Weekly communication to Parents/Carers

Friday 6 November 2026



What is in this week?

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A note from Mr Humphreys

I hope all families enjoyed a restful half term break - another busy term lies ahead.

We started the term with our celebration assemblies, recognising and celebrating the achievements, effort and contributions of our students throughout Term 1. A special mention goes to Yousafzai House, who led the way for attendance during Term 1. Well done to all students and families who supported excellent attendance and punctuality. This remains a priority for us during Term 2 as we put a squeeze on punctuality, recognising we have some bad habits to shift within our community!

Sixth form Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Leaders led our delayed Black History Month Football Tournament yesterday lunchtime, which was worth the wait! Following the murder of George Floyd in 2019, St Katherine's students were determined to 'Show Racism the Red Card' and promote mutual respect within our community and society as a whole. Students gathered to cheer on their peers. Over two rounds, the matches finished with team Community on 10 and team Honour on 7 - a brilliant effort from everyone involved.

We trust Year 7 families found the Meet the Tutor Evening on Wednesday informative and helpful. Please share any feedback to school@skdrive.org. Thank you to families who completed the family survey at the end of Term 1. We will share the feedback and steps we are taking next week.

Good luck to Year 9 in their Assessment week next week and Year 11 are preparing for their important exams.

To all our families celebrating Diwali this weekend, we wish you a joyful Festival of Lights.

Notice board

Snap shot

w/c 9 November, Y9 Assessments
11 November Whole School Act of Remembrance
w/c 16 November, Anti bullying week. Odd Socks Day 16 November
w/c 16 and 23 November, Y11 mocks
27 November, Inset day
2 December, Y8 progress evening, virtual
16 December, Matilda school show
17 December, Matilda school show
18 December, Matilda school show
18 December, School closed at 1230

Quick links

School website

PE calendar

Term dates

Newsletters

Classcharts

Attendance

Attendance

Whole School Attendance: 93%
Best Performing Year Group Year 7

We're pleased to announce that St Katherine's School has introduced 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

Uniform

For health and safety reasons, long hair must be tied back securely during PE lessons and practical subjects where appropriate.

Rings, bracelets, badges, and necklaces are permitted, and students may wear stud earrings or small hoops in the earlobes, along with one small nose stud.

Blazers must be worn when entering the classroom, and top buttons must be fastened with ties worn correctly at the top of the collar.

Vaccinations

The Sirona Immunisation Team visited St Katherine's on 20 October 2026 to administer the flu vaccination to students in Year 7.

If you have any questions, please contact the Sirona on 0300 124 5515 or by email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net.

Next up...

Year 8 HPV vaccinations in term 3 on 28 January.

Futures

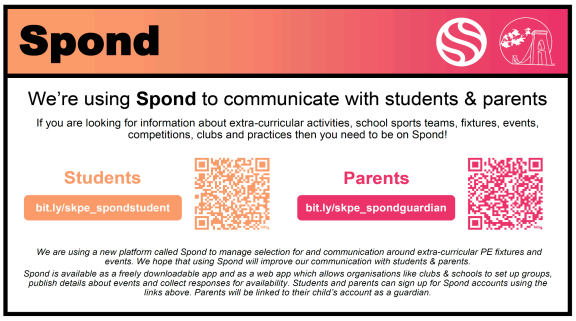
Year 10 WEX week - 5th - 9th July 2027
Deadline to secure placement and add to Unifrog - Tuesday 23rd February 2027

Year 12 WEX week - 14th - 18th June 2027
Deadline to secure placement and add to Unifrog - Tuesday 23rd February 2027

Students have been encouraged to start reaching out to employers as soon as possible. Placements book up fast so it's key to start early.

See Y10/12 messages below for the **WEX Opportunity of the week**

PE & Sport



Outdoor Education



The South West Schools Bouldering League started this month and students from our school represented in force! Although there have been some entrants in previous years, this was the first year we have taken a team to the competition. Our students did very well, finishing some incredible climbs with confidence.

Save the date

This Christmas, preparation meets pure imagination as our students bring the West End smash-hit Matilda Jr The Musical to life! Get ready for an evening packed with high-energy dance routines and a massive dose of holiday magic. Students have been working tirelessly to ensure you are in for a real festive treat!

Watch our phenomenal cast revolt against the terrifying Miss Trunchbull, find courage with the lovely Miss Honey, and prove that "even if you're little, you can do a lot!" The performances will take place on **Wednesday 16th December 7pm, Thursday 17th December 7pm and our final curtain call, Friday 18th December 2pm**. Tickets went on live on Monday 19 October on ParentPay.

So, dust off your school blazers, dodge the Hammer, and avoid the chokey as the revolting children become even more naughty! Please bring any spare change to school on Wednesday for the Matilda cake sale at lunchtime ➡️



Whole school notices

Mrs Crompton	Students can buy a poppy in school at SSO and support the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. If you're able to, please bring in some spare change to make a donation. Every contribution, big or small, helps support members of the Armed Forces community and their families. POPPY APPEAL
Mrs Slater	During assessment weeks and mock exams, we sometimes need to adjust students' usual LSA support to prioritise the delivery of exam access arrangements. This may occasionally mean changes to the member of staff supporting your child or to their usual support arrangements. Please be reassured that continuity of support and your child's individual needs remain a priority. Any adjustments are made with the aim of ensuring that all students receive the support they need, while also ensuring that appropriate exam access arrangements are in place. We would be grateful if you could discuss the possibility of temporary changes with your child in advance, helping them to feel prepared and reassured should any adjustments be necessary. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and continued support.
Mr Ovink	**Homework: Clear expectations, consistent routines** Homework plays an important role in helping students strengthen their understanding, practise key knowledge and build the independent learning habits they need to succeed. To make sure homework is purposeful and manageable, we want to ensure that expectations are clear and consistent across the school. **What should students and parents/carers expect?** • Purposeful practice: Homework should give students the opportunity to practise and consolidate learning that has already been taught in lessons • Clear instructions: Every homework task should make clear when it is due, how long it should take, what successful completion looks like and where students can access the resources they need • Predictable routines: Students should have at least one week to complete homework. Tasks should be set and due on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday • Recognition of effort: Students will receive a +1 positive for completing their homework **Where can students complete their homework?** We provide additional spaces for students who would benefit from time and support to complete their work: • CR2: Open every lunchtime to students in all year groups • CR4: Open Monday to Thursday for Year 11 students only We encourage parents and carers to discuss homework routines with their children and to support them in developing the habits that will help them become confident, independent learners. We will share a regular homework update in this bulletin each week to keep these expectations clear and ensure that students, parents/carers and staff are working together to support successful learning.
Mrs Collins / Miss Adams	**Matilda additional tech rehearsal Sunday 13 December** As we get closer to show week, we will start to bring all elements of the musical together including the most challenging but most magical - the tech! **Sunday 13 December** the whole cast of Matilda are required to attend. This will be arriving at **09:00am ready to start at 09:15am finishing at 15:00pm**. Students are therefore required to bring

	• a packed lunch such as sandwiches, sausage roll, fruit and veg etc and a water bottle. • All cast must ensure they have their costume in a bag with their name and tutor group on it so it does not get lost. • Finally, we encourage students to wear something appropriate and warm for rehearsal such as joggers/leggings, tshirt, jumper/hoody. If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or Miss Adams - collinsl@skdrive.org adamsa@skdrive.org
Mrs Crocker  	**Anti Bullying Week 16-20 November 2026** **Odd Socks Day Monday 16 November** The theme of this year's Anti-Bullying Week is 'Break the Silence'. There will be activities in tutor time and assemblies that remind students of the impact of bullying and their responsibilities to Tell Someone if they are concerned about bullying behaviour. This year, all Amplify schools are taking part in Odd Socks Day on Monday 16 November which marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. Staff and students are encouraged to wear odd socks on Monday 16 November to celebrate all that is different and unique about our school. REMINDER - We have an anonymous 'Tell Someone' form on our school website that allows anyone to report concerns to the safeguarding team at any time.
Mrs Humphries	Please find below details of the three strands of our Term 2 Culture Shift, focusing on Transitions including Punctuality. Our approach will centre on three key areas: 1. Threshold Expectations – Teachers will be at the threshold of their classroom, ensuring pupils are ready to enter and begin learning promptly at the start of each lesson. 2. Escalation of Sanctions – Where pupils' punctuality does not improve, they will be placed on a formal Punctuality Escalation Plan. In addition, very soon Parents/carers will be informed daily of any late minutes via email to ensure clear communication and shared accountability. 3. Quality Assurance – Teams of staff will be deployed to support and monitor pupil transitions following breaktime and lunchtime, ensuring that pupils move promptly and calmly to their next lesson. Thank you for your support with ensuring your child prioritises being on time to school and to lessons.
Ms Wyld	Make an early start on your Christmas shopping AND help to add new books to the Library collection! Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Click here to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. Please place your order online by November 27th, 2026. Orders will be delivered to school & will be available to collect from the Library either by yourself or a student - thank you!
Miss Adams	Our school choir has again been invited to perform in a series of concerts alongside professional musicians from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire on Wednesday 11 November at Trinity Academy. All families with children in choir (except Year 11) will have received a letter about this. Please complete the consent form if you have not already done so. Please also note our later return to school of approx 4.15pm which may mean making alternative travel arrangements for that day.
School	**Holiday Activities and Food** Bookings for Bristol and North Somerset HAF Winter activities will go live on Friday 6 November at 9am. There are some fantastic activities on offer this winter, with something for everyone to enjoy! From multi-sports clubs and gymnastics to family swim sessions, bring-a-friend gym sessions, Mendip Activity Centre experiences, arts and crafts, disco and so much more. There will also be some wonderful festive experiences to get everyone into the Christmas spirit, with plenty of opportunities for children and young people to try something new, make friends, stay active and have lots of fun over the winter holidays! North Somerset booking page Bristol Booking page

	Whole school - Term 2	
	9 November	0900-1000 Parent/Career Inclusion forum, conference room
	11 November	1040-1100 Whole school Remembrance, bottom court
	11 November	LEAP Ensemble, from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
	16 November	Anti Bullying week
	27 November	**Inset Day - school closed to students**
	1 December	0900-1000 Parent/Carer Coffee with the HT, JJH office
	w/c 7 December	Winter House Sport
	9 December	1800-1900 Christmas Carols, LT
	15 December	0835-1505 Students in Matilda off timetable - tech run
	16 & 17 December	1900 Matilda Jr the musical!
	17 December	1220-1305 Christmas lunch
	18 December	**School closes at 1230**
	18 December	1400 Matilda Jr the musical! Matinee
Year 7	Food and Nutrition Miss Layton	**ONLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN THE FOOD ROTATION** Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Tuesday 10th November - 7L Fruit muffins (please remember muffin cases) Here is a copy of the breakdown of the lessons for the whole rotation.
		Year 7 - Term 2
	4 November	1600-1900 Meet the Tutor, virtual
Year 8	Food and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins and Miss Layton	**ONLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN THE FOOD ROTATION** Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Monday 9th November - 8L Bolognese 8R Savoury rice Here is a copy of the breakdown of the lessons for the whole rotation.
		Year 8 - Term 2
	9 November	0900-1100 Equinox STEM Workshop (30 students)
	18 November	1000-1100 Successful Me (25 students)
	19 November	0835-1505 Future Brunels WECA activity day (xx students)
	25 November	1000-1100 Successful Me (25 students)
	2 December	1000-1100 Successful Me (25 students)
	2 December	1600-1900 Virtual Progress Evening
Year 9	Food and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins	**ONLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN THE FOOD ROTATION** Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Friday 13th November - 9L fish goujons and wedges Here is a copy of the breakdown of the lessons for the whole rotation.
		Year 9 - Term 2

Year 10	w/c 9 November	Assessment week
	17 November	0835-1505 UWE Future Mindset (25 students)
	24 November	0835-1505 UWE Future Mindset (25 students)
	3 December	0835-1505 Future Brunels WECA activity day
	10 December	0835-0900 What is an Apprenticeship assembly with Junior Saunders
	Mr Fey	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/lunchtime (everyday) and afterschool (varies weekly, your child's teacher will confirm) sessions for them to stay up to date.
	Mrs Jenkins	Below is the FP&N practical lesson taking place this week. Wednesday 11th November - 10A Quiche and slaw
	Miss Everard Textiles	Students will need to spend a minimum of one hour on homework/coursework each week. There are supported sessions open to GCSE students, where they can work on homework, or coursework and use the facilities and materials. Students who attended these sessions last year had the most success with their Textiles GCSE results. **Thursday lunchtimes and after school - room 13** This is particularly helpful where students may have missed lesson time, and need to catch up.
	Work Experience 5th - 9th July Mrs A Fey	**WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK:** **Bristol Airport -** apply **here** **Knowle West Media Centre -** apply **here** If you have any questions or concerns about WEX please check the WEX FAQ document, visit the school WEX webpage or do feel free to drop me an email and I'll get back to you as soon as possible - afey@skdrive.org
	English	The wider reading for this week is here.
		Year 10 - Term 2
	8 December	0835-1505 Future Brunels WECA activity day (xx students)
	16 December	1405-1505 RAF talk with Adam Smith
Year 11	Mr Sugden	Please find attached a letter containing information about Key Stage 4, Mock Series 2. Contained is the General Timetable, an Independent Learning Guide, and content checklists and support from Faculties about their specific papers.
	Mr Fey	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/lunchtime (everyday) and afterschool (varies weekly, your child's teacher will confirm) sessions for them to stay up to date.
	Mrs Jenkins	The deadline for NEA 1 coursework is Monday 9th November, please encourage your child to make sure they have completed the evaluation of the investigation they carried out before half term.
	Miss Everard Textiles	Students are now in final preparation time for their **mock exam on Weds November 11th**. Elements of their final piece that require drying time or setting time, can be made in advance, please encourage your young person to think about their prep and time planning. They may use the textiles room during lunchtimes and after school on Tuesday 10th, to set up for exam day.
	English	The wider reading for this week is here.
		Year 11 - Term 2
	9 November	0835-0900 Bristol Robins Assembly
	w/c 16 November	Key Stage 4, Mock Series 2 (General Timetable and Support, here)

Year 12	w/c 23 November	Key Stage 4, Mock Series 2 (General Timetable and Support, here)
	30 November	0835-0900 Access Creative College Assembly
	7 December	0835-0900 City of Bristol College Assembly
	8 December	0835-1505 Sixth Former For the Day
	15 December	0900-1100 Post 16 Providers Event
	18 December	0835-0900 Key Stage 4, Mock Series 2 - Results Day
	Work Experience 14th - 18th June Mrs A Fey	**WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK:** **Bristol Airport -** apply **here** **Knowle West Media Centre -** apply **here** If you have any questions or concerns about WEX please check the WEX FAQ document, visit the school WEX webpage or do feel free to drop me an email and I'll get back to you as soon as possible - afey@skdrive.org
		Year 12 - Term 2
	3 November	0835-0900 Tom Mitchell ex student talk
	10 November	0835-0900 Royal Holloway University Talk
	18 November	0835-0900 BFI film talk, (40 students)
	18 November	1405-1505 UWE How to build your skills for the future
	24 November	0835-0900 'Why Sheffield' university talk
	1 December	0835-0900 Boomsatsuma Assembly
	2 December	1405-1505 DWP apprenticeship workshop with Chris Dunkin
	16 December	1405-1505 Career session on AI, Aberystwyth Uni
Year 13		**Year 13 - Term 2**
	3 November	0835-0900 Tom Mitchell ex student talk
	4 November	1405-1505 CV and cover letter workshop with Andrew Banfield
	10 November	0835-0900 Royal Holloway University Talk
	17 November	0835-0900 Chris Dunkin from DWP talking about LMI
	18 November	1405-1505 UWE How to build your skills for the future
	24 November	0835-0900 'Why Sheffield' university talk
	1 December	0835-0900 Boomsatsuma Assembly
	2 December	1405-1505 DWP apprenticeship workshop with Chris Dunkin
	16 December	1405-1505 Career session on AI, Aberystwyth Uni

We hope you like our new weekly newsletter, please provide any feedback to school@skdrive.org

