year assessments in the next half term and the focus of most homework over this half term will be revision strategies.

Mrs Mitchell
Year 7 Director of Studies

Mrs Swithenbank
Year 7 Leader

YEAR 8

Firstly, I'm delighted to let you know that I have submitted the work of four of our students to the Step into the NHS competition. The quality of their submissions was brilliant, and I couldn't be prouder of their creativity and effort. We're keeping our fingers crossed for a successful outcome – well done to all involved!

In this week's assembly, I reminded students that our Assessment Week will begin week commencing 19th May. All assessments will take place during normal lesson time, within the classroom environment. To help students prepare, I will be using some form time in the coming weeks to support revision and encourage effective study habits.

I am also in the process of contacting subject leaders to gather an overview of the topics that will be covered in each subject's assessment. This will help ensure students are well-informed and able to focus their revision effectively.

Mrs Kaye
Year 8 Director of Studies

Miss Mathie
Year 8 Leader

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YEAR 9

Summative Assessments

The summative assessments will be taking place for Year 9 the week after half term. Over the next few weeks students will be set homework and revising in lesson. Please encourage your child to take part in the homework and develop good practice for the years to come. We want to encourage effort across all the subjects, even ones where students will not be carrying on into next year.

Mr Lucas
Year 9 Director of Studies

Mrs Green
Year 9 Leader

YEAR 10

End of year 10 assessments 23rd June 2025 – 27th June 2025

During assembly this week, I spoke about the upcoming end-of-year assessments, which will take place from Monday 23rd June to Friday 27th June. These assessments will be held in the main hall and will mirror the standards and procedures of end-of-Year 11 examinations.

Students are expected to prepare thoroughly for these assessments. They have already received guidance on effective revision strategies and what successful preparation looks like. I also took the opportunity to express how impressed I have been with students' approaches to previous assessments this year, whether through their focus in lessons or their commitment to independent revision at home.

To support students further, I am sharing a range of revision resources. Please review these together and consider how they can be incorporated into home study routines:

✦ Flash Cards
<https://bit.ly/PGS26flashcards>

✦ Mind Maps
<https://bit.ly/PGS26mindmaps>

✦ Revision Clocks
<https://bit.ly/PGS26revisionclock>

✦ Revision Timetable
<https://bit.ly/PGS26revisiontimetable>

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Using these resources effectively at home will help students organise their revision, reinforce their knowledge, and approach the assessments with confidence.

Please contact the subject leader for further information on the assessments or if you would like more information on how to prepare for these assessments.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr Syed
Year 10 Director of Studies

Miss Exley
Year 10 Leader

YEAR 11

Please see below for important updates and reminders for Year 11 students this week:

Prom Tickets

A polite reminder that Prom tickets are available to purchase via ParentMail. Tickets will appear in your basket when you log into your account.

Yearbook Orders

If you would like to purchase a copy of the Year 11 Yearbook, you can do so using the following link: <https://allyearbooks.co.uk/buy/23752>

Students also received an email last half term inviting them to contribute to the yearbook, including song requests for prom and leaving quotes.

Exam Timetable – This Week

Please note the following GCSE exams taking place this week:

Tuesday 6th May:

Graphics (ALL DAY)

Health & Social Care (AM)

Wednesday 7th May:

Graphics (ALL DAY)

Enterprise (AM)

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Thursday 8th May:

Drama (AM)

Friday 9th May:

Business (PM)

Child Development (PM)

Revision Sessions

After-school and pre-exam revision sessions are running throughout the week. Students are encouraged to check in with their form tutor each morning to confirm times and locations.

Miss Legg
Year 11 Director of Studies

Miss Birdsall
Year 11 Leader

SIXTH FORM

As we enter the summer term and the formal exam season begins, we'd like to take a moment to update you on key dates and notices for Post-16 students:

Year 13 Tutorials will finish at the end of next week. A huge thank you to those students who have consistently attended and made the most of the support available.

Student Finance applications must be submitted by Friday 31st May. Please ensure your child has completed their application in time to secure funding for university.

Year 13 Exam Leave will begin on Thursday 23rd May. Students are expected to attend lessons as normal until this date unless they have a clash with an external examination.

Year 12 UCAS Launch will take place during assembly on Friday next week. This marks the beginning of the university and apprenticeship application process, and further details will follow.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students the very best of luck in their upcoming exams. We know how hard they have been working, and we're proud of their commitment.

Mrs Lea
Acting Post 16 Director of Studies

Miss Hart
Attendance and Pastoral Support

Miss Robinson
Careers and Enrichment Lead