

5th December 2025



St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Head Teachers Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

Link to the latest video is: <https://youtu.be/QRS3M0N5gMQ> Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Josephs content.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton

The Winning St Joseph's Trampoline Team



14. Theme of the Week Sheet 7th December 2025

Peace

Weekly Reflections
7th December 2025
2nd Sunday of Advent



Theme of the Week - Peace

The Gospel reading on Sunday might seem a little at odds with the theme of the week, 'Peace'. Within this Gospel, we hear of John the Baptist saying to the Pharisees and Sadducees as they come to him, "**You brood of vipers!** **Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?**" Maybe not the most peaceful manner to address someone! However, the theme of Peace is not focused on what John has to say, more the opportunity John is providing for those who come to him.

In the world 2000 years ago and in our world today, we see and hear violence, selfishness and greed. So many of us have desires for material goods and wealth that this leads us away from what is truly right. John speaks from the desert, and if stranded in the desert, what would you take to survive? Most likely only the essential items, precious items we hold dearly. In the desert we are called to conversion, to change one's mind. Why? John tells us: **Because the kingdom of heaven is at hand**, and unless we change the way we think, we won't be able to welcome it and be part of it.

In Advent we prepare for the coming of this kingdom by examining ourselves, our life and our projects. John warns that every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down. **PEACE** is one of these fruits, but what is peace? It is not simply the absence of war, and something that can be imposed on peoples and nations. True peace is the inner state of those who have accepted the new kingdom and its king, Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Only those who are transformed by the proposal of Jesus can reach true peace, and only those who have peace within themselves can be promoters of peace in our school, in our families, in our nation and in the world. This week how can you be **Eloquent and Truthful** in promoting peace to all those around you?

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving God,

During this season of Advent, we pray for Peace. Peace in the world and peace in our hearts.
Rekindle our belief in the future, and restore our capacity to hope for better things.

Prince of Peace

Hear our Prayer

Day 1

Today is the Feast Day of 'The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary'. This is a Solemnity within the Church dedicated to Mary. Please watch the short video on this special feast within the Church.

Day 2

Why do you think John uses such strong language to the Pharisees and Sadducees?
Why do you think the desert is used to allow for conversion?

Day 3

How can you be **Eloquent** and **Truthful** in promoting Peace to all those around you?

Year 7 News

It's been a fantastic week for our Year 7 students, full of enthusiasm, effort, and positive progress. We're really proud of how well they've stayed focused and supported one another. With only two weeks left until the end of term, we encourage everyone to keep persevering and giving their best—every bit of effort now will help finish the term on a strong note. Keep up the great work!

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

A massive well done to Year 8 for their outstanding effort and progress this week. Students have shown consistent effort in lessons and made positive contributions to the school community. It is important to continue working hard, complete all homework, and conduct yourselves with maturity and respect, as these habits support both academic success and personal development.

As we approach the festive season, we would also like to highlight the Christmas Hamper initiative. This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the spirit of giving and support those in our local community. We encourage all students and families to participate where possible and help spread kindness during this special time of year.

Well done again to all Year 8 students for their dedication and hard work.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

A huge well done to Year 10 for another strong performance, 93% positive ratio and just under 1,000 positive points this week. That reflects real effort in lessons and a growing culture of pride in your work. Keep it up: arrive ready, engage fully, and celebrate the small wins that add up to big progress.

A firm reminder about attendance and punctuality. **We need every student in school, on time, every day.** Colds and coughs can usually be managed in school; GCSEs won't pause for illness, and every lesson counts. Let's build resilience together: layers for the colder weather, early bedtimes, and bags packed the night before. Parents and carers, your support with morning routines and attendance makes a real difference.

Looking ahead: next Wednesday we welcome an external speaker for an assembly on Knife Crime. This is a serious, PSHE-led session, please come prepared to listen carefully, show maturity, and reflect on the choices that keep you and your community safe. Tutors will follow up in form time to help you process what you hear and signpost support if you need it.

Only a few weeks until Christmas, so let's finish the term with high standards, great attitudes, and a collective push to make every lesson count. Keep going, Year 10!

Mr Whiteside - *Head of Year 10*

Year 11 News

It was fantastic to see our Year 11 students looking so smart and professional during the recent sixth form taster day; well done to everyone for representing yourselves so well!

As a polite reminder, any external sixth form taster days must be arranged outside of school hours to ensure that learning time is not interrupted. Thank you for your cooperation in supporting this.

Looking ahead, the January PPE timetable has now been published on ClassCharts. Please take time to familiarise yourself with your exam schedule. When we return after the Christmas break, it will be all systems go, so preparation is key!

Have a lovely weekend :)

Miss Joseph

Year 12 News

Year 12 have had a great week earning positive points for all their hard work both in and out of class. As we head towards the end of term the students have been completing their first round of assessments, they will receive feedback from teachers and it is important that they act on this feedback to maintain progress in all subject areas. You will receive the first report card for your child before the end of term so that you can see their progress.

Attendance has been a real positive for Year 12 this term so thank you for encouraging your child to attend school as much as possible. Just a reminder that the reward trip to Winter Wonderland is taking place on the 18th December for all those students who have signed up.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend!

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

Year 13 News

It has been another busy week for Year 13 with extensive work continuing on UCAS personal statements, exam preparation and coursework. It really is imperative that students complete their coursework as soon as possible and to the best possible standard as this will ease the pressure and burden as we move swiftly into the Exam Revision period.

On Wednesday we were privileged enough to have a Recruitment Consultant from the University of Portsmouth spend time with a number of our students to help them work on their personal statements and all of them found this experience to be incredibly valuable.

The January PPE timetable has now been published and shared with the students. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the schedule and have conversations at home about revision. All students have been encouraged to make a revision timetable and to start revising now - I'm aware that they still have homework to complete so little and often is key at this stage!

We will have an Academic Review Day on Monday 5th January where you will have an opportunity to discuss any concerns that you may have about your son or daughter's progress. Overall though they are doing tremendously well and we are very proud of all that they have achieved this term.

Have a great weekend!

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 13

Students of the Week

Year 7: Robert Stacey & Zeena Gill for Excellent weeks

Year 8: Kacper Zborowski & Avleen Singh for their active participation in lessons and the positive contribution they bring to their lessons.

Year 9:

Year 10: Wiktoria Wrobel, for being supportive when a friend needed it the most, and Brianne Barrozzo, for always having the highest standards.

Year 11: Isabelle Stacey and Winners Nwachukwu for receiving the most positive points this week

Year 12: Matilda Kemp and Rosa Jarrett for always maintaining the highest of standards in both their studies and the way they conduct themselves around school

Year 13: Nathaniel Basa and Oliwia Mroz for being runners up in the TVLP 'Design an Elephant' competition for the Thames Hospice.

7 Cecilia Retreat

Last week, Ms. Ura (Religious Education) and Mr. Orval (Tutor) accompanied 7-Cecilia on a retreat to St. Anthony's. The day was packed with games and engaging activities, providing excellent opportunities for the students to bond and get to know each other better. Crucially, the retreat also allowed the students to connect with and deepen their understanding of our Catholic heritage.



Student Leadership

House competitions are well underway with the Heads of House doing a great job at running them. So far we have had Musical Statues, Emoji Competition, Arm Wrestling then yesterday Paper Plane Flying. Currently Cecilia are in the lead. Also this week the Heads of House led assemblies for their fellow students. I am so proud of them.

There will be a GCSE book sale run by the Senior Student Leaders, this will enable Years 10 and 11 to purchase revision books at a reduced price. keep your eyes peeled for dates

Mrs Dunleavy

Year 7 – 3D Cell Project

Year 7 – 3D Cell Project

Our Year 7 students have done an amazing job creating their own 3D cell models. Each student worked individually and used simple household items to represent the different organelles. The creativity, effort and understanding they showed in bringing their cells to life was fantastic to see.



Year 11 – A Level Taster Sessions

Our Year 11 students took part in a range of A Level taster sessions. In Biology, they carried out a kidney dissection, giving them a hands-on experience of the subject and a deeper understanding of the organ's structure and function.



Year 7 Try It Festival

On Tuesday, our Year 7 students took part in the exciting Try It Festival, a special event designed to give everyone the chance to experience new and different sports. The

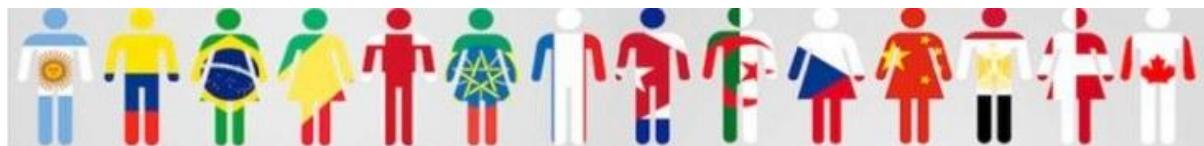
atmosphere was buzzing with energy and enthusiasm as pupils rotated through a variety of activities, including touch rugby, speed stacking, pickleball, and fencing.



Year 7 Power League Tournament

The year 7 football team took two strong 5 aside teams to the annual Year 7 Power League night. This year it finished with an all St Josephs Final. One squad didn't concede a goal until the Final, the other won all of their games. A fantastic effort and a great showcase of how good and deep the Y7 football squad is. Medals all round

EAL News



Practical Tips for Effective Home Learning:

Set Realistic Goals:

Break down language learning into achievable goals. Celebrate milestones together, and involve your child in setting objectives for their language development.

Use Technology Wisely:

Explore language learning apps, websites, and educational games. Select age-appropriate options that align with your child's proficiency level. Monitor screen time to maintain a healthy balance.

Cultural Exploration:

Introduce your child to the culture associated with the language. Watch movies, cook traditional recipes together, or celebrate cultural holidays to make the learning experience more immersive.

Language Games:

Incorporate language learning into games. Play word games like Scrabble or Bananagrams, or try language-learning board games designed for children. Make it a fun, family activity.

Daily Routines and Rituals:

Establish routines that include language learning. Whether it's a morning greeting, bedtime stories, or a weekly family language night, consistency is key.

Sustainability Elective- Writing Letters to the Elderly

This Christmas season, our students took part in a heart-warming initiative: writing letters to elderly members of our community. With thoughtful messages, handmade cards, and words

of encouragement, students shared the joy of the season with those who may feel isolated at this time of year.

This project beautifully reflects our commitment to **Catholic Social Teaching**, especially the principles of **Human Dignity** and **Solidarity**. By reaching out through personal letters, students recognized the inherent worth of every person and strengthened the bonds that connect generations. Their compassionate action serves as a reminder that small acts of kindness can have a profound impact.

The activity also supported our school's focus on **social sustainability**, particularly the goals of **wellbeing** and **education**. Writing letters encouraged students to practice empathy, communication, and emotional awareness—skills essential for lifelong wellbeing. It also provided a meaningful educational experience, helping students understand the power of written connection and the positive effects their words can have on others.

In sharing Christmas joy with the elderly, our students not only brightened someone's holiday but also lived out the values that shape our school community—faith, service, and the ongoing development of social and emotional wellbeing.





Design and Technology

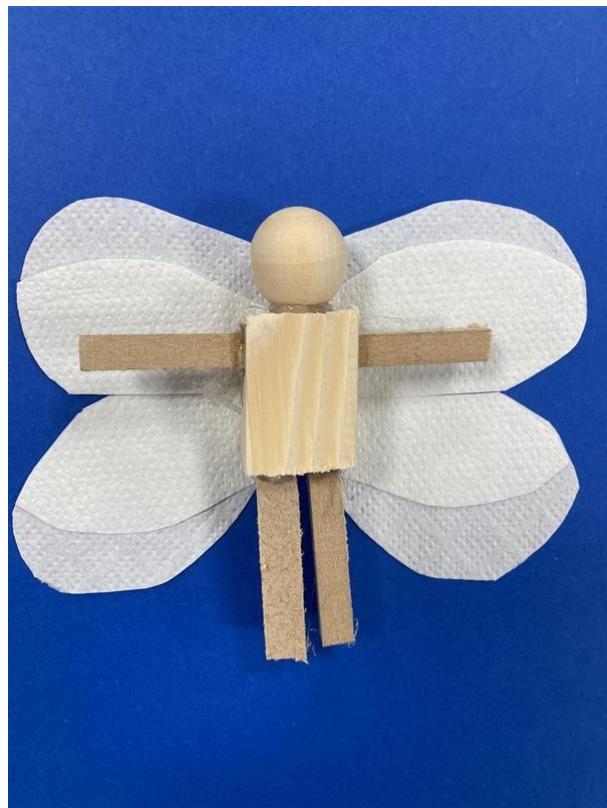
Make It Elective

The countdown calendars were finished and taken home, and we started working on our fleet of advent angels. Looking forward to sharing more heavenly images next week.











D+T Club.... Make it Monday

DESIGNeers- DT club - Monday afterschool 3.20-4.15



Over the last couple of weeks our DESIGNEERS have used CAD to design badges and Christmas decorations which were then made on the laser cutter. Next week we will be using workshop equipment for some Christmas crafting in our first Santa workshop.









D+T Stars of the week



Well done to the D&T stars.

Sophia D'Amaro, Max Maican and Emilia Duczek for being Active and Curious in their D&T and food lessons this week.

TVLP- Competition Winners

Well done to Nathaniel Basa and Olivia Mroz for being runners up in the TVLP 'Design an Elephant' competition. In the New Year we shall begin to decorate these and they will be displayed along the River Thames to raise money for the Thames Hospice. Thank you for representing our school so well!

Dates for the diary (PE events)

Monday 8th December- KS3 Team Badminton

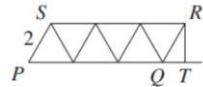
Tuesday 9th December-KS4 Team Badminton

Thursday 11th December- Hado taster Session

I Can do Maths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

A In the diagram shown, T is the foot of the perpendicular from R to PQ produced. Consider triangle QTR . Angle $QTR = 90^\circ$ and, because the sum of angles on a straight line = 180° , angle $RQT = (180 - 2 \times 60)^\circ = 60^\circ$. So $\sin 60^\circ = \frac{RT}{QR}$ and hence $RT = QR \times \sin 60^\circ = 2 \times \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = \sqrt{3}$. Also $\cos 60^\circ = \frac{QT}{QR}$, so $QT = QR \times \cos 60^\circ = 2 \times \frac{1}{2} = 1$. Therefore $PT = 7$.
 By Pythagoras' Theorem, $PR^2 = PT^2 + TR^2 = 7^2 + (\sqrt{3})^2 = 49 + 3 = 52$. So $PR = \sqrt{52} = \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{13} = 2\sqrt{13}$.



Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

D It may be shown that $0.\dot{1} = \frac{1}{9}$. So $0.\dot{8} = \frac{8}{9}$ and $0.0\dot{7} = \frac{7}{90}$.
 Therefore $0.\dot{8} + 0.0\dot{7} = \frac{8}{9} + \frac{7}{90} = \frac{80}{90} + \frac{7}{90} = \frac{87}{90} = \frac{29}{30}$. Now $\frac{29}{3} = 9 + \frac{2}{3} = 9 + 0.\dot{6} = 9.\dot{6}$.
 So $\frac{29}{30} = 0.9\dot{6}$. Hence $0.\dot{8} + 0.0\dot{7} = 0.9\dot{6}$.

Puzzler of the week

The sum of the areas of the squares on the sides of a right-angled isosceles triangle is 72 cm^2 .

What is the area of the triangle?

A 6 cm^2 B 8 cm^2 C 9 cm^2 D 12 cm^2 E 18 cm^2

Break-Time Teaser

Tegwen has the same number of brothers as she has sisters. Each one of her brothers has 50% more sisters than brothers.

How many children are in Tegwen's family?

A 5

B 7

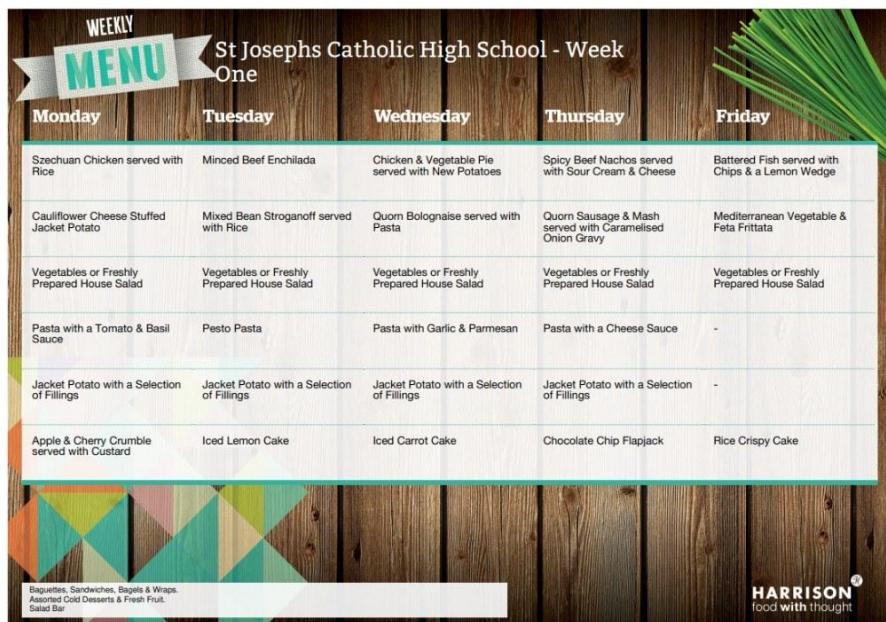
C 9

D 11

E 13

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. Complete answers will get positive points on Class Charts.

Menu: To see the dinner choices and price list please click [HERE](#)



Clubs

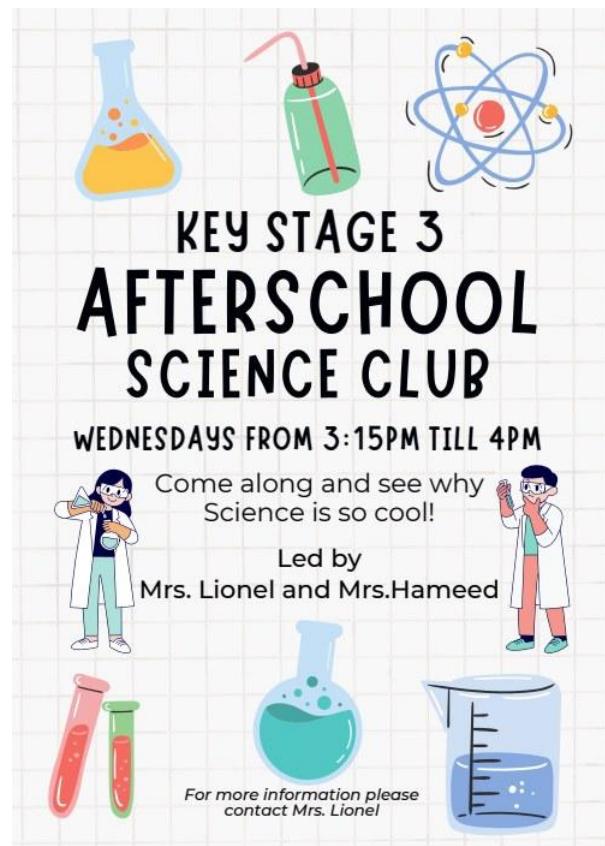
DESIGNeers- DT club - Monday afterschool 3.20-4.15



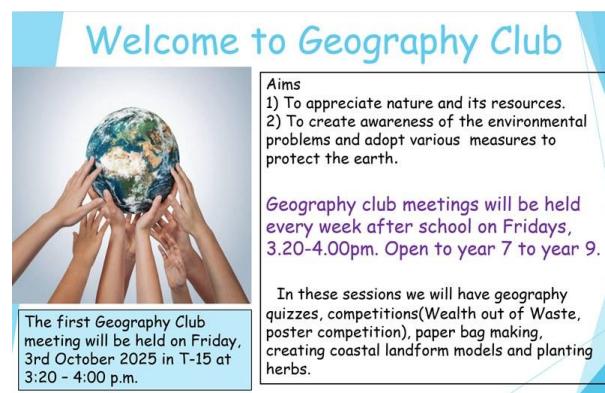
Make it Monday!

If you love a challenge; enjoy solving problems and Designing and Making; consider joining our D&T team!
Please see or message [Mrs Stacey on Teams](#)
Join us in A3 for DT Club on Monday afterschool. 3.20-4.15.

This week we are planning a bit of CAD/CAM



1 - Science club- Students designing and building their own Chemis-tree! This hands-on activity creatively merges chemistry concepts with Christmas fun, demonstrating how Science is all around us!





	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and table tennis	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball (GCSE students only)	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and table tennis	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN and MJO Football Year 7+8 boys FWA Volleyball/ Badminton Year 7-13 JRO Trampolining KBR Year 7-13	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO Fitness Year 7-13 THU	Trampolining KBR Year 7-13 Badminton Year 7-13 AAN Football Year 9-13 THU, JCO Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO Dance Year 7-13 Creative Dance academy.		

Term Dates 2025 - 2026 and 2026 - 2027

Term Dates

School Year 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Inset Day	Monday 1 st September 2025
Inset Day	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Whole school returns	Thursday 4 th September 2025
Inset Day	Friday 19 th September 2025
Half Term	Monday 20 th October 2025 to Friday 31 st October 2025
Term Ends	Friday 19 th December 2025 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term

Term Begins	Monday 5 th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 th February 2026 to Friday 20 th February 2026
Term Ends	Friday 27 th March 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term

Inset Day	Monday 13 th April 2026
Term Begins	Tuesday 14 th April 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 th May 2026 to Friday 29 th May 2026
Term Ends	Friday 17 th July 2026 (12:30pm finish)

School Year 2026- 2027

Autumn Term

Inset Day	Tuesday 1 st September 2026
Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Whole school returns	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
Inset Day	Friday 18 th September 2026
Half Term	Monday 19 th October 2026 to Friday 30 th October 2026
Term Ends	Friday 18 th December 2026 (12:30pm finish)

Spring Term

Term Begins	Monday 4 th January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15 th February 2027 to Friday 19 th February 2027
Term End	Thursday 25 th March 2027 (12:30pm finish)

Summer Term

Term Begins	Monday 12 th April 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 st May 2027 to Friday 4 th June 2027
Term Ends	Friday 16 th July 2027 (12:30pm finish)