

CONTACT

No. 1711 – Friday 5th December 2025



Christmas Jumper & Non-Uniform Day: will be taking place on **Friday 12th December**. We kindly ask for a minimum donation of £2.00 per student, payable via [school gateway](#). This year we will be raising money for the SVP which is our chosen charity for St David's house in the month of December. We will also be supporting their reverse advent scheme which is outlined later in the newsletter and holding a number of fundraising events to raise as much as we can for the SVP this advent. **Non-uniform**

day rules apply: No clothing to be worn with messages or pictures on them which could be seen as inappropriate, disreputable or offensive, no earrings or other jewellery other than watches as per usual code of conduct. Clothes worn should be appropriate for a school day. Hats or headwear must be removed on entering the school.

Advent Carol Service Monday 15th December – 5.15pm arrival for prompt 5.30pm start: our Advent Carol Service takes place on Monday 15th December which will start promptly at 5.30pm. The Carol Service will take place in the Assembly Hall, and we will be offering refreshments in the canteen. The service will run for approximately an hour and will include advent reflections, reading and poems. These will be interspersed with carols led by our talented musicians, all of which will help lead us on our advent journey. Please come along and join us on this special evening and if possible ensure your seats by completing either the Yr. 7 form [Advent Service 2025](#) & Yrs. 8-13 form [Advent Service 2025](#)



Festive Fortnight – We will be holding our festive fortnight in the canteen from Monday 8th December until the end of term. Festive options will be on the menu everyday with a Festive Roast Dinner available on Wednesday 10th and Wednesday 17th December.

End of Term Arrangements: a reminder that the school closes for the Christmas break at **1:30pm** on **Friday 19th December**. A letter has been emailed home to parents with information about the contract buses for those students who use them. Students return to school on **Monday 5th January 2026 timetable Week 1**.

Examination Certificate Collection Afternoon – Wednesday 7th January 2026: Invitations have been sent home to last years year 11 and 13 students to invite them to our Examination certificate collection afternoon on 7th January from **4-4.45pm**. This is an opportunity for us to welcome back students to receive their examination certificates and catch up with how life is progressing since seeing them in August. Those invited can confirm their attendance by [completing this form](#) so that we can ensure certificates are ready for collection.

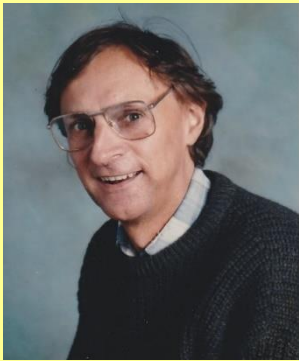
CHRISTMAS MARKET MENU
December 8th - 19th 2025

DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MONDAY	Homemade Mince Pie	Turkey Stuffing Panini	Xmas Tree Croissant	Xmas Biscuits	Brie & Cranberry Turnovers
TUESDAY	Chocolate Orange & Cranberries	Bacon & Cranberry Bagel	Xmas Hot Chocolate	Festive Cookies	Roast Potato Pots
WEDNESDAY	Festive Roast Dinner		Festive Roast Dinner		

NOURISH

COULD YOU HELP THE SCHOOL? WE NEED ONE MORE FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

St Thomas More is currently seeking a foundation governor with experience or confidence in finance to support our work. If you, or someone you know, has financial skills and a heart for supporting Catholic education, we would love to hear from you. Governors play a vital role in ensuring strong oversight, value for money and long-term planning. If interested, please contact the school office and speak to Mrs Ackred for an informal discussion. Daniel Cauchi



We were very sad to hear of the passing of one of our former teachers at St Thomas More, Mr Philip Gillham. Philip worked at the school between 1997 and 2009, in the Design & Technology department, Philip was a very kind, calm man, who was much loved by the students. Philip was one of the very first students who attended the school in the early 1960's, having previously been a student at St Helen's Primary. Philip's son attended the school, including the 6th Form until 2004, his daughter attended St Bernard's and he and his family were extremely proud when his grandsons were given places. Our sincere condolences, thoughts and prayers go to all of Philip's family.

Reverse Advent Calendar

We are called to love one another and help those in need. This advent, instead of receiving gifts each day, we will donate gifts to those who need the help. Each house has been assigned specific items to collect on specific days, however if you wish to – please don't hesitate to donate additional items outside of the dates your house has been assigned.

Donations can be brought straight to the Chapel.

<p>St. Andrew's</p> <p>02/12/2025 – Tinned Soup</p> <p>10/12/2025 – Tea/ Coffee</p> <p>18/12/2025 – Gloves/ Hats/ Scarves</p> 	<p>St. David's</p> <p>03/12/2025 – Pasta/ Rice</p> <p>11/12/2025 – Toothpaste/ toothbrushes</p> <p>18/12/2025 – Gloves/ Hats/ Scarves</p> 
<p>St. George's</p> <p>04/12/2025 - Socks</p> <p>12/12/2025 – Tinned meals</p> <p>18/12/2025 – Gloves/ Hats/ Scarves</p> 	<p>St. Patrick's</p> <p>05/12/2025 – Shampoo/ Soap</p> <p>15/12/2025 – Cereal</p> <p>18/12/2025 – Gloves/ Hats/ Scarves</p> 
<p>St. Sebastian's</p> <p>08/12/2025 – Pasta Sauces</p> <p>16/12/2025 – UHT Milk</p> <p>18/12/2025 – Gloves/ Hats/ Scarves</p> 	<p>St. Vincent's</p> <p>09/12/2025 – Tinned Meat</p> <p>17/12/2025 – Hot Chocolate</p> <p>18/12/2025 – Gloves/ Hats/ Scarves</p> 

Prayer of the Week

From the 'Benedictus' - a prayer sung by Zechariah to his son, John the Baptist;

As for you, little child,
 you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High.
 You shall go ahead of the Lord
 to prepare his ways before him,

To make known to his people their salvation
 through forgiveness of all their sins,
 the loving-kindness of the heart of our God
 who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness,
 those who dwell in the shadow of death,
 and guide us into the way of peace.

2nd Sunday of Advent

Matthew 3:1-12

Artwork: 'St. John the Baptist bearing Witness' (~1600) by Annibale Carracci



This week we hear from the Gospel according to St Matthew as he introduces us to St John the Baptist. While we continue through our season of preparation, John the Baptist calls for followers of God to do exactly that – prepare. His main method of preparation is through repentance. In this Gospel reading John the Baptist is doing just as he is depicted in this week's artwork – pointing us toward Christ.

When John the Baptist calls for repentance, he is calling us to more than sorrow; he calls us to action, to realign our lives with God's purposes. Preparing the way of the Lord by smoothing out the rough places in our hearts: pride, selfishness, indifference. It means confronting injustice, forgiving where there is division, and bringing mercy where there is pain. Every act of compassion, every effort for peace, every moment of reconciliation becomes a step toward making Isaiah's dream, God's plan, a living reality.

We must do our part. We must keep our side of the deal. We must open our hearts to the dreams of a pure and cherished world rid of human evil, and filled with the grace of God. God is calling us all personally, *Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*

Max Morris, Lay Chaplain

Chaplaincy News



Request for prize donations - The CARITAS Team: Over the season of Advent there will be multiple charitable events that aim to raise funds and physical donations for the St Vincent de Paul project that helps the homeless and poor in our community. We are looking for

donations of travel games, card games, small toys, sweet packets, or any other small gifts that can be used as prizes for these events or donated directly to the SVP.

Please keep an eye out for the different events that will be advertised in school over the next week.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) is currently seeking new Trustees with expertise in fundraising and marketing to help us expand our reach and strengthen our impact. Your skills and experience could play a vital role in shaping the future for children and young people, ensuring we continue providing essential services to children and families in need. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or know someone who might be a great fit, please do not hesitate to contact our Director, Bernadette Fisher at bfisher@bccs.org.uk who will be delighted to hear from you.

ST THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS
ON MONDAY THE 15TH OF DECEMBER, FROM 1.45 TILL THE END OF LUNCH, GET READY, FOR A FESTIVE...





Quiz!

JOIN IN AT LUNCH IN THE YEAR 12 STUDY CENTRE! (WHERE DIRECTED STUDY TAKES PLACE). WE'LL ALSO BE SELLING CHOCOLATE COOKIES FOR 80P AT THE EVENT THE WINNERS WILL GET A SPECIAL PRIZE! (QUIZ ENTRY IS £1 PER PERSON, CASH AND CARD ACCEPTED. ONLY FOR YR 12 AND 13)

Sustainable Christmas Tree: Thanks to our good friends at Wheatley Farm Garden Centre and Nursery (<https://wheatleyfarmgardencentre.com/>) we have our sustainable Christmas Tree installed in the foyer of the RE & Maths block. Each year the team at Wheatley pick out a tree for us which for the past few years, we have turned into an Easter Cross. This year, the project has taken a different approach as we have a potted Christmas Tree. The plan at the end of the festive season is to plant the tree in the school grounds and each year, bring it back inside to decorate and be at the centre of our celebrations. The tree is a modest 5ft in its pot, but it will grow. Last year the school achieved the Live Simply award from CAFOD and so have been looking for ways to continue the theme of Care for God's Creation, trying to live more simply and sustainably. There will be more pictures to come showing how the tree has been decorated with lights and prayer intentions over the coming days.



Our Assisi Catholic Trust Family

Schools	Parishes
 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School and Nursery	Our Lady of Lourdes and St Joesph Msgr Kevin Hale
 St George's Catholic Primary School	St. George and The English Martyrs Fr. Brett
 Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery	Sacred Heart of Jesus Fr. Graham
 St Helen's Catholic Primary School	Our Lady Helo of Christians and Saint Helen Fr. Alex
 St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Our Lady of Canvey and English Martyrs Fr. Eamonn
 Holy Family Catholic Primary School	Holy Family and St Thomas More Fr. Eduard
 Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School	Our Lady of Ransom Fr Paul
 St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	Catholic Church of St. Teresa and the Child Jesus Fr. Gerry
 St Thomas More High School	St Peter's Fr. Jeff

Vacancies:

St Thomas More High School, Westcliff-on-Sea – Cleaners - [website](#) & LSA Apprentice - [website](#)

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Canvey Island – LSA - [website](#) and Early Years Apprentice (Level 3) – [website](#)

Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Benfleet – Headteacher - [website](#)

St Helen's Catholic Primary School, Westcliff-on-Sea – Class Teacher fixed term 2 days per week to cover maternity - [website](#)

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL

IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER?



BOOK YOUR VISIT NOW

A catholic school that welcomes all

Come and see how we can support your child

☎ 01702 414200

✉ office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk



ST VINCENT'S CENTRE INVITES YOU TO

Afternoon Tea

AT THE ROSLIN BEACH HOTEL

MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2025

1:30PM

£37.50 PER PERSON (ADVISE DIETARY REQUIREMENTS WHEN BOOKING)



To Book Contact Phone: 07549128877

Email: nesperm@svp.org.uk

Charity No: 1053992

Parent Reminders and Student Information

Flu Vaccinations: flu vaccination information and catch-up appointments at local clinics can be found [here](#).

Term Dates: Please find the [Term Dates 2025-26](#).

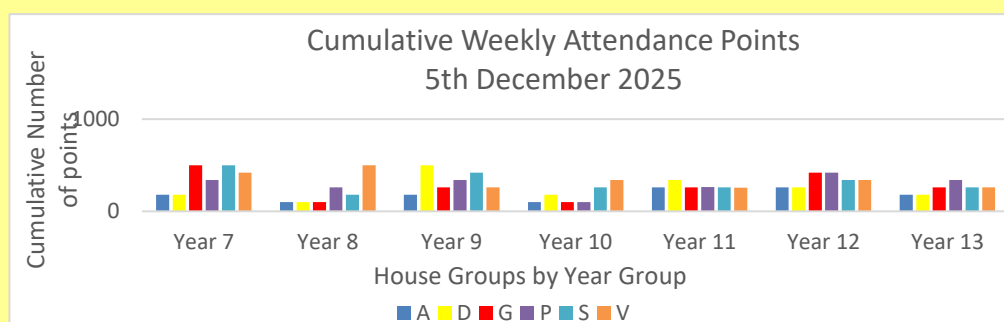
Calendar for Parents: can be accessed [here](#).



Absence: If your child is unwell and unable to attend, please notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9am or as soon as practically possible by calling the school and selecting attendance or by emailing attendance@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk. If the absence lasts more than one day, please update the school daily. Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised if the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment. We encourage parents/carers to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary. You can request a leave of absence for exceptional circumstances by through school gateway or alternatively email attendance@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk or by collecting a form from Reception. Please keep medical evidence of absence eg appointment cards or letters, copies of prescriptions, pharmacy receipts etc in case you need them to provide more details on your child's return to school.



House Attendance Points: The form with the highest attendance in the year group gets 100 points each week and every form achieving 97% or above for the week achieves 20 points towards their house.



Changes to Contact Details: If you have moved house, changed your email address, mobile telephone number or work contact number, etc. over the summer holiday, **please remember you can make these changes via your child's [School Gateway](#) account.**

Student Medical Conditions: Please ensure school is made aware of any updates regarding students medical conditions, particularly if they can potentially have an impact on their time in school and require support. Please contact Mrs Walford mwalford@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk if you wish to discuss your case in detail.

16–19 Bursary Fund – Support for Sixth Form Students

The Government's **16–19 Bursary Fund** is available to help students stay in education by covering costs such as travel, meals, books, equipment, and trips. There are two types of bursaries:

- **Vulnerable Student Bursary** – up to £1,200 for young people in care, care leavers, or those receiving certain benefits.
- **Discretionary Bursary** – for students facing financial hardship, awarded by the school based on household income and individual need.

To apply, parents/students should complete the bursary application form (available from the Sixth Form office or school website) and provide supporting evidence. For full details and eligibility, visit: www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund If you have questions or need help with the application, please contact our Sixth Form office.

Lights Required for cyclists: With the darker evenings drawing in, it won't be too long before it is dark at the end of the school day. This is a reminder to all cyclists to ensure your bike is equipped with proper lights. Riding with front and rear lights is not just essential for your safety, but it's also a legal requirement to help you stay visible to others on the road.

Please check:

- **Front Light:** A white light on the front of your bike.
- **Rear Light:** A red light on the back, plus a rear reflector if possible.
- **Visibility Gear:** Consider reflective clothing or accessories to further increase visibility.



Considerate Parking: Thank you for your support and understanding when learning our routines for dropping and collecting students at school, this half term is a busy one and extracurricular clubs and trips are numerous thanks to our dedicated staff. Please **do not use school carparks** for dropping off in the morning or picking up at the end of the school day. The closest collection point is behind the fire station. Cars that attempt to drive in at the end of the day cause congestion and are a hazard. Please remember that this exit is also the main pedestrian exit from the school. If using the local area to park, please be considerate to our neighbours and local community. **Please do not 'drive by' to try and drop off or pick up or use surrounding roads** which get congested. Thank you for your co-operation.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR CONTACT

HAS YOUR CHILD DONE SOMETHING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL THAT DESERVES RECOGNITION?

WE WOULD LIKE TO CELEBRATE IN CONTACT

Send Information & Pictures to: office@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

Spotlight on Wellbeing and Keeping Safe

Please don't forget that staff are here for you and your children, and you can get in touch with Mrs Walford via welfare@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk if you need some support. Parental factsheets on various topics are available on our website under the Safeguarding section, [Parent Fact Sheets \(st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk\)](http://st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

- CHECK FOR OVERHEATING**
Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or left charging. Devices that don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.
- INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES**
Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices can cut the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fire. RCDs should be regularly inspected to ensure they are working properly. Please contact your local council or a qualified electrician for more information.
- AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS**
Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system, which can cause a fire. Avoid using extension leads, which are often overloaded and can be used to connect too many devices to a single outlet.
- POWER BANKS: SAFE USE**
Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can pose a risk if they are not used correctly. Always use a power bank that is certified and has a fire-resistant casing. Avoid using them in hot environments, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they could overheat.
- REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS**
Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, swollen batteries, or devices that are slow to charge are all signs that a device may be faulty. If you notice any of these signs, stop using the device and have it repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.
- UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE**
Encourage children and adults to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.
- USE GENUINE CHARGERS**
Always use chargers suggested by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Avoid using cheap, unbranded chargers, which can be faulty. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor quality chargers and charging cables. Charging cables that show signs of wear or damage should be replaced. Always use chargers that are certified to the correct safety standards.
- WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX**
Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or wet areas. Always ensure that electrical appliances and water sources have proper waterproofing and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.
- KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED**
Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of chargers or devices, and ensure they are kept in a cool, well-ventilated area. Regularly inspect devices for signs of overheating, and replace them if necessary. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fire.
- SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN**
Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it is important to supervise them when they are using devices. Teach them about safe charging practices and remind children never to put objects into electrical sockets.

Meet Our Expert
James Whelan is an expert in health and safety, expert on fire in a Domestic Fire and the Director of Occupational Safety and Health, who provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wakeup_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wakeup.wednesday | @wakeup.weds

Departmental News



Our [Amazon Wishlist!](#) Friends, family and alumni can donate directly to the school library. We still accept preloved copies from home you may wish to donate, but student and departmental requests for library stock can be found here. The book wish list is chosen and updated by the Library team as texts that benefit the student's reading comprehension, engagement with the curriculum and foster an interest in reading. If students have overdue library books, you should have received an overdue notice and may be charged an overdue fee per book via Gateway. To have the overdue notice removed, students can return the book, pay the fee, or replace the missing book with a new copy.

Does your child need somewhere quiet to study with access to a computer to complete extended learning? We currently have two Study Clubs available: Study Club: Monday 3.30-4.30pm in CR3 overseen by Mrs Williams (open to all years). Veritas Mentors: Thursday 1.30-2.25pm in the Year 12 study room. The Veritas mentors idea is based on the plan on having an extended learning support group run by sixth form students who will be on hand to offer support if needed (open to key stage 3 students). Mrs Napper (Enrichment Coordinator)



St Thomas More presents.....

The Great House Christmas Bake-Off

Bake a Christmas themed product – it can either be sweet or savoury (but needs to be suitable to be eaten cold) Bake it at home and bring your product in for judging on **Monday 8th December**. Drop off to the Food Tech room before school and collect after school labelled with your name, form and we ask you to provide the ingredients list with your entry (No nuts to be used in the recipe). Judging will be based on taste, appearance, complexity and theme. Happy Baking 😊 Mrs Napper (Teacher of Food Preparation and Nutrition/Enrichment Coordinator)



St Christopher's School Christmas Party: we were pleased to welcome the students and staff from The St Christopher's School for their annual Christmas party which is traditionally organised by our 6th Form students and lower school helpers. A beautiful occasion, with the school choir and band led by Mr Dixon singing Christmas carols, followed by pass the parcel and a late arrival of Santa Claus himself, to give out presents to each of the students. A big well done to everybody involved and a thank you to all the staff that have helped make this



a lovely occasion.





Alumnus of the Month: [November](#)

Aspire: online resources for all things careers/universities and apprenticeships, great for those not sure of the opportunities after GCSE's (POST 16) and A levels (POST 18). Click to find out more [The Aspire Guide - Flipbook - Page 1](#) (paperturn-view.com)

Connexions Events: a list of 6th Form and colleges open events for 2025/26 can be found [here](#).

[Webinars & Workshops - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

[The Telegraph Media Literacy Programme 2026 :: Telegraph Media Group Jobs](#)



CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

Careers Newsletter can be found [here](#).

Year 11 Road Safety Workshop: “Dead End” Delivers a Powerful Message: On Thursday 27th November

2025, just as Year 11 completed their mock exams, students took part in an inspiring and hard-hitting road safety session delivered by a visiting Road Safety Theatre Group. Their production, titled “**Dead End**,” used gripping true stories and dramatic scenes to highlight the real-world dangers faced by new and young drivers.

“**Dead End**” explored how distractions, peer influence, mobile phones, and momentary lapses in judgement can lead to serious—and sometimes life-changing—consequences. The performance captured students’ attention from the outset, encouraging them to think carefully about the decisions they make both behind the wheel and as passengers.



Following the production, students took part in a **workshop**, where they discussed common causes of road accidents and reflected on ways to keep themselves and others safe. The session allowed them to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and consider practical strategies for responsible road use. The experience was both memorable and meaningful, offering Year 11 vital guidance at a time when many are beginning to think about learning to drive. *‘This was a good way to learn about road safety because it showed what would happen instead of just saying it, and it made me realise the consequences that could occur without having to actually experience them ourselves.’* Year 11 student



Evaluation Results for Dead End:

- A 71% increase in the number of students who could name the 'Fatal Four' – the most common causes of collisions on the roads – after taking part in Dead End.
- 95% of students said Dead End had helped them understand how their behaviour as a driver (or passenger) can contribute to dangerous situations on the road.

A big thank you to Collinwood theatre group for bringing "Dead End" to our school, and well done to Year 11 for engaging so thoughtfully with this important topic. Mrs Lindsay

🔪 St Cecilia's Day Open Mic: Lunchtime Concert a Huge Success! 🎵: On Wednesday 26th November, our

school community came together to celebrate the **feast of St Cecilia**, the patron saint of music, with a vibrant and inspiring **Open Mic event** held at lunchtime. The showcase featured **seven fantastic acts**, each bringing their own flair and impressive talent to the stage. Students performed a wide range of music—from the atmospheric sounds of **Radiohead** to the energetic rhythms of the **Arctic Monkeys**—demonstrating not only their musical skill but also their confidence and passion for performance. Thanks to the generosity of students and staff, the event raised an incredible **£242.57** in support of **CAFOD**, helping to make a positive difference to communities in need around the world. A big **well done** and thank you to the **Year 12 BTEC Music class**, who organised, hosted, and performed in the event with professionalism and enthusiasm. Their hard work ensured the afternoon was both enjoyable and meaningful. We look forward to even more musical celebrations in the future—St Cecilia would be proud! 🎵 Mrs Lindsay



Rovers, United, City and Wanderers played against each other once in a hockey tournament.

The results table is shown on the right:

Team	Win	Draw	Loss	Goals for	Goals against
Rovers	3	0	0	5	0
United	0	2	1	3	6
City	1	1	1	4	4
Wanderers	0	1	2	0	2

What was the score in the match between Rovers and United?



Maths Problem of the Week

Answer to last week's problem: Option E (q/p)

Aviation Club: The Global Innovators' Challenge Poster Competition: The Air League is holding a national poster competition for students aged 11–15. To take part, you'll need to design a creative and eye-catching A3 poster that shows how aviation is becoming more eco-friendly and sustainable.

Your poster should focus on one of these four exciting themes:

1. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF): fuel made from renewable sources like plants, waste materials, or used cooking oil instead of traditional oil.
2. Electric Aircraft: planes powered by batteries instead of jet fuel.
3. Hydrogen Fuel: an energy source first discovered in 1839, now seen by many as a key part of zero-carbon flying.
4. Biomimicry: using nature-inspired designs to create innovative aviation technology.



Our school deadline for entries is Friday, 19th December 2025. Posters will be displayed at the Sustainable Skies World Summit at Farnborough Airport on 17–18 March 2026, where aviation experts will choose the winners. 🏆 Top prize: an exclusive flight experience day at a local airfield! If interested in taking part, please see Mr. Pereira and more info about the competition can be found here: [Global Innovators' Challenge – Poster Competition - Air League](#)

Poetry Corner No.83

Peace

*My Soul, there is a country
Far beyond the stars,
Where stands a winged sentry
All skillful in the wars;
There, above noise and danger
Sweet Peace sits, crown'd with smiles,
And One born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files.
He is thy gracious friend
And (O my Soul awake!)
Did in pure love descend,
To die here for thy sake.
If thou canst get but thither,
There grows the flow'r of peace,
The rose that cannot wither,
Thy fortress, and thy ease.
Leave then thy foolish ranges,
For none can thee secure,
But One, who never changes,
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.*

Henry Vaughan

Yr. 11 Revision Timetable

Welcome back to year 11 after what has been an intense period of examinations and a well-earned long weekend. As we now turn our attention to Christmas and the final few weeks of term, I felt that some reminders and updates would prove useful to you. Students will begin to receive their mock exams back, each department marks differently and a moderation process is also followed so some papers will arrive before others. As soon as papers are ready to be returned to students they will be. In January we will have our Mock Results Day which will allow students to get a sense of what the GCSE process is like on the other end. Revision sessions continue to run and attendance at these sessions should resume to their pre-mock levels. In my experience, I have found this time of year quite challenging emotionally for myriad reasons so if your child is experiencing any stress, anxiety or worry in relation to school life, please do speak to us. A brief notice on school uniform: please ensure students arrive in school in full uniform, if for any reason an article of uniform is missing then a note signed by a parent/guardian must be produced. If there are any other issues pertaining to school uniform please do reach out and we will assist where possible. Finally, attention now turns towards the assessments in the Spring and the work being completed between now and Christmas is of vital importance. Have a wonderful week. Mr West and Mr Dooley



REVISION TIMETABLE 25/26

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8am – 8:30am (speak to teacher for specific time)				
	RC-English E4 JFE-English E7 (Week 1) PGR-RE RE2	ZR- English (sets 7-9) E4	BS- Science Lab 2	GDO -English E1
	LDO-Music listening paper revision-H1	JFE-English E7 (Week 2)		
1:30pm – 1:55pm (speak to teacher for specific time)				
DCO - Media and Film E7	Art-KBA AR3 (Week 2)	DCO - English E7	API - Physics Lab 2	JH-Geography G1 1.45-2.25pm
GRO-RE 2.00-2.25pm RE2	KDO-History H1		AB - Product Design Tec 3	SEM-English E6
JH- Geography G1 1.45pm-2.25pm	LMY - Business BS1	CJC-Computer Science CR5	KDU- English E5	DMA-Maths (Higher Tier grades 7-9) Studio
KAY & KBA Art AR2 & AR3	AMB-Tech Tech 3		Art – KAY AR2	JS-Maths (foundation) M5 1.30pm
			GRO- RE 1.40-2.20pm RE2 (week2)	
			MAR-Further Maths M2	
2pm – 2:25pm (speak to teacher for specific time)				
	API-Physics (double & triple) Lab 2	CJC-Computer Science CR5	MAR-Further Maths- M2	KBA-Art AR3
		SMN-Food Preparation and Nutrition revision/NEA catch up CR6		
After School (speak to teacher for specific time)				
CWI- Spanish- CR3	FLE- Media and Film Coursework MS1	MLO - Maths (set 3) M7	TMI- RE (12mark Clinic) RE3	
	GWE-Geography-G3	GWE-Geography-G3		
	LDX- Music MUS1			
	LMY - Business BS1			
	CJC-Computer Science CR5			

Sports News

Year 8 Basketball Vs Southend: The Year 8's first game of the basketball season was against last years Essex Cup champions, Southend. The first quarter saw us 20-3 down, however, after a quick team talk the boys had taken everything on board. After this, defensively we were very good and we were unlucky to not score more than we did. The game ended 65-43 to Southend, although there were lot of positives to take from this game as we move onto our next match away to Barking Abbey on the 12th December. Special mentions to Matthew for his consistency at getting to the basket and to Tim for his excellent defence.



Yr9 LEE VALLEY INDOOR SCHOOLS CUP: Our Yr9 team finished 4th in this Southeast of England 'A' Final. PB's for Archie and Corban in the 200 and 800 respectively. Ralph and Charlie's jumps went well, and Anthony stepped in at last minute to throw his first competitive Shot put in a final, well done, to this team, who can now look forward to the Tack & field cup Essex championship and Borough athletics in summer.



England vs Argentina Rugby Trip: Thirty students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 13 enjoyed an exciting school trip to watch England take on Argentina in the Quilter Nations Autumn International fixture. The group were treated to an afternoon of excellent rugby, with both teams showcasing impressive skill and determination. In a tense finale, England held on for a dramatic 27-23 victory, giving students a memorable sporting experience. The boys were a credit to themselves and the school throughout the day. An additional thank you to Mr Ackred, Mr Heaton and Mr Evans for their support on the day.



Fixtures

DATE	FIXTURE
8/12/2025	Year 7 Basketball v King John (AWAY) 4:15pm tip off – return 6pm Under 16 Basketball v St Helena's (HOME) 4pm tip off
9/12/2025	SEND Bowling - Leave 9:30am, return 12:30pm Under 16 Basketball v Westcliff High (HOME) 4pm tip off
10/12/2025	1st XI Football v Woodbridge (HOME) 2pm kick off Year 7 Basketball v Redden Court (AWAY) 3:30pm tip off - Leave 2:30pm, return 5:45pm
11/12/2025	Under 15 Basketball v KEGS (AWAY) 4pm tip off – leave 2:45pm, return 6:30pm Year 8 Basketball v Royal Liberty (HOME) 4pm tip off Under 14 Basketball v Barking Abbey (AWAY) 2:30pm tip off - Leave 1:30pm, return 5pm Under 13 Indoor Cricket v Southchurch (AWAY) 12pm start - Leave 11:30am, return 2:30pm
12/12/2025	Under 13 Basketball v Barking Abbey (HOME) 2pm tip off
15/12/2025	Under 13 Basketball v Woodlands (AWAY) 4pm tip off - Leave 3:15pm, return 6pm Under 15 Basketball v King John (HOME) Under 16 Rugby v Westcliff (HOME) 2:30pm
16/12/2025	No Fixtures
17/12/2025	Year 9 Basketball v Redden Court (HOME) 3:45pm tip off
18/12/2025	Year 7 Basketball v Cecil Jones (AWAY) 4:15pm tip off - Return 6pm
19/12/2025	No Fixtures

PE Extra-curricular Timetable – Autumn Term

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7.45 - 8.30 am	Year 7-10 Basketball (RHE)	Year 8/9 Gym (JEN) Rackets Club (All Years) (RHE)	Year 10-13 Gym (SB) Year 7-10 Indoor Athletics (AAC)	Darts Club (All years) (SB) Year 8/9 Futsal (JEN) Year 10-13 Gym (LSH)	Year 11-13 Basketball (SB) Year 10-13 Gym (EK)
1.35 - 2.25pm	All Years Athletics - Back Field (JEN) Year 7 Basketball (JTB) Year 10 Astro (NSP)	Darts Clubs (All years) (SB) Year 10/11 Basketball (RHE/AWI) Year 9 Astro (JTB)	Year 8 Astro (JEN) Year 9 Basketball (SB) Year 9-11 Gym (NSP) Year 7-9 Rugby - Backfield (RHE)	Year 7 Astro (LSH) Year 11 Basketball (AWI)	Year 8 Basketball (JEN) Year 11 Astro (TH)
3.30 - 4.45pm	Year 7 Football - A + B Team (LSH) FIXTURES	Year 12/13 Basketball (SB) Yr7-9 Rugby (AAC & EwM) FIXTURES	Year 8 Football - A + B Team Training (JEN) FIXTURES	Badminton Club (All Years) (SB) FIXTURES	Week 1 - Year 9 'A' Team football training (MH/AH) Week 2 - Year 9 Open football training (MH/AH) Indoor Athletics (AAC) FIXTURES

Extracurricular Timetable – Autumn

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before School	Group Prayer 8.15-8.30am (Chapel) Library 8-8.40am Music Rehearsal Room 8-8.35am (Music 1)	Group Prayer 8.15-8.30am (Chapel) Library 8-8.40am Music Rehearsal Room 8-8.35am (Music 1)	Group Prayer 8.15-8.30am (Chapel) Library 8-8.40am Music Rehearsal Room 8-8.35am (Music 1)	Group Prayer 8.15-8.30am (Chapel) Library 8-8.40am Music Rehearsal Room 8-8.35am (Music 1)	Group Prayer 8.15-8.30am (Chapel) Library 8-8.40am Music Rehearsal Room 8-8.35am (Music 1)
Breaktime	Personal Prayer 1.10-11.25am (Chapel) Library 11.10-11.25am	Personal Prayer 1.10-11.25am (Chapel) Library 11.10-11.25am	Personal Prayer 11.10-11.25am (Chapel) Library 11.10-11.25am	Personal Prayer 11.10-11.25am (Chapel) Library 11.10-11.25am	Personal Prayer 11.10-11.25am (Chapel) Library 11.10-11.25am
Lunchtime	Personal Prayer 1.30-2.25pm (Chapel) Library 1.30-2.25pm Chess Club 1.30-2.25pm (RE3) Anime and Manga Club 2-2.25pm (Library) Aviation Club 2-2.25pm (MFL3) Chaplaincy Games Club Years 7-11 1.35-2.25pm (RE4) Drama Club 2-2.25pm (H3) Warhammer Club 1.40-2.20pm (Lab 1) KS3 Maths Support Club Years 7-8 1:45 – 2:15pm (Tech 4) Minecraft Club Years 7-8 (CR4)	Personal Prayer 1.30-2.25pm (Chapel) Library 1.30-2.25pm History Club 1.30—2pm (RE3) Liturgy Band 1.50pm (Music 1) Latin Club 1-2.25pm Years 7-9: invite only (RE1) Culture Club (Literature, Arts, Culture and Society) Years 10-13 1.30-2pm (E3)	Personal Prayer 1.30-2.25pm (Chapel) Library 1.30-2.25pm The Caritas Team 1.30-2pm (E4) Dungeons and Dragons 1.30-2.25pm (Lab 2) Computer Science Club Years 9-11 1.30–2.30pm (CR5) Junior Rock Band 1.50pm (Music 1)	Personal Prayer 1.30-2.25pm (Chapel) Library 1.30-2.25pm Pokémon Club 1.30-2.25pm (Lab 2) Folk Band 1.50pm (Music 1) Classics Club 2-2.25pm Years 7-9: invite only (RE4) Magic The Gathering Club 2-2.25pm (Library) Chess Club 1.30-2.25pm (RE3) Guardians of the Garden 2-2.25pm Accounting Club Years 11-13 1.30-2pm (BS2) Veritas Mentors 1.30-2.25pm (year 12 study room)	Personal Prayer 1.30-2.25pm (Chapel) Library 1.30-2.25pm Choir 1.50pm (Music 1) Film Club Years 7-10 1.40-2.20pm (BS1) Star Wars Club 2-2.25pm (Library) Bible Study 1.35-2.25pm (RE4) Labrats Years 7-8 1.40-2.25pm (Week 1 Lab 1/ Week 2 Lab 5)
After School	Group Prayer 3.30-3.40pm (Chapel) Library 3.30-4pm Study Club 3.30-4.30pm (CR3)	Group Prayer 3.30-3.40pm (Chapel) Computer Science Club Years 9-11 3.30-4.30pm (CR5)	Group Prayer 3.30-3.40pm (Chapel) Library 3.30-4pm Silver Duke of Edinburgh 3.30-4.45pm (Lab 10) Morley's music lessons	Group Prayer 3.30-3.40pm (Chapel) Library 3.30-4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Holy Hour) 3.50-4.40pm (Chapel) Morley's music lessons	Group Prayer 3.30-3.40pm (Chapel) Library 3.30-4pm Senior Rock Band 3.30-4.30pm (Music 1)

Note: Clubs with no mention of year groups are open to all year groups