

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the last two weeks, students have engaged in a number of important conversations and experiences that go beyond individual events, encouraging them to think carefully about the kind of community we are and the values we choose to uphold. In assemblies and tutor time, students explored the issue of misogyny – why it persists, how it can surface in everyday language, behaviour and online spaces, and the impact it has on individuals and society. They were encouraged to reflect critically on the influence of social media and online figures who can shape attitudes and normalise harmful views, often in subtle ways. These discussions challenged students to consider what respect truly looks like in practice: how we speak to one another, how we behave both online and offline, and how we respond when behaviour or narratives fall short of our shared values. Students engaged thoughtfully and maturely, recognising their responsibility to contribute to a culture where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

This emphasis on respect, reflection and responsibility continued through our marking of Holocaust Memorial Day, which formed a significant focus of learning across the school. This year's theme, "Bridging generations", resonated deeply as students encountered history not as something distant or abstract, but as lived experience passed carefully from one generation to the next.

We were honoured to welcome visitors from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (North Somerset), alongside a second-generation Holocaust survivor who shared her family's story with great sensitivity and dignity. Through her artwork, she has raised funds for a Holocaust Memorial Tree, which now stands on our site as a living symbol of remembrance and responsibility. Her parents are both Holocaust survivors, and her grandmother's life was taken in Auschwitz. Many students recognised her mother's testimony from their studies, making this encounter a powerful example of how memory is carried across generations – and why listening, learning and remembering remain so important.

One of the most moving moments of the fortnight was our memorial itself. Two Year 9 students read short reflections with poise and compassion, as soil collected from Auschwitz was scattered at the base of the tree. In that moment, remembrance truly bridged generations: the voices of our young people honouring those who were lost, and the lessons entrusted to them. The silence, attentiveness and respect shown by pupils spoke volumes, and visitors commented on the maturity, empathy and seriousness with which students approached this moment.

Year 9 students also took part in a Testimony 360 workshop delivered by the Holocaust Educational Trust. Using virtual reality technology, students were able to engage in a conversation with a Holocaust survivor and explore key historical sites associated with the Holocaust. For many, this was a striking experience that reinforced the importance of preserving survivor testimony, particularly as fewer survivors are now able to share their stories in person. Technology here acts as a bridge, ensuring these voices continue to educate future generations.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Year 11 Progress Evenings during this period. These conversations matter enormously. When school and home work together, students feel supported, challenged and believed in, and that shared commitment plays a vital role in helping young people succeed at this important stage of their education. Year 11 mocks were an important marker and students are focused and engaged on what they now need to do next to achieve greater success in the summer.

Our careers team has also been extremely busy, ensuring students across year groups are exposed to a wide range of pathways and possibilities. Opportunities included a virtual assembly from The London Interdisciplinary School, an employer insight session with Michelmores introducing students to the legal profession, and a Green Jobs Assembly delivered by UWE, encouraging students to think about the role they might play in shaping a more sustainable future.

Beyond the classroom, students have continued to benefit from visits that help bring future aspirations into focus. Year 7 students took part in a Successful Me visit to UWE, while Year 11 and Year 12 students visited the University of Gloucestershire. Year 12 students also took part in an HE+ St Bede's trip. These experiences help students see how ambition is built over time, with each generation opening doors for the next.

Looking ahead to the coming weeks, we will be marking LGBT+ History Month and National Apprenticeship Week through a range of planned activities. Both provide further opportunities to celebrate diversity,



challenge assumptions and highlight the many different routes through education, training and employment that lead to success and fulfilment.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Weeks like these remind us of the strength of our school community and the importance of education that not only informs, but shapes character, encouraging respect, responsibility and empathy as we prepare young people for life beyond our gates.

Best wishes,

Mr Humphreys

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 30 January 2026

Here are the latest school messages and updates for your information.

MESSAGES		
School	Whole school	<p>Coffee with the Headteacher - Monday 2 February at 9am</p> <p>Thank you to those who have signed up for the above, due to low numbers we have decided to postpone. A new date and time will be communicated in due course</p>
School	Whole school	<p>Please see here our term dates for 2026-2027 for your information, these will also be posted on our website in due course.</p>
School	Whole school	<p>There are several opportunities for Mental health support with Off The Record which are starting soon.</p> <p>Please have a look with your child at the links: https://otrnorthsomerset.org.uk/what-we-do/shameless/ https://otrnorthsomerset.org.uk/what-we-do/mind-aid/</p>
School	Whole school	<p>Local parent support available</p> <p>Pupils aged 16 and over and parents/carers, across BNSSG, can access Vitamins Talking Therapies via self-referral but they also now offer drop in sessions- see bottom of the webpage for where and when these are: https://vitahealthgroup.co.uk/nhs-talking-therapies/bristol-north-somerset-and-south-gloucestershire/#self-refer</p> <p>QWELL</p> <p>Qwell is adult text message support- it's quite new and made by Kooth, but it's for adults instead of young people - January can be a particularly tough month for lots of reasons so may be useful to parents/carers: https://www.qwell.io/</p> <p>If your child is suffering with anxiety and you feel you need some support then please have a look at these parenting courses which are being run. There are new ones being added for February: https://gateway.mayden.co.uk/referral-v2/9171196b-a766-4de6-a656-2045edc4157a</p>
Mrs Slater	Whole school	<p>Please find link with all the details of the Together for SEND Event organised by Bristol Parent/Carer forum on the 16 March 2026.</p>
Mrs Slater	Whole School	<p>Please find Eventbrite page with all the events/sessions organised by Bristol Parent/Carer forum.</p>
School office	Whole School	<p>At St Katherine's school we are deeply motivated to provide great opportunities for all our young people, particularly to those who have shown incredible resilience at a young age, often dealing with circumstances we would not wish on any young person.</p> <p>Our young people are truly inspiring and we want to inspire them as we strive for equity within our community. We have created SKYFund - a fund we want to grow to allow a young person to experience something they might never experience, and create moments and memories with their friends that will stay with them for a lifetime.</p> <p>If you are able to make a donation, please do so via ParentPay.</p>

Finance	Whole school	<p>Parentpay One-Click Payments (Bank Transfer) We are currently experiencing a lot of failed payments. Parentpay is encouraging parents/carers to use this payment method rather than card payment. As a school we do not like this as potentially a transaction can fail several days later causing lunch accounts to go overdrawn. The direct debits take 3 working days to set up before a payment should be attempted. The transaction can then take another 4 days to show on your bank statement.</p> <p>We would recommend continuing with card payment as these transactions are pre-authorized. This can be done by skipping the first page asking you to set up a One Click payment then selecting the 'Add To Basket' button and then 'Other Payment Method' button.</p>
SEND	Whole school	<p>Please see below for details of our half term SEND music programme, for young people aged 8 to 13 with low level additional needs. I would be grateful if you could share with any students who might be interested:</p> <p>Unscripted is a holiday creative music course for young people aged 8 to 13 (Years 4-8) who have low level additional needs or who face barriers to learning, such as anxiety or neurodivergence. It provides a fun, safe and creative space for young people to explore, discover and create music, guided by professional musicians. There will be opportunities to try out a range of musical instruments and work together to write music over each course. No previous musical experience is needed!</p> <p>Unscripted is open to young people in either mainstream or home education, who are able to attend the course as independent learners. We provide a high level of staff support, and an informal atmosphere where young people are encouraged to explore their creativity in their own unique ways.</p> <p>February When: 17th to 18th February (Tuesday & Wednesday), 10.30am to 3.00pm. There will be a sharing for parents and carers at 2.30pm on Wednesday. Where: Milton Park Primary School, Milton Park Road, Weston-Super-Mare, BS22 8DY Cost: If cost would stop you attending we have free places available e.g. if you receive pupil premium or universal credit. Please tick the box in the registration form to request a free place. Standard cost £30 per child, £15 for second/third child from same household Register here: Registration - West of England Music and Arts or email jenni.parkinson@wema.org.uk for more information.</p>
School	Whole school	<p>Community Iftar Event - Ramadan Sharing Festival - 26 February 2026 Full details on how to join here</p>
Mr Dawes	Whole School	<p>Red January Competition. Red January is a nationwide scheme during January to encourage people to complete some form of activity every single day in January! Historically, it has focused around running every day but this year, the theme is 'Move Your Way'.</p> <p>Red January at St Katherines Mr Dawes is going to run a competition for staff and students. This will be students against students, staff against staff and staff vs students. All you need to do is complete some form of physical activity every day, or as often as you can, in January and fill in the Google Form.</p>


		<p>Red January Results. - See updated results here. Note: updated results will be for the current week, once a week has passed then entries are no longer accepted or updated.</p>
School office	Year 7	<p>Please see letter in regard to Bikeability. If you would like your child to take part in this fantastic opportunity please complete the consent by Friday 13th February.</p>
Food Technology	Year 7	<p>Here are the practical lessons that are taking place for Year 7: 7L - 6th February Bread rolls</p> <p>Students will be expected to come prepared to these lessons with the ingredients outlined in the document and follow the expectations listed.</p>
Trailblazers	Year 7	<p>All Year 7 trailblazers will be involved in an additional rehearsal on Friday 6th February period 5. This is to prepare them for bandcamp day and concert the following week. Please ensure they have their instrument in school on Friday 6th February. Thank you.</p>
Science	Year 9	<p>This week we have spoken to Year 9 about the triple science option. A copy of the presentation can be found here. Further information will be available at year 9 options evening.</p>
Morocco 2027	Year 9	<p>I would like to invite you to join us for an information evening, presented by True Adventure, where you will have the opportunity to hear all about an amazing expedition we are undertaking in 2027. We will be planning an expedition to Morocco, to the Atlas Mountains.</p> <p>There will be an information evening on Tuesday 3rd February - this will be online at 6pm.</p> <p>To find the link to join the meeting and more information about the expedition prior to the information evening, please follow this link found here.</p>
Engineering	Year 10	<p>Students are expected to work on their coursework at home or in their own time for at least one hour per week. In order to help with this we offer before school (everyday from 8:00-8:30), breaktime (everyday) and lunchtime (everyday depending on classroom availability). We will also release some afterschool sessions in due course.</p>
Art Ms Tallis	Year 10	<p>Y10 GCSE art students need to spend a minimum of one hour on homework every week.</p> <p>Your child may work in the Art Dept at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every Tues after school - Every Thurs after school - Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs lunchtimes <p>Please support your child to attend one of these sessions regularly; those who did this last year had the most success with their art GCSE results. Many thanks.</p> <p>Deadline for final piece planning for Natural Forms Project =</p>

		Thurs 12 Feb, when students will sit their mock exam for 5 hours/the whole school day.
Textiles Miss Everard	Year 10	<p>Y10 GCSE Textiles students will need to spend one hour on homework every week. Your child may work in R13 at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Week One: Tues/Thurs Lunchtimes. - After school on Thursdays 15:05 - 16:05 Room 13 <p>Unfortunately R13 is unavailable during their lunch on week two, however they may also be able to join sessions in R10. Please encourage your child to attend, it is so helpful for them having access to equipment and materials. Thanks.</p>
Photography Mr Frullo	Year 10	<p>Y10 GCSE Photography students are expected to work on their coursework at home or in their own time for at least one hour per week. I am available for students to work in R36 or R18 at the following times with my support (students are welcome to find a computer in school outside these times as well):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After School every Tuesday and Thursday ● Please ask my availability Monday and Wednesday after school ● Every Thursday Break & Lunchtime (week 1) ● Every Monday Break & Lunchtime (week 2) <p>Please encourage students to attend, it is really helpful for them having access to equipment and software. Students who put in the extra hour have the most success with their Photography GCSE results. Many thanks.</p>
English	Year 10	The wider reading for this week is here .
Music	Year 10	Monday 2nd February is the BSO concert trip. Students need to bring a packed lunch and water bottle. They need to be in full school uniform. We are meeting in room 26 at 11.20am but Y10 have music at that time anyway. We will be back at school for 3pm but it may be worth having a plan B for travel arrangements home in case of any delays.
Morocco 2027	Year 10	<p>I would like to invite you to join us for an information evening, presented by True Adventure, where you will have the opportunity to hear all about an amazing expedition we are undertaking in 2027. We will be planning an expedition to Morocco, to the Atlas Mountains.</p> <p>There will be an information evening on Tuesday 3rd February - this will be online at 6pm.</p> <p>To find the link to join the meeting and more information about the expedition prior to the information evening, please follow this link found here.</p>
Mr Sugden	Year 11	<p>As we move into this crucial final phase of Year 11, we would like to ensure all students and families have access to the most up-to-date information and support.</p> <p>Year 11 Google Classroom - "Crossing the Finish Line, Together"</p> <p>Please ensure your child has joined the Year 11 classroom using the code ma2siggu. This classroom will be our central hub for all Year 11 information, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic support and revision guidance ● Details about revision opportunities in school and afterschool revision times here ● Subject-specific revision resources ● Details and preparation materials for Mock Series 3 ● Key information and updates about the GCSE examination period

We strongly encourage parents and carers to remind students to check this classroom regularly, as important information will be shared there throughout the term.

Supporting your Child at Home

To support your children as revision restarts after a well-earned festive break, please refer to some useful links and information (aligned to our Class of 2026 Revision Strategy):

All St Katherine's Year 11s revise using Active Revision Techniques...	... using The Pomodoro Method as part of a deliberately planned Revision Schedule...	... and balanced with a Proactive Approach to Wellbeing
<p>Active Revision Techniques</p> <p>1. Consolidating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Flashcards <input type="checkbox"/> Glossaries <input type="checkbox"/> Mindmaps <p>2. Self-Quizzing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Leitner System <input type="checkbox"/> Look → Cover → Write → Check <p>3. Self-Assessing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete → Mark → Amend → Review → Retry <p>How to... Revise! Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Introducing Active Revision <input type="checkbox"/> Flashcards <input type="checkbox"/> Glossaries <input type="checkbox"/> Mindmaps <input type="checkbox"/> Brain Dumps <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Assessing 	<p>The Pomodoro Method</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> How to do a POM <input type="checkbox"/> The Theory behind the Pomodoro method <input type="checkbox"/> A POMODORO Timer <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>25 min working 5 min resting</p> </div> <p>Revision Schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Making a Revision Schedule 	<p>Safeguarding Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The 4 Pillars of Proactive Wellbeing <p>A Guide for Parents/Carers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> YoungMinds: A Wellbeing During Exams Guide for Parents/Carers <p>A Guide for Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> YoungMinds: A Wellbeing Guide During Exams for Young People

Year 11 Celebration Committee

We are also pleased to share that the Year 11 Celebration Committee is currently working on plans for key end-of-year events, including Prom and Leavers' Day. Further details will be communicated in due course via the Year 11 classroom.

Thank you for your continued support... 9 Weeks until GCSEs start!

Engineering	Year 11	<p>Students are expected to work on their coursework at home or in their own time for at least one hour per week. In order to help with this we offer before school (everyday from 8:00-8:30), breaktime (everyday) and lunchtime (everyday depending on classroom availability). We will also release some afterschool sessions in due course.</p>
Art Ms Tallis	Year 11	<p>Your child should be spending a minimum of two hours on art homework every week now until the final 10 hr exam on 5 & 6 May.</p> <p>Your child may work in the Art Dept at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every Tues & Thurs after school - Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs lunchtimes. <p>Please support your child to attend one of these sessions regularly; those who did this last year had the most success with their art GCSE results.</p> <p>The following is due next Wed 4 Feb:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ OBSERVATIONAL DRAWING & annotation (4 A3 pages) ✓ PHOTOS/IMAGES PRESENTED (2 A3 pages)



<p>Textiles Miss Everard</p>	<p>Year 11</p>	<p>Your child should be spending a minimum of two hours on their Textiles exam homework every week now until the final 10 hr exam on 30th April/1st May, that will mark the end of the course. Your child may work in R13 at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Week One: Mon/Wed/ Lunchtimes. - Week Two: Mon/Tues/Weds/Thurs Lunchtimes - After school on Thursdays 15:05 - 16:05 Room 13 <p>They may also be able to work in R10 after school on Tuesdays, providing the room is staffed for that session.</p> <p>This week we are moving into creating samples and exploring techniques in response to chosen Artists and themes. Lesson time will be used to maximum effect to get practical work done. Homework will be drawing/sketching and writing annotations of samples.</p> <p>Please encourage your child to attend supported sessions, it is so helpful for them having access to equipment and materials; those who did this last year had the most success with their Textiles GCSE results. Thanks.</p>
<p>Food Preparation and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins</p>	<p>Year 11</p>	<p>NEA 2 coursework Research and planning has begun for the final piece of coursework (NEA2).</p> <p>Recipe trials (1 hour sessions) are taking place on the following days: 2nd, 3rd, 10th and 11th of February.</p> <p>Students will be expected to take part in them as part of the development for their final dishes. All students know what dishes they will be making and need to ensure they bring the ingredients to the lesson.</p> <p>Many thanks for your support and please contact me with any questions or problems.</p>
<p>Photography Mr Frullo</p>	<p>Year 11</p>	<p>Y11 GCSE Photography have now started their exam, this is worth 40% of their overall grade. Students are expected to work on their coursework at home or in their own time for at least one hour per week. I am available for students to work in R36 or R18 at the following times with my support (students are welcome to find a computer in school outside these times as well):</p> <p>After School every Tuesday and Thursday Please ask my availability Monday and Wednesday after school Every Thursday Break & Lunchtime (week 1) Every Monday Break & Lunchtime (week 2)</p> <p>Please encourage students to attend, it is really helpful for them having access to equipment and software. Students who put in the extra hour have the most success with their Photography GCSE results. Many thanks.</p>
<p>English</p>	<p>Year 11</p>	<p>The wider reading for this week is here.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>Year 11</p>	<p>Monday 2nd February is the BSO concert trip. Students need to bring a packed lunch and water bottle. They need to be in full school uniform. We are meeting in room 26 at 11.20am. We will be back at school for 3pm but it may be worth having a plan B for travel arrangements home in case of any delays.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>Year 11</p>	<p>Tuesday 3rd February is a composing day for Y11 GCSE music students. Details of the day will be posted on their google classroom.</p>
<p>Tanzania 2027</p>	<p>Year 11</p>	<p>I would like to invite you to join us for an information evening, presented by True Adventure, where you will have the opportunity to hear all about an amazing expedition we are undertaking in 2027. We will be planning an expedition to</p>

		<p>Tanzania, where we will be doing some trekking, experiencing local culture and helping with project work and seeing some amazing wildlife on safari.</p> <p>There will be an information evening on Thursday 5th February - this will be online at 6pm.</p> <p>To find the link to join the meeting and more information about the expedition prior to the information evening, please follow this link</p>
Mr Davies	Year 12 & 13	<p>Lanyards. It is a fundamental and basic requirement that all Sixth Formers wear lanyards at all times when on site. Students are reminded of this on a daily basis, yet there continue to be a very small number of students who display a disappointing attitude to this clear, consistent expectation. Therefore, if a student is seen without a lanyard on 3 occasions, this will result in a detention.</p>
	Year 12 & 13	<p>Phones. Sixth Formers are aware that phones should only be used in the Sixth Form block during unstructured time, and should not be seen outside the block, or during lessons or tutor time. As with the lower school, if a student does not adhere to this expectation, phones will be confiscated.</p>
Tanzania 2027	Year 12	<p>I would like to invite you to join us for an information evening, presented by True Adventure, where you will have the opportunity to hear all about an amazing expedition we are undertaking in 2027. We will be planning an expedition to Tanzania, where we will be doing some trekking, experiencing local culture and helping with project work and seeing some amazing wildlife on safari.</p> <p>There will be an information evening on Thursday 5th February - this will be online at 6pm.</p> <p>To find the link to join the meeting and more information about the expedition prior to the information evening, please follow this link.</p>

LETTERS - click [here](#) to see all letters

PE & SPORT - sign up for Spond (our communication platform) and click [here](#) to see the PE calendar

Spond





We're using **Spond** to communicate with students & parents

If you are looking for information about extra-curricular activities, school sports teams, fixtures, events, competitions, clubs and practices then you need to be on Spond!


Students

bit.ly/skpe_spondstudent



Parents

bit.ly/skpe_spondguardian



We are using a new platform called Spond to manage selection for and communication around extra-curricular PE fixtures and events. We hope that using Spond will improve our communication with students & parents.

Spond is available as a freely downloadable app and as a web app which allows organisations like clubs & schools to set up groups, publish details about events and collect responses for availability. Students and parents can sign up for Spond accounts using the links above. Parents will be linked to their child's account as a guardian.

UPCOMING EVENTS - TERM 3

1 February	LGBT+ History Month (1 Feb-28 Feb)
	0835-1505 Y10 & Y11 Music Trip - BSO - St Michaels Centre
2 February	0835-0900 Y9 Tutor Time career session
2 February	0900-1000 Coffee with the Headteacher - postponed
3 February- 6 February	Y12 & Y13 Slapton Ley residential (Tuesday-Friday)
3 February	0835-0900 Y12 National Crime Agency Assembly
3 February	1800-1900 Y9 & Y10 online information evening for Morocco 2027
3 February	1800-1900 Y11 & Y12 online information evening for Tanzania 2027
9 February	0835-1505 Y10 Future Brunel WECA Activity Day
9 February	0835-0900 Y12 & Y13 Evona - Careers in the Space Industry
10 February	Safer Internet Day
10 February	Y11/12 Business Trip to Cadbury World
w/c 9 Feb	National Apprenticeships week
11 February	1400-1505 Y12 Michelmoores - Application Masterclass
11 February	1700-1900 Y9 Options Evening, LT
13 February	Y8 & Y9 Ski Trip departs (13 Feb-20 Feb)
13 February	1505 END OF TERM 3