

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers

Friday 20 November 2026

St. Katherine's School





What's in this week?

Spotlight - Family voice survey

Notice Board

JUMP TO ....

Whole school notices
Y7 notices
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Y13 notices

Family voice survey

Thank you to everyone for sharing your positive feedback in our recent Family Voice survey focusing on Transition and Communications. We recognise the many positive aspects highlighted and the leadership is fully committed to addressing the areas of improvement to further improve the experience for families. The survey highlighted many positive aspects of school life:

- 89% of parents/carers would recommend St Katherine's to another parent/carer
- 89% of parents/carers feel welcome at school
- 88% of parents/carers believes their child has a friend in school
- 80% of parents/carers feel they can find the information they need (for example, through the school website, newsletter)
- 71% of parents/carers rate their child's experience as good or very good

Families consistently praised:

- the positive relationships between staff and students
- sporting opportunities
- clubs and extracurricular activities
- friendship groups
- the broad range of subjects on offer
- the support provided by teachers



Two themes emerged that will shape our next steps.

1. Improving communication and guidance

You said: Communication and information can sometimes be difficult to navigate and families would welcome clearer guidance and support throughout their child's journey at school.

We are:

- Reviewing how information is shared across our communication platforms and how this can be streamlined
- Revise signposting for families and communication guidelines
- Strengthen communication with families before and during the transition to secondary school
- Provide additional information and guidance for parents/carers, particularly during the first term of Year 7

2. Student progress

You said: Families want greater clarity around learning, homework and progress, alongside continued support to help students settle quickly, feel included and achieve their potential.

We will:

- Review homework expectations and improve consistency across subjects
- Provide clearer information about assessment, reporting and student progress
- Help families better understand how they can support achievement and wellbeing at home
- Increase opportunities for students to become familiar with school routines and expectations
- Continue developing support for vulnerable students and those with additional needs
- Gather feedback from students and families to monitor how successfully students are settling into school life and making progress

The survey has provided valuable insights into the experiences and perspectives of our families. While there is much to celebrate, your feedback has helped us identify where further improvement can be made. Our next family voice survey will capture feedback from families with children who have special educational needs at the beginning of December. In March the survey will capture students' experience and comms.

Notice board

Snap shot

w/c 23 November	Y11 mocks
27 November	Inset day
2 December	Y8 progress evening, virtual
16 & 17 December	Matilda school show
18 December	Matilda school show
18 December	School closes at 1230

Quick links

School website

PE calendar

Term Dates

Newsletters

Classcharts

Attendance

Attendance

Whole School Attendance: 89%
Best Performing Year Group Year 7

We saw a big dip in attendance last week with our overall attendance falling below 90%.

This is associated with an increase in some winter illnesses that seem to be more prevalent. Nevertheless, falling well below our attendance target of 96% for all students is significant and is associated with a large number of hours of lost learning.

We hope to see a decrease in absence due to illness as the colds and flu pass and would encourage all parents to contact their child's tutor or attendance@skdrive.org if there are reasons other than illness that are proving to be barriers for children being in school every day that they are well enough to attend.

There is lots of support available to children and their families when attendance becomes difficult and we are committed to working together to make sure students do not miss out on the amazing opportunities open to them at school.

Uniform

Please remind your child of the following rule regarding the allowed trouser style:

Grey tailored trousers and of a length, material and style appropriate to an academic working environment with no fashion elements. No leggings, jeggings, tight Lycra/tight fitting trousers or pockets on legs, zipped pockets, very narrow or very wide bottomed trousers.

A reminder that hoodies are also not allowed in school and will be confiscated and stored in SSO until the end of the day if worn.

Anti Bullying week - Break the Silence



This week students have been marking Anti Bullying Week with activities in tutor time and assemblies in line with the theme of Break the Silence.

The week got off to a bright and colourful start with staff and students taking part in Odd Socks Day which encouraged us all to remember what is unique and different about our school and the individual members of our community.

Students have been encouraged to reaffirm their pledge to be an upstander and and ally and 'Tell Someone' when they see or hear something that is not right. In doing this they contribute to our ongoing mission to be a nurturing and inclusive community and a safe place to work and learn for all.

Outdoor Education



During half term, Mr Hodgson took two groups down to catch some waves. Westward Ho! is a fantastic beach to learn to surf on, with predictable and safe waves rolling in on a shallow beach.

Most students were total beginners but up for a challenge, so once they had their quick intro lesson, they got stuck in.



Future

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 and Sport

A huge well done to our Year 8 & Year 9 girls' netball team on their performance against Priory, our Year 9 rugby team for their efforts in the recent tournament, and to all of our runners who achieved an excellent second place finish in the North Somerset Cross Country Championships.







Enrichment



Lead by Miss Robinson, Year 7 had a great Enrichment session on Wednesday, learning the colours in British Sign Language (BSL).

Students embraced the challenge and made excellent progress with their signing.

They are looking forward to their final session next week where they will be learning signs for family members

Whole School notices

Mrs Crompton	**Coffee with the Headteacher** Please call the school on 01275 373737 if you would like to attend our next Coffee with the Headteacher on 1 December from 0900-1000
Mr Maw	Please see this letter with regards to our Christmas lunch service.
School office	Please see the following message from Turners Coachways with reference to the SK-2 route and the temporary changes. Temporary changes to morning bus route – From Monday 23 November Due to significant delays caused by roadworks on the Portway, the morning bus will temporarily follow the current evening route from Monday 23 November, avoiding the Portway. New morning collection times: • 07:48 – Stop A: Queens Gate Bus Stop (bottom of Shirehampton Road) • 07:50 – Stop B: Sea Mills Lane (Co-op) • 07:51 – Stop C: Sea Mills Square • 07:53 – Stop D: High Grove (normal route resumes) Please check the updated route map and arrive at your stop in good time
School	We are proud to be supporting Pill Food Hub again this year with their 'everyone deserves Christmas' campaign. They are seeking donations of new gifts for secondary-aged school children or adults which they will then pass on. If you would like to donate, please send gifts to school reception. Tutor groups will each be contributing a gift between them. Please see the message from the Food Hub below: The Food Hub is open every Friday 1.30 – 2.30 at the Community Centre and supports anyone struggling with the cost of living. We are run by volunteers and are a "no judgement" organization – if you need help, please get in touch. We are also supporting families with "Everyone Deserves Christmas" gifts and small grants – please email pillfoodhub@gmail.com in confidence for more information on how to apply or support.

Whole School notices

Term 2	Dates for your diary
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, Canteen
15 December	0835-1505 Students in Matilda off timetable - tech run
16 & 17 Dec	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 Textiles Mrs Jenkins Miss Layton Miss Everard	Monday 23 November is the start of a new rotation for students who were in Textiles and Food. If your child/children were previously studying Food and Nutrition they are now studying Textiles and vice versa. Here is the practical lessons for rotation 2. The ingredients will also be set as homework on Classcharts and on the Google Classroom.
Term 2	Dates for your diary
25 November	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)
2 December	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)
9 December	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)
16 December	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)

Year 8

School Office	Please find attached letter regarding the upcoming Y8 Progress evening.
Food and Nutrition Textiles Mrs Jenkins Miss Everard	Monday 23 November is the start of a new rotation for students who were in Textiles and Food. If your child/children were previously studying Food and Nutrition they are now studying Textiles and vice versa. Here is the practical lessons for rotation 2. The ingredients will also be set as homework on Classcharts and on the Google Classroom.
Term 2	**Dates for your diary**
25 November	1000-1100 Successful Me (25 students)
2 December	1000-1100 Successful Me (25 students)
2 December	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)
2 December	1600-1900 Virtual Progress Evening
9 December	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)
16 December	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)

Year 9

Food and Nutrition Textiles Mrs Jenkins Miss Everard	Monday 23 November is the start of a new rotation for students who were in Textiles and Food. If your child/children were previously studying Food and Nutrition they are now studying Textiles and vice versa. Here is the practical lessons for rotation 2. The ingredients will also be set as homework on Classcharts and on the Google Classroom.
Term 2	**Dates for your diary**
24 November	0835-1505 UWE Future Mindset (25 students)
25 November	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)
30 November	12.20-15.05 Bouldering Competition (16 students)
30 November	0835-1505 Future Brunels: Science Creates to meet CEOs of a range of STEM start up companies trip
2 December	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)
3 December	0835-1505 Future Brunels WECA activity day
9 December	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)
10 December	0835-0900 What is an Apprenticeship assembly with Junior Saunders
16 December	0830-1100 Roots Intervention (14 Students)

Year 10

Work Experience Mrs Fey	**Year 10 WEX week – 5th – 9th July 2027** Deadline to secure placement and add to Unifrog - Tuesday 23rd February 2027 **WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK:** Engineering/Architecture @ Arup Bristol - students can apply here (deadline 29th Jan 2027) One Big Circle (technology/software. BS1)) - students can apply here (deadline 27th November) 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
Textiles Miss. Everard	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. Sessions are as follows: Thursday lunchtimes and after school in room 13. This is particularly helpful where students may have missed lesson time, and need to catch up.
English	The wider reading for this week is here
Term 2	Dates for your diary
30 November	1220-1505 Bouldering Competition (16 students)
8 December	0835-1505 Future Brunels: SS Great Britain to learn about a day in the life of an engineer
16 December	1405-1505 RAF talk with Adam Smith

Year 11

Textiles Miss. Everard	Having completed their mock exam last Wednesday, students will now spend the remaining weeks of term thoroughly reviewing their main project, which for most is their Architecture Project, with the aim of strengthening any areas that they feel they could improve on. They will have specific help with what they can each do to strengthen and finalise coursework, before it is submitted on the last day of term. 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. Sessions are as follows: Thursday lunchtimes and after school in room 13. This is particularly helpful where students may have missed lesson time, and need to catch up.
6th Form Application	Don't forget the deadline for 6th form applications is 18 December. Sign up here
English	No wider reading this week as we concentrate on the mock exams.
Term 2	**Dates for your diary**
w/c 23 November	Key Stage 4, Mock Series 2 (General Timetable and Support, here)
30 November	0835-0900 Access Creative College Assembly
30 November	1220-1505 Bouldering Competition (16 students)
3 December	0835-1505 Future Brunels: SS Great Britain to meet the engineering team from Dyson
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

Year 12

Work Experience Mrs Fey	**Year 12 WEX week - 14th - 18th June 2027** Deadline to secure placement and add to Unifrog - Tuesday 23rd February 2027 **WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK:** Engineering/Architecture @ Arup Bristol - students can apply here (deadline 29th Jan 2027) 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
Mrs Garrett	University of Bath are running online events for parents/carers who wish to find out more about supporting their child through the university application process, more info here
Ms Hambidge	The Y12 geography students will be going on a 4 day residential to Slapton Ley Field Studies Centre from 2-5 February 2027. Further information has been circulated via parent pay. The final balance is due on 6th January 2027. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the trip or financing the trip, please do get in touch - hambidgel@skdrive.org
Term 2	Dates for your diary
24 November	0835-0900 'Why Sheffield' university talk
24 November	0730-1715 H&S Care Workshop (8 students)
24 November	1130-1700 UKMT Senior Maths Challenge (4 students)
30 November	1220-1505 Bouldering Competition (16 students)
1 December	0835-0900 Boomsatsuma Assembly
2 December	1405-1505 DWP apprenticeship workshop with Chris Dunkin
4 December	0830-1500 Media Trip - Weston College (25 students)
16 December	1405-1505 Career session on AI, Aberystwyth Uni

Year 13

Mrs Garrett	University of Bath are running online events for parents/carers who wish to find out more about supporting their child through the university application process, more info here
Term 2	Dates for your diary
18 November	1405-1505 David Rowlands Creative Problem Solving
24 November	0835-0900 'Why Sheffield' university talk
24 November	1130-1700 UKMT Senior Maths Challenge (4 students)
1 December	0835-0900 Boomsatsuma Assembly
2 December	1405-1505 DWP apprenticeship workshop with Chris Dunkin
4 December	0830-1500 Media Trip - Weston College (25 students)
16 December	1405-1505 Career session on AI, Aberystwyth Uni