

St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 7th November 2025



Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

https://youtu.be/ad0wZRUOH6g

Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Josephs content.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



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

Theme of the Week - Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

On Sunday we celebrated the Feast Day of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. This Feast, first celebrated in 1724, marks the building of the ancient Palace founded in the Lateran district, consecrated by Pope Sylvester I in 324AD. This Basilica was built to mark an end to Christian persecution and the establishment of the first public Christian monument, symbolizing freedom, unity, and the foundation of the Church. A chapel dedicated to Saint John the Baptist was built inside it. This moved Pope Sergius III to dedicate it to Saint John the Baptist. Pope Lucius II also dedicated it to Saint John the Evangelist in the 12th century. Thus, the name of this Papal Basilica is the Basilica of the Most Holy Saviour and of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in the Lateran. Christians consider the Basilica to be the mother church of all churches in the world.

The church was destroyed several times over the course of the centuries, and always rebuilt. The final reconstruction took place under the pontificate of Benedict XIII. The church was rededicated in 1724. It was at that time that the feast celebrated today was established and extended to the universal Church. So the Gospel reading from the book of John, reflects this Basilica. Like Jesus, the Church was destroyed by raised back; 'Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." '.....But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken."

The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica allows us to remember the journey of the people and God's constant and faithful care. At the same time, we are reminded today that each one of us is a "house of God" in the Risen Jesus, because the Holy Spirit dwells in each one of us (cf. 1 Cor. 3:16). This awareness alone leads us to praise the Lord on the one hand, and on the other, it leads us to say, at times, "O Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof" (Mt. 8:8), He is already in us and He welcomes us and loves us not as we would like to be, but as we are, here and now. When we learn to keep our gaze fixed on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, our faces will shine with light that flows from a "unified" heart. How can you be more Loving and Compassionate? Compassionate towards others but also loving by our just actions and forgiving words?

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Weekly Reflections 9th November 2025 32nd Week in Ordinary Time





A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, 'Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

So the Jews said to him, 'What sign do you show us for doing these things?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Prayer for the Week

Gracious and Loving God,

We give our thanks to our Church and this school community. We together reflect on your word and seek your will, we too can show others your Love like St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist proclaimed and experienced.

Continue to be with us.

Amen.

Day 1

It what year was the
Basilica built? In what
year was the feast day
first celebrated?
Who are the two John's
the Basilica is named
after?

Day 2

How does the Gospel reading from Sunday link to the history of the Basilica?

Day 3

How can you be more

Loving and

Compassionate by being
like Jesus and the two

Saint John's the Basilica
is named after?

Year 7 News

I hope that everyone had a lovely break, students have come back refreshed and ready to kick off their second half term at St Joseph's. Students this term will get to try out new Electives and have lots of House Competitions such as the one this week which was Musical Chairs. Congratulations to those who took part!

Keep an eye out for upcoming events via the Newsletter

Have a lovely weekend all,

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 7 Student of the Week

Marcel Mikula & Sofia Belici for excellent weeks

Year 8 News

Welcome back year 8s! I hope all students and families had a restful half term and are ready for another successful term ahead. It has been a positive start to the new term, with **922 positive points** awarded across the year group — well done to all students for their continued effort and commitment.

However, there has been an increase in negative points this week, with 21% relating to equipment and 26% linked to homework. A particular concern was students arriving to PE lessons without the correct kit or to Food Technology without an apron. Please can all students ensure they are fully prepared for every lesson, as having the correct equipment supports learning and prevents unnecessary negatives. We ask for your support in reinforcing this expectation at home.

A gentle reminder that Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday, 27th November. Appointment bookings are now open, and parents and carers are encouraged to confirm attendance via ParentPay. Please schedule appointments early to secure preferred times and ensure the opportunity to meet with subject teachers.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining high standards and helping students make a positive and focused start to this half term.

Mrs Viegas - Head of Year 8

Year 8 Student of the week:

Noah Greenidge and Maja Mielcarek for receiving the most positive points this week.

Year 9 News

Last half term finished with a real *Hairspray* bang! I hope many of you managed to get tickets to see the production, it was absolutely fantastic. A huge well done to all Year 9 students who were involved; it made me incredibly proud to watch you perform.

Year 9 have started this second half term with great focus and determination. As a year group, there have been zero behavioural Xs, which is an outstanding achievement. Let's keep this up! As always, please continue to stay on top of homework. Make sure all tasks are completed on time, and if you experience any difficulties, be proactive and speak to your teachers before the deadline.

It has also been wonderful to see the return of the weekly house competitions. So many Year 9 students have been keen to take part and represent their tutor groups to earn valuable house points. This week's competition was musical statues, well done to everyone who joined in!

Have a great weekend, look after your loved ones, Mr Hunt – Head of Year 9

Year 9 Students of the Week

Jenson Martin and Leila O'Neil Kumar

Year 10 News

Welcome back! I hope you all had a refreshing two-week break. Year 10 have started strongly with a 93% positive ratio this week; great work and let's keep that momentum.

Looking ahead, next Friday we're hosting a Careers Fair in school during the day. Over 50 organisations will be on site to speak with students about pathways, apprenticeships, and future careers, please encourage thoughtful questions and smart presentation.

Homework reminder: we've seen a notable rise in XH codes this week. Please help students check ClassCharts at home and contact us if there are any access or workload issues so we can support.

Well done to our Sport students who represented the school brilliantly during the rock-climbing trip on Monday. We're proud of you!

Let's give this half term everything we've got in the run-up to Christmas; punctual, prepared, and proud to be Year 10.

Mr Whiteside - Head of Year 10

Year 10 Students of the Week

Adriana Paulusz and Kacper Dziubinksi, for a brilliant start to this half term!

Year 11 News

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful half term and are ready to continue working hard as we move closer to your exams. It's great to see everyone getting back into the swing of things and showing commitment to your studies.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday Sixth Form Open Evening
 This is your chance to explore the subjects and opportunities available in our Sixth Form.
 Speak to teachers, ask questions, and start thinking about your next steps after Year 11.
- Friday Careers Fair
 During the school day, you'll have the opportunity to meet employers, training providers, and colleges. This is a fantastic chance to learn about different career paths and ask questions about future opportunities.

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Joseph – Head of Year 11

Year 11 Students of the week

Nikola Zulewska and Declan Fagan for receiving the most positive points this week

Year 12 News

It is great to see Year 12 back after the half-term break looking well rested and ready for a few more weeks of hard work before Christmas.

During this half term the students will have their first round of formal assessments for their subjects. These assessments have been designed to allow subject teachers to see how the students have taken to the challenge of A Level study and assess any gaps in knowledge that need to be addressed before moving on. As with any assessment it is important the students prepare well and do the very best that they can. Once all the assessments have been completed and the data has been collated, parents/carers will receive a report that will enable you to see how you child is progressing in their studies.

This week some students have been completing their national resit examinations for English and Maths. The results for these examinations will be available in January. As a reward for all their hard work we are trying to arrange a trip to Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park. There will be a cost involved to cover the price of transport and entry into the event, but I will send all the details in a separate letter once I know what this will be.

Have a lovely weekend, Mrs Finn - Head of Year 12

Year 12 Students of the Week

Ace Kozluk and Nick Tolwinski for working hard in both Physics and Maths.

Year 13 News

Year 13 have had a calm and focused start to the new half term, with many interventions beginning this week in preparation for their January exams. The January exam season will run from 6th to 23rd January 2026. Indeed there are a number of students taking Resit GCSE exams at the moment and we wish them every success with this!

The UCAS process has started well with over 60 accounts created by our students and a third of these finalized and sent off to UCAS already. Those who have not completed their application yet should do so this month as a matter of urgency. The school internal deadline for doing this is 19th December, but it is much better for them to apply sooner rather than later to ensure that they can catch the best offers whilst they are still available.

The students are working really hard at the moment, and, as a reward for this, we have decided to run our very popular Winter Wonderland trip again this Christmas. More details will follow in due course!

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 13

Year 13 Students of the Week

Mumtaz Hanifi and Christian Piscopo-Evans for the most positive points this week

Reminder: Student Sign-In and Sign-Out Procedures

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all students, we'd like to remind everyone of the importance of signing students in and out of school.

In line with our health and safety and safeguarding procedures, it is essential that:

- All students arriving late (after morning registration) report to the main office to sign in.
- Any student leaving early must sign out at the main office before departing.
- Parents or carers collecting a student during the school day must report to reception, and the student will only be released to authorised adults.

These measures ensure we have an accurate record of who is on site at all times, which is crucial in case of emergencies (such as fire evacuations) and for safeguarding reasons. It also helps us meet our legal attendance responsibilities and ensures the safety and wellbeing of every student.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe.

Important Notice Regarding Lost Property

To ensure lost items are returned promptly, please make sure your child's name is clearly written on all personal belongings, including clothing, bags, and equipment. Proper labelling greatly assists our staff in identifying and returning lost property.

We also encourage students to take responsibility for our school community by bringing any found items directly to the school office. Your cooperation helps maintain an organised environment and reduces the likelihood of belongings going missing.

Thank you for your support in keeping our school's lost property system efficient and effective.

Coaching: Growing Together as a School Community

Here at St Joseph's, we're always looking for ways to build a listening and loving community—not just for our pupils, but for our staff too. One way we do this is through coaching, which is part of our staff CPD. Coaching isn't just about giving advice—it's about listening, reflecting, and helping each other grow with purpose and confidence in our professional journeys.

Our coaching practices are inspired by research from Steplab, Josh Goodrich, and Peps McCrea, and shaped by ideas from some fantastic books. For example, Josh Goodrich in Responsive Coaching reminds us that "coaching is about noticing and nurturing potential, not telling people what to do." Jackie Beere and Terri Broughton in The Perfect Teacher Coach highlight that "great coaching happens when we create trust and curiosity, not control." Jim Knight in The Definitive Guide to Instructional Coaching stresses the importance of "seven key factors for success that focus on relationships, clarity, and feedback," while Michael Bungay Stanier in The Coaching Habit encourages us to "say less, ask more, and let the other person do the thinking."

Coaching styles matter because they help both teachers and students build confidence, reflect on their practice, and engage in meaningful conversations. For students, coaching can develop resilience, self-awareness, and independence in learning. For staff, it strengthens professional growth and collaboration.

We're also rolling this out in our Sixth Form, where Year 12 and 13 pupils are being trained to mentor younger students using the GROW model. Older students learn to guide, listen, and ask the right questions to help younger students develop skills and confidence. If any Sixth Form students want to get involved or refine their coaching skills, they can speak to Mrs Burby, who will happily support them in making a difference in our school community.

Looking ahead, we hope to expand coaching across the whole school and even involve parents, offering training on coaching techniques and how to help children develop independent thinking, resilience, and confidence at home. This way, the principles of listening, reflection, and growth can extend beyond the classroom, supporting our school community as a whole.

And, of course, all of this ties beautifully into our Catholic Social Teaching values, showing care, respect, and support for each other in everything we do.

Year 10 BTEC Sport - Indoor Rock Climbing

Our Year 10 BTEC Sport students recently took part in an indoor rock climbing session at Slough Ice Arena. The instructor praised our students for their courage, impressive progress, and exemplary behaviour, commenting that they were polite and a pleasure to teach. Well done to all involved!





Geography Club

The members of the Geography Club participated in a creative and educational activity — designing flags for different countries! The activity helped students develop their geographical knowledge, creativity, and teamwork skills, while also encouraging them to appreciate the diversity of nations around the world. All the flags are now displayed on the classroom wall, turning it into a bright and colourful celebration of the world's nations.



Pupil Premium at St Joseph's

Am I eligible for free school meals?

You will be able to claim free school meals for your child if you receive one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have a net income from employment of no more than £7400 per year). For more information on how the government calculates your earnings from employment whilst claiming Universal Credit, please check the "Eligibility under Universal Credit" section below.
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please give on the link below to apply. If entitled, Slough Borough Council will inform you and the school of this.

https://www.slough.gov.uk/xfp/form/244

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,

We kindly remind you of the following procedures for reporting your child's absence to ensure smooth communication and accurate record-keeping:

- Absences must be reported exclusively via ClassCharts.
- Absences should be reported by 8:00am on the day of absence.
- For medical and health appointments:
 - Please notify us in advance via ClassCharts.
 - o Upload supporting documentation (e.g., proof of appointment).
 - Absences without proof will be marked as unauthorised.
- For other types of absence requests:
 - Follow the same ClassCharts reporting procedure.
 - Supporting information may be required (e.g., full outbound and inbound flight details, including booking dates, for travel abroad).
 - If additional information is needed, the school will contact you directly.
- Please refrain from emailing the school office (office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) or your child's teachers directly about absences.
 - All absence notifications must be submitted to the Attendance Officer via ClassCharts to be processed correctly.

Please find attached a PDF guide with step-by-step instructions on how to report absences through ClassCharts.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in helping us safeguard and ensure high levels of attendance for your child.

Kind regards,

Miss Lungeanu

office@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk

Scrapbooking Elective

During our recent Scrapbooking Elective, students from Years 7-13 created a beautiful collaborative bunting to commemorate Remembrance Day. Each student designed a unique section to honour the bravery and sacrifices of those who served. The finished bunting, rich in colour and symbolism, now decorates our school main hall as a thoughtful reminder of remembrance, respect, and gratitude.



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.

Upcoming PE Events/Fixtures:

Monday 10th November- Yr 11 Netball tournament @HGS
Tuesday 11th November- Yr 8 football vs TLS (A)
Wednesday 12th November-Cross country Yr 7-13

Dates for the Diary

Date	What's On
Mon 10 [™] Nov	
Tue 11 th Nov	Remembrance Day
Wed 12 th Nov	
Thu 13 th Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening
Fri 14 th Nov	Careers Fair



EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Back to school tips

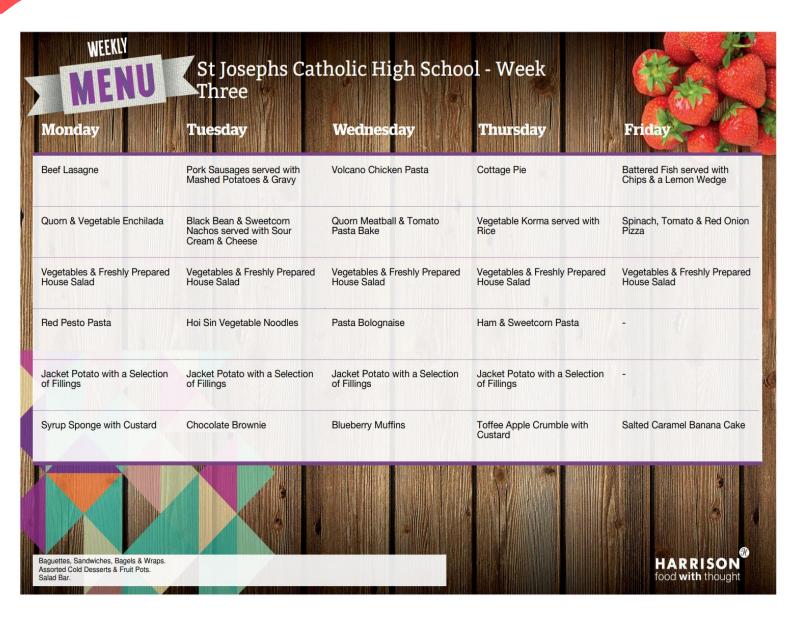
We are excited to welcome all our students back and we hope this new school year will bring lots of learning and growth.

These are few tips to ensure your child is set up for a successful year.

- Please stay connected and collaborate with teachers; by staying informed, you can stay up to date on your child's linguistic and academic progress. Understanding what is going on in school will give you a better idea of how you can support your child at home. Coordination and partnership between the school and home helps children thrive and succeed. If language is an issue when communicating with your child's teachers, let the school know the language that you feel most comfortable with. I am always happy to help email J.Ura@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk
- Supporting learning at home is vitally important to your child's view of education and achievement. Click here to read our homework policy and time table
- Reading for pleasure has been positively linked with an increase in the following literacy-related benefits for children:
 - o Reading attainment, phonics and writing ability
 - It increases the learners' exposure to language.
 - o It can consolidate previously learned language.

Please encourage your child to read for pleasure; your library is one of the most important resources in your community, and anyone can use it. You and your family will find books, videos, music, newspapers, computers, and much more for your child and you — for free! Chick below to find information about Slough Libraries







Solution to last Week's Puzzler

Adding both equations gives: 1000x + 1000y = 5000. So x + y = 5. Subtracting the first equation from the second gives: 954x - 954y = 954. Therefore x - y = 1. Hence $x^2 - y^2 = (x + y)(x - y) = 5 \times 1 = 5$.

Solution to the Break-time Teaser:

D The product of the positive integers from 1 to 9 inclusive is $1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 \times 7 \times 8 \times 9$. As the product of prime factors, this product is $2 \times 3 \times 2^2 \times 5 \times 2 \times 3 \times 7 \times 2^3 \times 3^2 = 2^7 \times 3^4 \times 5 \times 7$. Therefore, for the product of six of the integers to be a square, it is necessary to discard 5, 7 and an odd power of 2 smaller than 10, that is 2 or 8. Let p < q. Then, discarding 8 gives $p^2 = 2^4 \times 3^4$. So $p = 2^2 \times 3^2 = 4 \times 9 = 36$. Similarly, discarding 2 gives $q^2 = 2^6 \times 3^4$. Therefore $q = 2^3 \times 3^2 = 8 \times 9 = 72$. Hence p + q = 36 + 72 = 108.

Puzzler of the week

The world's fastest tortoise is acknowledged to be a leopard tortoise from County Durham called Bertie. In July 2014, Bertie sprinted along a 5.5 m long track in an astonishing 19.6 seconds.

What was Bertie's approximate average speed in km per hour?

A 0.1

B 0.5

D 5

E 10

Break-Time Teaser

How many of these five expressions give answers which are not prime numbers?

 $2^2 + 3^2$ $3^2 + 4^2$ $4^2 + 5^2$

 $5^2 + 6^2$

A 0

C 2

D 3

E 4

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

Clubs









You are invited to join in with us this term!

Why?: Languages, fun and friendship.

Who 2: All Year 7 + 8 students

Who?: All Year 7 + 8 students. When?: Tuesday 15.20-16.20 p.m. Where?: T5 with Ms Shaw & Team.



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!



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

Term Dates

School Year 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term				
Inset Day	Monday 1₅t September 2025			
Inset Day	Tuesday 2nd September 2025			
Year 7 + 12	Wednesday 3 _{rd} September 2025			
Whole school returns	Thursday 4th September 2025			
Inset Day	Friday 19th September 2025			
Half Term	Monday 20th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025			
Term Ends	Friday 19th December 2025 (12:30pm finish)			
Spring Term				
Term Begins	Monday 5th January 2026			
Half Term	Monday 16th February 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026			
Term Ends	Friday 27th March 2026 (12:30pm finish)			
Summer Term				
Inset Day	Monday 13th April 2026			
Term Begins	Tuesday 14th April 2026			
Half Term	Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026			
Term Ends	Friday 17th July 2026 (12:30pm finish)			