



St Joseph's Catholic High School

# Newsletter

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025



*11J in silent prayer*

*'Increase our Faith'.*

## Head Teacher Message

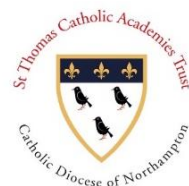
Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well. Link to the latest video is:

<https://youtu.be/6b5YZoEeLck> made aware of all new and exciting St Joseph's content.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



"The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

## Theme of the Week - Increase our Faith

The word 'Faith' is central to this week's Gospel and the word comes from the Latin 'Fides' meaning trust and belief. And for St Joseph's, belief is our mission, to Unlock Belief in All. We also have as one of our virtues, Faith-filled. A lovely virtue to have and links so well to our mission; Not just having belief or trust in someone, but being filled with that faith. So how are you faith-filled? Who in your life do you believe in? Who believes in you? Who do you know that has great faith in God? How do you know this?

There are many things that we don't know or understand about God, but faith is a gift from God that helps us to pray and to believe what we cannot see. And it is important to realise that faith is a gift, a gift that we shouldn't keep to ourselves like a material possession. A gift that is to be shared and passed on to one another. When the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith, he counters with a change in perspective. They are interested in quantity and Jesus in quality - his metaphorical use of the tiny mustard seed and the mulberry tree with its very deep and extensive root system, very difficult to uproot, is indicating that a tiny amount of genuine faith is able to realise the impossible. As followers of Christ, who have been called to service, we should do out of a profound sense of gratitude rather than a desire to be rewarded.

Take this opportunity to go back to the questions posed to you in day one. Who do you have faith in, who has faith in you and who shows great faith? Why do they and you have this Faith?

The month of October in the Catholic Church is given over to Mary. Let us this week ask Mary to intercede for us as we say a decade of the Rosary together. Let us be more **Faith-Filled** and **Hopeful** to stretch your faith by asking Mary to prayer alongside with us.

## Increase our Faith

Weekly Reflections  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
27<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time



### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 17: 5-10

At that time: The Apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' And the Lord said, 'If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

'Will any one of you who has a servant ploughing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, "Come at once and recline at table"? Will he not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterwards you will eat and drink"? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty." '

### Prayer for the Week

Almighty God,

You have sown in each one of us Faith. Let us as a community bring your thanksgiving to others through service so we and all around us can see the wonders of your works and continue to increase our Faith

Amen

#### Day 1

Who do you have faith in? Who has faith in you?  
Who do you know has great faith in God?

#### Day 2

What is Faith?  
What is the mustard seed and Mulberry tree representing?  
What are we to do with this gift of Faith?

#### Day 3

Be more Faith-filled and Hopeful by praying one decade of the Rosary to our Lady

## Year 7 News

Year 7s had a lovely week with many of them taking part in lots of the extracurricular activities we have to offer. A big well done to the Year 7 boys Football team for the win! There will be lots of fixtures and opportunities coming up for them all.

We will be having our Half Termly Awards assembly on the last Monday morning of this half term. I look forward to giving lots of awards to the students.

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

## Year 7 Student of the Week

**Cherian Kattakayam & Holly Marszalek for having the most positive points this week**

## Year 8 News

It has been a good week—well done to students who have been catching up with their homework! Parents are encouraged to keep track of your child's progress through ClassCharts and support them in staying on track with their homework.

I would also like to remind parents about the upcoming flu vaccinations scheduled for November. All parents have been sent a link through ParentPay to submit responses. Please ensure that consent is submitted promptly.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

## Year 8 Student of the week:

**Rosbel Joyson and Nikodem Gucwa for being Active and Curious in lessons**

### Year 9 News

A very positive week in Year 9. Everyone seems to be settling into the new academic year well. As a year group we still have too many X's.

It's been great to see some practice rehearsals of the school production Hairspray. The final performance week comes up soon, make sure you get your tickets.

Have a great weekend, look after your loved ones.

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

### Year 9 Students of the Week

Iga Karasinska and Euan Blanquisco

### Year 10 News

We've smashed the week on 827 positive points. Well done, Year 10. Let's keep that momentum by bringing the right equipment, participating fully in lessons, and supporting one another around school.

A quick reminder: please head to ClassCharts and find the message containing the consent link for the upcoming flu jabs. If you have any issues accessing the link, contact me via email or the school office.

A punctuality reminder as well: students are expected to be **lined up before 8:25am**, as prayer and announcements begin then. Punctuality is a current focus for Year 10, so please ensure you arrive on site in good time each morning.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

### Year 10 Students of the Week

**Ben Sibanda and Brianne Barrozo, who gained the most positive points this week. Excellent effort, keep it up!**

## Year 11 News

Another strong week of effort and focus across lessons I am proud of the way many of you are showing maturity and commitment as we move through the term.

However, I have noticed a large number of Xs being recorded for **lateness to school and incomplete homework**. These are easily avoidable and can impact your progress and overall record.

Please remember:

You must be **on the Upper School by 8:23am** for line-up. Arriving any later will result in a **late to line-up X**.

Let's keep pushing for consistency and high standards.

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 11

## Year 11 Students of the week

**Afonso Jose Reis Gomes and Kamila Cebulka for receiving the most positive points this week.**

## Year 12 News

Year 12 have had a fabulous week and are working hard both in and out of lesson time.

This week students were invited to apply for the role of student coaches to support the academic and pastoral care of students in the lower school.

It was great to see so many of the Year 12's apply and be successful in their interviews. Taking on roles like this provide great experience for the students and will be helpful for applications for future opportunities whether that be applying to university, apprenticeships or jobs.

There has been a few issues with lateness to school this week, please could you just remind your child that they need to be in school by 8:20am every morning and if they are late they will receive a detention for this.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 12

## Year 12 Students of the Week

**Jack Green for great work in Sociology and Nadia Ankiewicz-Heetun for excellent work in English**

## **Year 13 News**

This week our Year 13 Leadership team have been busy preparing to launch their new lunchtime St Joseph's societies for Year 7 after half term. Many of the students are also excited to be signed up for a new coaching program for students across the whole school which is being established by Ms Burby.

University applications continue – I'm pleased to announce that we currently have almost 60 accounts now set up on UCAS, with more likely to come in the next few weeks as well. We wish the students every success with their applications.

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 13

## **Year 13 Students of the Week**

**Ethan Fernandes and Christian Piscopo Evans for the most positive points on Classcharts.**

## **Lost Property Alert!**

Hey everyone! We've noticed lots of lost items popping up all over the school, and we want to help get them back to their owners.

If you spot any lost property, please bring it to the school office — we'll keep it safe until its owner comes to claim it.

And if you've lost something, swing by the office and see if it's waiting for you!

Parents, if your child accidentally brings home the wrong item, please remind them to drop it back at the office so we can return it to the right person.

Thanks for helping us keep our school community happy and organized!

## Ski Trip 2026

We still have some spaces available for this year's Ski Trip to Folgarida, Italy.

The cost for the trip is £1,080.

There is a final chance to sign up by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

If you would like your child to attend but have not managed to pay the deposit yet, please contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss this.

Mr Robinson

c.robinson@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

## Period Product scheme

Dear parents,

As part of the Period Product scheme, the government has provided free period products to all learners who need them in our school. Accordingly, this half term all girls have been given these free products. Pupils have had the option to opt out from it.

The scheme aims to address scenarios such as were pupils

- have forgotten their products
- cannot afford products
- have come on their period unexpectedly

By making these essential personal hygiene products easily accessible, it will reduce any stigma associated with periods. This is all in the hope of removing such barriers to learning.

Many thanks,  
Mrs Ossei-Brainoo



## Don't Miss Our School Production: *Hairspray the Musical!*

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music, dance, and fun as our talented students bring *Hairspray* to the stage!

### Performance Dates & Times:

- Wednesday, 15th October | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- Thursday, 16th October | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- Friday, 17th October | 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

### Tickets:

Only £5 each — available now on Parent Pay!

Bring your family and friends for a fantastic evening of entertainment. We can't wait to see you there!



**HAIRSPRAY**  
**THE MUSICAL!**  
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Bring your family and friends for a fantastic evening of entertainment. We can't wait to see you there!

## Creative Media Crew Elective

This term the Creative Media Crew have been making the marketing posters and material for the St. Joseph's Production of Hairspray The Musical. Please enjoy some of our photographs behind the scenes of the photoshoot

*St. Joseph's Creative Media Crew*



### **Pupil premium at St Joseph's**

If you have any enquiry about Pupil Premium whether it be how we can support your child or whether to know whether your child is eligible for Pupil Premium please do email Mr Gibbons at [j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:j.gibbons@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk). Attached to the newsletter is a letter regarding Pupil Premium that will have some more information.

### **Prayer at St Joseph's**

As a Catholic school it is really important we offer multiple times and types of prayer during our school day. All students receive at least four opportunities to pray:

- At line up
- During form time and assembly
- Before lunch (this the end of period 4 for years 8, 9 and 11 or the end of reading for years 7, 10 and 6th form)
- At the end of the school day

There is additional prayer in the Chapel for staff and students:

- Monday: 3.30pm – 3.45pm - Vespers (Evening prayer)
- Tuesday at both lunches.
- Friday: 7.45am-8.00am – Lauds (Morning Prayer)

During the month of October, students will also be saying a decade of the Rosary during form time.

## Sustainability Elective: Nature Walk

This week, students in the Sustainability Elective took part in a nature walk around our local environment. As part of the experience, they completed an Environmental Quality Survey (EQS) – a valuable fieldwork skill often used in Geography. The EQS not only gave students practical experience in data collection, but also created time to pause and reflect on the quality of the area around us.

Linking their learning to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, students explored how caring for biodiversity and ecosystems connects directly to goals such as Climate Action (SDG 13), Life on Land (SDG 15), and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12). They discussed how small everyday choices can contribute to global change.

The activity also reflected Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the principles of Care for Creation and Solidarity. Students recognised that protecting the natural world is not only about stewardship for future generations but also about justice for communities around the world who are most affected by environmental challenges.

This was a meaningful opportunity for students to see how their faith, learning, and actions can work together for the common good.



### **PE Events/Fixtures for next week:**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October: Fencing competition (H)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October: Yr 8 football vs TLA (A)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October- Rock climbing (GCSE students)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October- Yr 11 football vs DPA (A)

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October- Yr 8 football vs Wexham (A)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October- Student leadership day

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October- Yr 10 football vs TLA (A)

(H = Home A = Away)

### **Year 7 Football**

The Year 7's went away for their first fixture. We played our closest rivals - St Bernards. The boys had a wonderful game and had a great display throughout. The score was 4-3 in the end.

A great first win for the boys

Man of the Match - Alex M

## Enter the Trunks Across the Thames Student Art Competition

Attached is TVLP art competition in your forms- the PDF flier has all the details (which has also been sent to form tutors)

Winners will get to actually paint and make the elephant which will be displayed in Windsor and along the Thames! Each TVLP school will have a winner so someone must win from this school!

There is a template attached that students can print and use for the elephant design- but it is not compulsory. They can draw their own elephant or even design one part of the elephant like a trunk or leg!

If students have any questions, please speak to Mrs Burby.



**Thames hospice**

**TVLP**  
- THAMES - VALLEY - LEARNING - PARTNERSHIP -

**ENTER THE TRUNKS ACROSS THE THAMES  
STUDENT ART COMPETITION**

WINNING ARTISTS WILL BE CHOSEN TO PAINT OUR ELEPHANT  
FOR THE PUBLIC SCULPTURE TRAIL

SEND IN YOUR COLOURFUL IMAGINATIVE IDEA.

ART DESIGN ENTRIES CAN BE HAND DRAWN OR PAINTED  
CONTACT JEANETTE HEMP  
J.HEMP@TULP.ORG.UK TO PLACE YOUR ENTRY  
CLOSING DATE MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER

GET DESIGNING TODAY YOUR ELEPHANT COULD JOIN THE HERD

**TRUNKS  
ACROSS  
THE THAMES**

**TRUNKS  
ACROSS  
@THAMES**



## EAL NEWS (English as an Additional Language)

### NEW ARRIVALS: Learning English as an additional language

The multilingualism of our EAL students enriches our school and our community. To become fully competent in the use of curriculum/academic English is a long process; students require long-term support. Having a home language other than English is not a learning difficulty.

Please inform us if your child has access to another language or if English is an additional language for them.

All new arrivals, including the Year 7 cohort, are assessed and assigned an EAL code to represent their competency in accordance with the statutory measure of English Language Proficiency as instructed by the DfE. This five-stage scale of English proficiency maps the progress from beginner to fluent users of English and the codes are as follows:

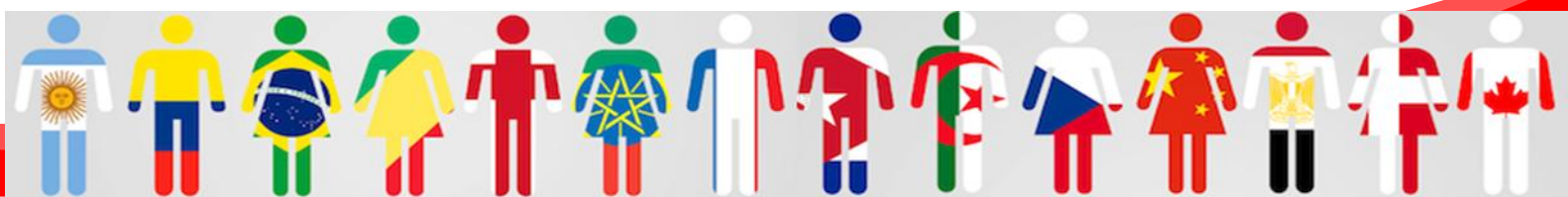
- **Code A.** New to English
- **Code B.** Early acquisition
- **Code C.** Developing competence
- **Code D.** Competent
- **Code E.** Fluent

By assessing students on arrival, we are able to put the necessary interventions in place as soon as possible in order to provide the best start for the student.

#### We will:

- Give students suspected of having language difficulties an initial assessment
- Provide small group English acquisition intervention where appropriate
- Monitor language acquisition and adjust the level of support appropriately.

For any further queries regarding English as an Additional Language please contact Ms Ura (EAL Coordinator) a [J.Ura@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:J.Ura@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)



## **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is available from 7:30am to 8:15am, which is complimentary to all students.

## **Logging your child's absences and appointments.**

Dear Parents/Carers,

A kind reminder to report your child's absence via ClassCharts by 8am if they are absent from school.

If your child has an upcoming appointment, please also report this via ClassCharts, along with proof of the appointment.

The attached PDF provides further guidance and step-by-step instructions.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Miss Lungeanu

[office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)



## Homework

“The importance of homework to educational achievement cannot be denied. If pupils receive appropriate homework and do it on a regular basis over a five-year period, they will, in effect, be receiving the equivalent of at least one additional year of full-time education” *‘Improving Secondary schools’*

**At St Joseph, we believe that homework is important to:**

- **Prepare for, consolidate** and **embed** work covered in lessons to support learning;
- **Encourage** responsibility for, and ownership of, learning through ‘flipped learning’ activities;
- Enhance study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline;
- Broaden and extend the school curriculum;
- **Engage parental co-operation** and support;

**Tips to help support your child with homework:**

- Regularly check **Classcharts**, ask them to show you completed homework against ClassCharts assignment.
- Create a homework **schedule**: A schedule can help your child stay organized and keep track of what's due.
- Choose a homework **area**: Pick a dedicated place for homework and gather the necessary supplies.
- Limit **distractions**: Turn off electronics and put away cell phones to help your child focus.
- **Motivate** your child: Alternate motivators, such as "homework then computer" or "homework then a favourite video". Use positive words of encouragement when your child is working well

### **Homework Expectation**

Each subject gives specific guidance to students regarding homework expectations. Below are the minimum general homework expectations.

#### **Key Stage 3**

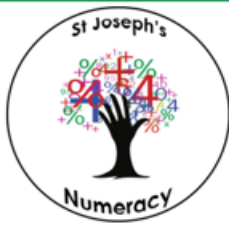
- Maths, English, Science, RE – once per week for 10 -30 mins
- History, Geography, MFL, History, Art, Computing, Music, Technology, Drama fortnightly 10-30min

#### **Key Stage 4**

- All subjects once per week for 30 mins

#### **Key Stage 5 (Flipped Learning)**

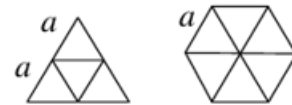
- Sixth Form students are required to match every hour of lesson time with an hour of independent study outside of the classroom.
- Flipped homework should form the basis of the tasks, enabling students to prepare for their next lessons and use their knowledge to develop deeper understanding and practice the associated skills.



# #IcandoMaths

## Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- D Let the length of the side of the regular hexagon be  $a$ . Then its perimeter is  $6a$ . Therefore the perimeter of the equilateral triangle is also  $6a$ , so the length of each of its sides is  $2a$ . The diagrams show that the equilateral triangle may be divided up into 4 equilateral triangles of side  $a$ , whereas the regular hexagon may be divided into 6 such triangles. So the required ratio is  $4 : 6 = 2 : 3$ .



## Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

- B The two-digit squares are 16, 25, 36, 49, 64 and 81. Of these, only 49 and 81 differ by 1 from a multiple of 10.

## Puzzler of the week

The product of the first three numbers in the box below is equal to the product of the last three numbers. What is the value of  $x$ ?

$x$	120	496	360	48
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- A 72                      B 84                      C 96                      D 128                      E 144

## Break-Time Teaser

Jane's farm is home to many cats and dogs. At the start of the week the ratio of cats to dogs was  $3 : 5$ . Then 32 cats, but no dogs, arrived and the ratio became  $5 : 3$ . How many dogs are there on Jane's farm?

- A 12                      B 18                      C 24                      D 25                      E 30

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

## Clubs



The Language Club promotional graphic is divided into several sections. At the top left is a photo of a brown dog next to a Spanish flag. In the center is a blue banner with the text 'LANGUAGE CLUB' and various language-related icons like books, a globe, and speech bubbles. To the right is a cartoon dog wearing a beret and a striped scarf with the word 'BONJOUR' above it. Below these are three yellow boxes containing text: 'You are invited to join in with us this term!', 'Why? : Languages, fun and friendship. Who? : All Year 7 + 8 students. When? : Tuesday 15.20-16.20 p.m. Where? : T5 with Ms Shaw & Team.', and 'Come to our club if you feel you are a empathetic and enthusiastic linguist! You get extra-curricular positive points AND tasty treats to keep you keen! We can't wait to see you there soon!'. On the far right is a small image of a tropical island with the text 'With languages you are at home ANYWHERE.'.

**LANGUAGE CLUB**

**BONJOUR**

You are invited to join in with us this term!  
Why? : Languages, fun and friendship.  
Who? : All Year 7 + 8 students.  
When? : Tuesday 15.20-16.20 p.m.  
Where? : T5 with Ms Shaw & Team.

With *languages* you are at home  
**ANYWHERE.**

Come to our club if you feel you are a empathetic and enthusiastic linguist!  
You get extra-curricular positive points AND tasty treats to keep you keen!  
We can't wait to see you there soon!



The Ham Radio Club promotional graphic features a central title 'Ham Radio Club' flanked by the St. George's School crest and the RSGB logo. Below the title is the meeting schedule: 'Most Fridays 15:15-16:15, at the top of the Tower Block, An interesting club for everyone. For any questions, please message Mr Allinson'. The central image shows a ham radio operator at a desk with a microphone, with a 'M&S Distribution' logo overlaid. Surrounding this are images of a mobile phone, a blue ham radio, and a handheld radio. At the bottom is the RSGB logo and the text 'Radio Society of Great Britain Advancing amateur radio since 1913'.

**Ham Radio Club**

Most Fridays 15:15-16:15, at the top of the Tower Block,  
An interesting club for everyone.  
For any questions, please message Mr Allinson

**Radio Society of Great Britain**  
Advancing amateur radio since 1913

# Welcome to Geography Club



The first Geography Club meeting will be held on Friday, 3rd October 2025 in T-15 at 3:20 - 4:00 p.m.

## Aims



- 1) To appreciate nature and its resources.
- 2) To create awareness of the environmental problems and adopt various measures to protect the earth.

Geography club meetings will be held every week after school on Fridays, 3.20-4.00pm. Open to year 7 to year 9.

In these sessions we will have geography quizzes, competitions (Wealth out of Waste, poster competition), paper bag making, creating coastal landform models and planting herbs.

## PE After School Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1	Badminton and Basketball	Dance (creative dance academy)	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball (GCSE students only)	Basketball and Volleyball
Lunch 2	Badminton and Basketball	Dance (creative dance academy)	Badminton and Table tennis	Badminton and Basketball	Basketball and Volleyball
Afterschool	Netball Year 7-13 AAN, KBR, MJO  Football Year 7+8 boys FWA  Volleyball Year 7-13 HMC	Basketball Year 7-13 JCO  Fitness Year 7-13 THU  NFL Girls and Boys Year 7-11 HMC	Trampoline KBR Year 7-13  Badminton Year 7-13 AAN  Football Year 9-13 THU, JCO  Girls Football Year 7-13 MJO		

 <b>St Josephs Catholic High School - Week Three</b> 				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef Lasagne	Pork Sausages served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Volcano Chicken Pasta	Cottage Pie	Battered Fish served with Chips & a Lemon Wedge
Quorn & Vegetable Enchilada	Black Bean & Sweetcorn Nachos served with Sour Cream & Cheese	Quorn Meatball & Tomato Pasta Bake	Vegetable Korma served with Rice	Spinach, Tomato & Red Onion Pizza
Vegetables & Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables & Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables & Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables & Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables & Freshly Prepared House Salad
Red Pesto Pasta	Hoi Sin Vegetable Noodles	Pasta Bolognese	Ham & Sweetcorn Pasta	-
Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	-
Syrup Sponge with Custard	Chocolate Brownie	Blueberry Muffins	Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Salted Caramel Banana Cake

# Term Dates

## School Year 2025 - 2026

### Autumn Term

Inset Day Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Inset Day Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

Year 7 + 12 Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Whole school returns Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Inset Day Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Half Term Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Term Ends Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (12:30pm finish)

### Spring Term

Term Begins Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Half Term Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Term Ends Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (12:30pm finish)

### Summer Term

Inset Day Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Term Begins Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Half Term Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026 to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Term Ends Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (12:30pm finish)