

Weekly communication to Parents/Carers

Friday 17 July 2026



St Katherine's Website



Term dates



Termly newsletters



PE calendar

Message from Mr Humphreys

As we look back over the school year, we are incredibly proud of how our students have embraced the many aspects of school life.

Year 7 students settled in quickly, building confidence and teamwork through their Trailblazers Camp and outdoor education activities on Sugar Loaf. That positive energy set a wonderful tone for the school, carrying into Year 8 and 9 classrooms as students approached their new assessment weeks with focus and maturity, always looking to do their best and work out which revision strategy works for them. For Year 10 students, the year brought exciting transitions as they secured work experience placements and took their first steps into mock exams. Meanwhile, Year 11 and 13 cohorts demonstrated exceptional composure and determination throughout their final GCSE and A-Level exams. Celebrating their hard work at their Leavers' Days and Proms was a wonderful way to mark the end of their journeys with us.

Beyond academic achievements, our students have engaged thoughtfully with the wider world. In our tutor groups and assemblies, they explored complex and important themes with maturity, whether planting a lasting Holocaust Memorial Tree alongside a second-generation survivor, or reflecting on the historical significance of Paul Stephenson and the Bristol Bus Boycott. Our school community felt vibrant and inclusive during our Culture Day and Pride celebrations, where music, traditions, and shared stories highlighted the diversity that strengthens us. That same empathy was on display through our support of Neurodiversity Celebration Week, International Women's Day, and our Community Iftar, as well as the generosity of our families during our RAG Week fundraising for the Teenage Cancer Trust in memory of Arthur Cleaver, and our winter contributions to the Pill Food Hub.

Our students, including our newly appointed Yousafzai House Leaders, had the exciting opportunity to hear Malala Yousafzai speak. Her reflections on education, equality, and advocacy offered a deeply inspiring experience, and witnessing our students' thoughtful, mature responses to such an influential figure was a true privilege. This special visit set a wonderfully positive tone as we transitioned into the final weeks of the year.

Learning also stretched beyond the classroom. Many of our students traveled far, creating lifelong memories on the ski slopes of the Italian Alps and exploring the history and culture of Barcelona and Paris. Dozens of students also tested their resilience and teamwork through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme during challenging expedition weekends. Back at school, our careers programme continued to spark curiosity, offering students invaluable insights through Year 12 work experience and visits from external partners, including the Avon and Somerset Police and an easyJet pilot.

One of the greatest privileges of this term has been attending our House Celebration Evenings. Each one was different in style and personality, but all shared the same unmistakable brilliance: the deep, human impact they had on every child in the room.

Across all houses, staff spoke with warmth, humour and insight, capturing not just achievements but the character, resilience and growth of each young person. These moments matter. They show how well we know our students — how much time, care and belief has been invested in them — and they give families a chance to see their children through the eyes of those who teach and support them every day.

What stood out most was the way each evening created a moment for every child: a moment of pride, a moment of belonging, a moment where they felt seen. Some of these moments were quiet and tender; others were joyful, funny or dramatic. But all were powerful. You could feel the room shift as students recognised themselves in the words spoken

about them. These evenings reminded us that education is not just about outcomes. It is about relationships, identity, opportunity and hope. It is about celebrating the journey as much as the destination, ensuring every child leaves us knowing they matter.

Finally, we were delighted to see 72 students audition for a range of roles in *Matilda Jr.*, which will be our Christmas show this year. The enthusiasm and talent on display made for a fantastic start to the production process.

Wishing you and your families a restful and safe summer break. We look forward to welcoming Year 7 students back on Friday 4 September, and Monday 7 September for all year groups.

Best wishes,
Justin Humphreys

Whole School messages

School	Whole school	We are incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our staff throughout the year. Whether teaching in the classroom, supporting students academically, guiding them through exam/mock preparation, pastoral care, running and accompanying residentials, Duke of Edinburgh, leading day trips or organising clubs and sports fixtures, colleagues consistently go above and beyond to create meaningful experiences for our students. If a member of staff has made a difference to your child(ren) this year, we would love to pass on your thanks. Please use the form here to share any messages.
School	Ms Jefferson	2026 BOOK BONANZA! Please send in any and all pre-loved books for our annual summer giveaway! We accept books for all ages. Around 10% of children in England do not own a book of their own: please help us to ensure all of our young people have their own books. Bring all donations to the English Office or drop them off in Reception.
School	Whole school	Studybugs – report absence securely and help improve children’s health We’re pleased to announce that St Katherine’s is introducing a new, more efficient and secure system for reporting your child’s absence due to illness, called Studybugs. If you haven’t already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child’s ill and unable to attend school. Get the app or register now (https://studybugs.com/about/parents)
School	Whole school	Free School Meals is changing From September Free School Meals are being expanded to all families on Universal Credit. If you would like to apply for Free School Meals for September, please apply in the summer holidays at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals If you have any queries or require any help please email FSM@n-somerset.gov.uk or call the school on 01275 373737. You can find our letter to all parents with more details here
School	Whole school	HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) activities are now available to book HAF activity days are for children who receive benefits-related free school meals. The HAF programme is funded by the Department for Education. It’s all about supporting families, reducing holiday hunger, and giving children opportunities to learn and play. Activities are designed to support wellbeing, build confidence, and create lasting memories. By working with local organisations, we ensure safe, inclusive spaces where children can thrive. Children will be provided with the opportunities to: • eat healthily over the school holidays • take part in and enjoy physical activity • develop their self-esteem, confidence, and wellbeing • be safe and develop peer relationships with other young people North Somerset Families can book activities here. Bristol Families can book activities here.

School	Whole school	Mental Health support during the school holidays School-based support may not be available over the holidays – but there are still lots of ways that you can look after your child’s wellbeing and get support. Place2Be Kooth Off The Record
Reading Team	Whole School	Reading over the summer holidays supports continued academic progress, as well as developing world knowledge and empathy. To support your child, encourage them to come to the library and borrow books for the summer holidays. We also recommend joining the public library and also exploring the public library online app, Borrowbox, which offers free access to audio books. And here are some ideas of great books to read: Year 7 , Year 8 , Year 9 , Years 10 & 11 .
Sirona	Whole School	Sirona School Aged Immunisation Team is running drop-in vaccination events (no need to book) on: Thurs 23 July 2026, 10:30am – 3:30pm – Easton Community Centre Wed 29 July 2026, 10:30am – 3:30pm – For All Healthy Living Centre W-S-M – BS23 3SJ Tues 4 August 2026, 10:30am – 3:30pm – Hungerford Rd Community Centre – BS4 5EX Wed 12 August 2026, 10:30am – 3:30pm – Hanham Community Centre – BS15 3EJ Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations – Years 8-13 Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccinations – Years 7-13 Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations – Years 9-13 Contact the team 0300 124 5515 or by email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net
School	Whole school	We are proud to offer music lessons to our students delivered by professional teachers from West of England Music & Arts (WEMA). Please note this is separate from our trailblazers scheme. If your child is interested in starting lessons, please visit Registration - West of England Music and Arts to sign up. Lessons are available on an individual, paired, or group basis.

Year 7

Miss Adams	Year 7	Trailblazers: I cannot believe we have reached the end of the trailblazers programme! Thank you for supporting your child on their journey of learning their chosen instrument. A reminder to 1) complete the google form indicating whether your child would like to continue lessons as a trailblazer plus student and 2) return their instrument to the music department by 22 July. Thank you.
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Year 8

Bronze DofE	Year 8	Thank you to those who attended the Bronze DofE meeting. Please find the slides for the meeting here . To sign up please complete the Enrolment Form. Please find the Enrolment Form here . If you DO NOT wish to complete the Award and want to Opt Out of doing the Bronze DofE - please indicate on this form here . Please find the FAQ page here . A recording of the meeting has been uploaded to the classroom, your child can join with the code: hfxjz7ai
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Year 9

 Y10 Work	Year 9	Your child will have the amazing opportunity of going on work experience in Y10. The date for their WEX week is 5th - 9th July 2026, this may seem a long way in the future however it's never too early to start looking for a work experience placement.
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Experience (WEX) Mrs Fey		The sooner your child secures a placement the better, placements book up fast! Please encourage your child to think about where they might like to go for work experience, they can reach out to any employer to find out if they can offer them a placement. Here are some ways to find a placement: • Ask family, friends, and neighbours. Many placements come from personal contacts. • Speak to local businesses. Small businesses are often happy to support local students. Encourage your child to visit, phone, or email professionally to ask if they can offer work experience. • Use existing connections. If you work for an organisation that accepts work experience students, this could be a great opportunity. • Look in the local community. Schools, nurseries, care homes, shops, garages, sports clubs, charities, veterinary practices, and offices often provide placements. • Start early. Popular workplaces can fill their available places months in advance, so it's worth beginning the search well before the deadline. When contacting an employer, students should introduce themselves, explain that they are looking for year 10 work experience, provide the dates (5th - 9th July), and briefly say why they are interested in that workplace. It's important to remember that the aim isn't to secure the "perfect" placement. The purpose of work experience is to develop valuable employability skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, punctuality, and confidence. These skills are valuable whatever career your child chooses in the future. If your child is finding it difficult to secure a placement, please let me know as early as possible so we can offer guidance and discuss alternative options. If you have any questions or concerns about work experience please check the WEX FAQ document, if this doesn't answer your query please contact Mrs A Fey and she will be more than happy to help: afey@skdrive.org
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Year 10

Ms Tallis	Year 10 Art	Please support your child to complete all of their artist research pages & begin planning their final piece/experimentation over the break. They should aim to spend around six hours in total on their art work. This will ensure they return in a strong position to continue their GCSE coursework with their new teacher, Helena Lacey, in September. As I mentioned recently on the Google Classroom, it has been an absolute pleasure to teach your children this year & I am incredibly proud of their progress & achievements. I will miss teaching them a great deal. Many thanks for all your continued support.
Textiles Miss Everard	Year 10	At the end of term, GCSE Textiles students will hand in their finished Architecture Coursework project and garment. This has to be a strict deadline as they will have research homework for their next project, to complete over the summer break. I regularly send announcements and reminders via Classcharts and on Google classroom, where they can access links to helpsheets and resources. They should be spending at least an hour on homework each week, and they can attend catch-up sessions at lunch times and after school in the Art/Textiles Dept. Your child may work in the Art Dept at the following times: - Every Tue after school - Every Thu after school - Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu lunchtimes Please support your child to attend one of these sessions regularly; those who did so last year had the most success with their GCSE results.

Year 12&13

Mr Davies	Year 12&13	As I am leaving St Katherine's at the end of this academic year, I would just like to take a moment to thank all the parents of our Sixth Formers for their engagement and support over the last year (and the last 6 years!). It has been a total privilege to work with so many young people and play a role in helping them to achieve an array of varied and exciting futures. I will miss working at St Katherine's enormously, and I wish my successor Jessica Huzzey all the best - it's reassuring to know that the Sixth Form is being left in such capable hands. If there are any students who would like to keep in touch, they should feel free to email me before the end of year and I will share contact details. Thank you.
Ms Tallis	Year 12 Art	Please support your child to complete all of their personal targets over the break. They should aim to spend around 4- 6 hours a week on their art work. This will ensure they return in a strong position to continue their art A level coursework with their new teacher, Helena Lacey, in September. As I mentioned recently on the Google Classroom, it has been an absolute pleasure to teach your children this year & I am incredibly proud of their progress & achievements. I will miss teaching them a great deal. Many thanks for all your continued support.

PE & SPORT - sign up for Spond (our communication platform)

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 6

21 Jul	0835-0900 Y12 Bristol Robins Post 18 Assembly (50 students)
22 Jul	END OF TERM 6 at 1230