

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and exciting couple of weeks in school.

During Coffee with the Headteacher on Monday 1 December, I began by sharing slides from the previous meeting, highlighting what is working well and “even better if”. These slides are included below for your reference if you missed them last week. We discussed the importance of the weekly communication, how well received it is by parents/carers, and how it has helped messages reach you more effectively. We were pleased that school trips were highlighted, and it was wonderful to share an overview of the year with parents/carers, giving a snapshot of upcoming trips and events.

Please can we remind all families of our communication guidelines and that we endeavour to respond to emails within three working days. The next Coffee Morning with the Headteacher will take place on Monday 2 February from 09:00-10:00.

This week, our assemblies have continued to focus on punctuality, behaviour and our values as we continue to build our culture of excellence. Year 7 enjoyed additional assemblies on practical revision techniques as we continue to support students to achieve success in their assessments. We hope this is helpful in preparing Year 7s for their assessment when we return in January.

Winter House Sport has been in full swing this week and we look forward to finding out which house has collected the most points. Full details will be included in Mr Cook’s exceptional newsletters.

On Wednesday we were delighted to host our annual Christmas Carols evening. It was lovely to welcome everyone back to the Lecture Theatre for this wonderful event and thank you to all those who sang in harmony with our staff choir. A lovely evening for the community and enjoyed by all those who attended.

Year 7 enjoyed a visit to the Bristol Hippodrome to see Jack and the Beanstalk, while Year 10 and Year 12 students visited the Royal West of England Academy to explore its beautiful galleries. We also launched our Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award this week, providing a fantastic opportunity for students to develop new skills.

As we approach the end of term, there is plenty to look forward to:

- Christmas Cabaret – Tuesday 16 December, Lecture Theatre
- Christmas Lunch – Thursday 18 December (students are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper or festive accessory)
- Whole School Assembly – Friday, to reflect on and celebrate the last two terms

A final reminder: the school will close at 12:30pm on Friday.

Wishing you all a lovely break when it comes.

Warm regards,

Mr Humphreys

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 12 December 2025


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

MESSAGES		
School	Whole School	As per the dates at the bottom of the communication, the end of term is Friday 19 December at 1230.
School	Whole School	Please take a moment to read through our communication guidelines with school .
School office	Whole School	<p>Thank you to everyone who attended coffee with the Headteacher. Mr Humphreys opened the meeting by sharing slides from the previous session, highlighting what is working well and “even better if”. Please find the slides linked here for your review.</p> <p>We look forward to sharing the key reflections from the meeting on Monday with you at the next coffee with the Headteacher in Term 3.</p>
School	Whole School	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Our whole school attendance in Term 1 was very strong, and we are grateful for the part parents/carers played in that. However, during Term 2 we have seen a noticeable dip, much of it linked to illness. We know there is currently a national concern about rising cases of flu and other seasonal viruses, and we fully understand that children will sometimes be too unwell to attend school.</p> <p>Our Attendance Manager is writing to some parents of children who have been absent due to illness in term 2. The letter includes guidance that parents/carers may find helpful about whether their child is too ill to come to school. This is published by the NHS and can be found here.</p> <p>In addition, we are sharing the Attendance Matters poster that we use in school that highlights the importance of excellent attendance to school.</p> <p>If you have concerns about attendance, please speak to your child’s tutor who can support and advise. We look forward to sharing news of excellent attendance figures once again in the spring term.</p>
School	Whole School	<p>Punctuality</p> <p>Please speak to your young person about the importance of being on time to school and to lessons.</p> <p>There have been many late minutes logged across all year groups in term 1 and so far in term 2. Therefore, we have taken this as an opportunity to remind pupils in assemblies of the importance of arriving on time to their learning.</p> <p>We would appreciate your support with this messaging at home.</p>
School	Whole School	<p>Reminder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paracetamol is only given at break and lunch times, with consent. • All students need to come to school with a water bottle. • All students need to come into school wearing full correct uniform, including blazers.

Mrs Collins and Miss Adams	whole school	<p>St Katherine's school is hosting its first ever Christmas Cabaret on Tuesday 16 December 6:30-7:30pm in the Lecture Theatre. Doors open at 6:00pm with tea, coffee and cakes for sale before the showcase!</p> <p>Students have been rehearsing hard and the variety of creative performances is so exciting. Singing, dancing, acting and poetry with lots of live music, you will not want to miss out.</p> <p>Tickets are available now - £3 in advance or £5 on the door cash for both.</p> <p>Please bring cash in an envelope with your child's full name and tutor group. Include the cash amount and number of tickets required.</p> <p>We look forward to celebrating the amazing talents and efforts of our wonderful students from years 7-13.</p>
Mr Ovink	Y7, Y8 and Y9	Please see letter in regard to Homework's changes for KS3 students.
School	Whole School	<p>Christmas Book Bonanza</p> <p>Statistics show that between 1 in 8 and 1 in 10 children in the UK do not own a book of their own. This year will see our third Book Bonanza at St Katherine's. Please take this weekend to see if you have any pre-loved books you can give. We also welcome books for younger children and adults.</p> <p>Pre-loved games, toys and stuffed animals will also be eagerly welcomed into a new home for Christmas.</p> <p>Please bring all donations to Ms Jefferson in the English Office by Wednesday.</p>
Food Technology	Year 7	Please look through the following document to see your child's upcoming practical lessons for this rotation. Students will be expected to come prepared to these lessons with the ingredients outlined in the document and follow the expectations listed.
Outdoor Education	Year 7	<div data-bbox="831 1451 1225 1966" data-label="Image">  </div> <p>Year 7 recently took on the challenge of climbing Y Fal, also known as Sugar Loaf Mountain, with each tutor group spending the day exploring the outdoors and discovering what they were capable of. The trip was a</p>



		<p>powerful opportunity for students to show resilience, determination, and courage in real time.</p> <p>The conditions on the mountain tested everyone differently. Some groups were met with harsh winds, driving rain, and slippery paths, yet students pushed on with impressive perseverance. Even when the weather made the climb tougher, they kept going, encouraging one another and refusing to give up. Reaching the summit under those conditions gave many a genuine sense of achievement and pride.</p> <p>Others faced their own personal challenges, from managing tired legs to overcoming nerves during sections that required scrambling.</p> <p>At the same time, the mountain offered moments of reward: bursts of sunshine, beautiful autumnal colours, and sweeping views that appeared through gaps in the clouds.</p> <p>Students supported friends who were finding the climb tough, shared encouragement, and learned how to rely on one another. By the end of the trip, they had not only completed a physical challenge but also strengthened their confidence, their relationships, and their ability to persevere when things get hard.</p> <p>Unfortunately due to some weather conditions, 7P1's trip will be rescheduled for the spring time.</p> <p>The experience will stay with them, giving Year 7 a memorable example of how resilience, teamwork, and a positive mindset can help them overcome challenges both on and off the mountain.</p>
Mr Francis-Black	Year 7	Year 7 Assessment - Tuesday 6 January to Monday 12 January - Please see letter here sent on 2 December
Food Technology	Year 8	Please look through the following document to see your child's upcoming practical lessons for this rotation. Students will be expected to come prepared to these lessons with the ingredients outlined in the document and follow the expectations listed.
Food Technology	Year 9	Please look through the following document to see your child's upcoming practical lessons for this rotation. Students will be expected to come prepared to these lessons with the ingredients outlined in the document and follow the expectations listed.
Bronze DofE	Year 9	Here is a FAQ and Answers for all questions relating to the DofE.
 Work Experience (WEX) Mrs Fey	Year 10	<p>Year 10 work experience week - 29th June - 3rd July 2026.</p> <p>Please encourage your child to apply for placements this side of Christmas to ensure they get a placement within their interests.</p> <p>The deadline to add a placement to Unifrog is Monday 23rd February 2026.</p>

		<p>A guide on how to add a placement to Unifrog can be found on the WEX Google Classroom, along with other key resources such as the Employer database and template email to the employer.</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns please check the information available on the website here, or do feel free to drop me an email and I'll get back to you as soon as possible - afey@skdrive.org</p>
Ms Tallis	Year 10 GCSE Art	<p>Your child should aim to spend a minimum of four hours on their GCSE art coursework over the break. They should either finish their artist research pages (four A3 pages minimum) or start to work on their final piece planning, as discussed in class.</p> <p>They should use their art packs purchased at the start of the year or may borrow media from the Art Dept if necessary.</p>
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Year 10	<p>Monday 15th December - Yule Log</p> <p>Please check Classcharts for the ingredients list for the practical. Any problems, please let Mr Brochot know.</p>
English	Year 10	Wider reading for this week.
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> <p>After School every Tuesday Every Thursday Lunchtime Every Thursday Breaktime (Week 2 only, in between our double lesson)</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>
Silver DofE	Year 10	Here is a FAQ and Answers for all questions relating to the DofE.
Ms Tallis & Mr Frullo	Year 11 GCSE photography	<p>Your child should aim to complete any outstanding ELP work & their Google Site, if necessary, over the break. This is where students showcase their GCSE photography coursework that makes up 60% of their grade.</p> <p>At the start of next term students will start their Externally Set Assignment (exam project). Mr Frullo, our new photography teacher, will teach your child from Jan '26 until the end of the GCSE course.</p>
English	Year 11	Wider reading for this week.
Mrs Cameron	Year 11 GCSE ART	<p>All art students have been given 1:1 tutorials and have typed up personal targets. These are targets to help improve and to ensure their coursework is complete. Their coursework makes up 60% of their final grade. The DEADLINE to complete their personal targets and hand in their coursework is Monday 5th January.</p>

 Work Experience (WEX) Mrs Fey	Year 12	<p>Year 12 work experience week - 15th - 19th June 2026</p> <p>Please encourage your child to apply for placements this side of Christmas to ensure they get a placement within their interests.</p> <p>The deadline to add a placement to Unifrog is Monday 23rd February 2026.</p> <p>A guide on how to add a placement to Unifrog can be found on the WEX Google Classroom, along with other key resources such as the Employer database and template email to the employer.</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns please check the information available on the website here, or do feel free to drop me an email and I'll get back to you as soon as possible - afey@skdrive.org</p>
Gold DofE	Year 12	<p>Thank you to those who attended the Gold DofE launch meeting.</p> <p>If you were unable to attend - the meeting recording is available here and on the Google Classroom. The slides for the presentation are here and a link to the form is here.</p>
Gold DofE	Year 12	<p>Here is a FAQ and Answers for all questions relating to the DofE.</p>
Mr Davies	Year 13	<p>Year 13 were given their January exam timetables last week. Find the schedule here.</p>
Mr Davies	Year 13	<p>While the formal UCAS deadline is January 14th, this is during Year 13 exams, so we are asking all students to send their applications away before the end of Term 2. We are almost halfway! Can parents and carers please encourage their children to get this important process completed.</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 2

16 December	1830-1930 Christmas Cabaret, LT
16 December	0835-0900 Y12&Y13 Tom Mitchell talk - Fifa
17 December	0835-1505 Whole school vaccinations
17 December	1600-1900 Y9 Virtual Progress Evening
17 December	Y11 Mock certificate day
17 December	1400-1500 Y12 Jobs of the Future - Delivered by UWE
18 December	1220-1400 Christmas lunch, Canteen
19 December	School closes at 1230 - END OF TERM 2

UPCOMING EVENTS - TERM 3

5 January	INSET DAY
13 January	0835-0900 Y12 & Y13 Cardiff Met University talk
14 January	1600-1900 Y10 Virtual Progress Evening
14 January	1400-1505 Y10 Introduction to Law - Employer insight - Michelmoores
14 January	1400-1505 Y12 & Y13 Ben Taylor talk - Editor of the Sunday Times
20 January	0835-1505 Y9 Holocaust Workshop
20 January	0835-1505 Y9 Future Brunel WECA Activity Day
20 January	0835-0900 Y12 & Y13 Virtual assembly from The London Interdisciplinary School
21 January	0835-1505 Y7 Successful me UWE trip
24 January	Saturday Y10 Silver DofE Practice Walk
26 January	0835-0900 Y12 & Y13 Green Jobs Assembly from UWE
26 January	0835-0900 Y9 Employer Encounter - Dining Hall
27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day
28 January	1400-1505 Y10 Introduction to Law - Employer insight - Michelmoores
28 January	1400-1505 Y12 Mock interview Day
28 January	1400-1500 Y12 & Y13 Lewis Silkin Careers, virtual session - Introduction to Law
28 January	Y12 HE+ Cambridge Residential
28 January	1600-1900 Y11 Virtual Progress Evening
1 February	LGBT+ History Month (1 Feb-28 Feb)
2 February	0835-0900 Y9 Tutor Time career session

2 February	0900-1000 Coffee with the Head Teacher
3 February- 6 February	Y12 & Y13 Slapton Ley residential (Tuesday-Friday)
3 February	0835-0900 Y12 National Crime Agency Assembly
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
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