



**CLAIRE'S COURT**  
**SENIOR BOYS**

# Weekly Bulletin

## 20 MARCH (SPRING TERM WEEK 10)

### FROM THE OFFICE

#### Principal's Blog

Please read the latest blog from Mr Wilding here: ["Beyond the Digital Wilderness: Finding Our "Rat Park" in the Age of AGI."](#)

#### PTA Nearly New Uniform Sale - Monday 23 March

Thank you so much to those who have donated nearly new uniform - all monies raised from the sale will go directly to the PTA so we appreciate your donations. The sale will take place in the Dining Room from 3.30pm - 4.30pm on Monday 23 March. If you need any extra sports kit or uniform for the summer term please do pop along and note that it is card payment only. Please do not park in school as coaches will be arriving back for the end of the school day, but instead please park considerately for our neighbours on the surrounding roads.

#### Charity Week - Thank you!

Thank you to all who supported Charity Week through baking cakes, buying cakes, eating cakes, donating to the raffle, buying raffle tickets, walking, rowing etc. Any outstanding sponsorship money can be paid in via the [Payment Portal](#) or handed into Form Tutors by the end of term please. Please note the amount is set as £1 so you can personalise the value to the amount of sponsorship raised by typing the total amount in the 'Quantity Required' box. Year groups have so far raised the following amounts with hopefully plenty more to come in:

- B7 Cakes - £123.60
- B8 Sponsored Walk - £109
- B9 Rowathon - £129
- B11 Raffle - tbc



## **Seniors and Sixth Form School Spring Concert**

College Avenue Hall was the setting for a fantastic evening of music at our Seniors and Sixth Form Spring Concert. The programme showcased the breadth of talent across the school, featuring performances from Senior Boys and Senior Girls Voices, the Joint Ensemble, The Jalapenos, the Sixth Form Band, and the Claires Court House Band, alongside several exceptional soloists. The evening was particularly significant as it marked the final Claires Court performance for many of our Year 13 musicians. We thank them for their years of dedication to the Music department and wish them the very best. Thank you to the many families and staff who joined us to support our performers. The Photo Highlights Album can be found [here](#).

## **Rugby U15 National Vase Final**

It was a historic afternoon for Claires Court rugby as our U15 boys competed in the Continental Tyres Schools National Vase final at Trailfinders Sports Club. While the match ended in a 32-19 defeat to Wirral Grammar, becoming National Runners-Up is a monumental achievement for our school. Special mention must go to Frank Voster-Davidson, who put in a phenomenal performance to score all three of our tries. Director of Rugby, Simon Carter, noted that reaching a national final is a massive feat for a year group of just 50 boys. We are incredibly proud of the squad and Mr. Bolton for a season that has rewritten the school's record books. Thank you to the many families, staff, and students who formed the Guard of Honour to usher them on the bus, travelled to Ealing or watched the live screening to support the boys.

## **Interactive School Stories Awards**

Claires Court recently earned two Bronze awards at the Interactive School Stories Awards, an event celebrating digital storytelling in schools. Congratulations to the Library team and therapy dog Derek for their success in the '[Best Pets Story](#)' category, and to Mrs Ainsley from the Nursery for her award-winning reel capturing our [pupils' return from Forest School](#). These awards are a wonderful reflection of the authentic community life that defines our school.

## **Meningitis Outbreak**

Please find [important information for parents/carers](#) from NHS Berkshire Healthcare about the recent meningitis outbreak in Kent. Information will be shared as it becomes available via the [Gov.uk website](#) which has the latest updated guidance from the UKHSA.

## **Does Your Child Suffer with Hayfever?**

Hayfever medication should be commenced at least 2-4 weeks before your symptoms usually begin to achieve maximum effectiveness. For most people this means starting treatment in early Spring (March). Using medication before coming into contact with pollen helps stop the release of histamine, which triggers the symptoms. Hayfever, if poorly controlled, can be very disruptive to your child's day, especially for Year 11's sitting their GCSE's. Timings are as follow:

- Tree Pollen: start early March
- Grass Pollen: start mid-March - April

Please ensure your child takes their chosen medication every day before school.

## **Rewards and Sanctions email**

You should have received an email from your son's Form Tutor yesterday sharing details of any rewards and sanctions your son has received in the last seven days. If you did not receive this, please check in your junk/spam folder and add the tutor's email address to your 'safe sender' list.

## New Holiday Club Partner Announcement

Starting this Easter, Claires Court is excited to partner with Let's Leap Holiday Camps to offer an enriched, high-energy activity programme for children aged 3–12 at our Juniors (Ridgeway) site. While Let's Leap introduces new activities like electric go-karting, laser tag, and zorb football, Claires Court will continue to run its own dedicated childcare provision for children aged 3–8 at our College Avenue site. Families can enjoy an introductory 10% discount on Let's Leap bookings by using the promo code CCJ10. For full details on activities, pricing, and to secure your spot, please book directly via our [website](#).



## Claire's Court SchoolTV - **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED RESOURCE**

Please make use of this valuable resource - [Claire's Court SchoolTV](#) - available to all our parents. Because parenting doesn't come with instructions, SchoolTV is a wellbeing resource that can support you in the challenges relating to modern-day parenting. This award-winning resource helps build relationships, foster connections, enable understanding and break down barriers to navigate a pathway towards better mental health and wellbeing for young people.

## New, news, news!

Take a look here..... <https://bit.ly/40qgNjs> at our fantastic media wall on the school website where we collate all the stories from across the school. There are stories from Instagram, Facebook and Twitter plus photo albums from Flickr which can all be filtered by year group/activity/event.

## YEAR GROUP FORTHCOMING DATES

### ALL YEAR GROUPS

Please see our website [calendar](#) for this term's dates, which will be updated when new events and dates are confirmed.

## **YEAR 8 ONLY**

### **Scientific Calculator - for the Summer Term**

Pupils in Year 7 and 8 currently complete non-calculator work in Mathematics, but the IGCSE examination papers are both calculator only, so in the last term of Year 8 we like to start looking at calculator skills and topics which require a calculator. With this in mind, your son will need a scientific calculator for their Maths lessons from Easter onwards. Our strong recommendation is that the best calculator for the IGCSE studies is the Casio FX-83GT CW+ as it has the best functionality and ease of input for pupils.

## **YEAR 9 ONLY**

### **Bronze DofE First Aid and Skills Training Day - Sunday 22 March**

For pupils on our **Internal** Bronze DofE programme (canoeing & walking) please find the [Bronze DofE First Aid and Skills Training Day letter](#) taking place at the Senior Boys school on Sunday 22 March. Key points to note:

- Arrive 8.45am, collection 4pm (SL6 8TE)
- Bring packed lunch / drinks / medication
- Wear warm clothing for outdoors & suitable for practical activities
- Emergency contact number 07597 476917

## **YEAR 10 ONLY**

### **Year 10 Exam Support Drop-in - Monday 23 March**

Mr Richards will be holding a short virtual meeting 6pm Monday 23 March to support Year 10 in getting ready for their forthcoming exams. The topics will include what/when/how to revise and strategies for success. The session is expected to last approximately half an hour and there will be the opportunity for questions at the end. We advise that your son also attends this online session with you if possible so that he can benefit from the topics discussed. For those unable to attend the session will be recorded and shared along with the presentation slides. The MEET link was emailed out on Tuesday so if you did not receive it please check your junk/spam folder.

### **Year 10 Mock Examination Timetable**

Please find the proposed [Year 10 Mock Examination Timetable](#) for the summer term taking place 17 - 25 June, excluding Wednesday 24 June.

### **English Language IGCSE Revision Booklet**

With the IGCSE English Examination fast approaching it is vital that pupils are organising their revision time effectively. Please find a [Revision Booklet](#) which has also been shared with Year 10 pupils to guide them in the best practical use of their time. Revision should be active, specific, visual and not easy. May we kindly ask you to discuss this with your son and support him with his revision in preparation for Thursday 21 May.

### **Exam Regulations Booklet**

Please find the [Exam Regulations Booklet](#) that we kindly ask that you read this booklet carefully as it contains important information that you will need to know for the English Language GCSE examination in the summer. Please keep a copy for future reference as any questions you may have are likely to be answered within.

## **YEAR 11 ONLY**

### **Year 11 Exam Support Evening**

Thank you to those who joined Mr Richards and Mrs Ruddick on Monday evening, please find the [presentation slides](#) and [recording](#) of the session for your reference.

## Year 11 Form and Year Group Photographs

The photographs taken this morning will be available to purchase via [Classpicks](#) and should be populated by Friday evening, but if not then over the weekend. Orders placed **before** the last day of term will be in school for collection on the last day. Otherwise the deadline to order for free delivery to school is 29 April for collection 1 May. There is, of course, still a postal option after that date if required. We hope you will be delighted with the images and that they give you a valuable memento of your son's time in Year 11 at Claires Court Senior Boys.

## B11 Leavers Hoodies

Ordering is now live for the B11 Leavers Hoodies via [Hawkinsport](#). There are sample sizes available in school to try on during Form Tutor time or from the office during the day. All orders placed **before 9am Monday 30 March** will be delivered free of charge to school at the start of the Summer term. Please note that the names for personalisation will be checked by Miss Mirza and anything deemed unsuitable will be changed to your son's first name.

## Thorpe Park - Tuesday 23 June - book ticket/coach by 17 April

Year 11s are invited to [Thorpe Park](#) on Tuesday 23 June to celebrate the end of their GCSE's. To confirm your child's place please **EITHER** pay £20 for a ticket via the Payment Portal **OR** complete [Annual Pass Form](#) to book a seat on the coach **by Friday 17 April**.

## Year 11 Prom - Wednesday 24 June

The [Year 11 Prom](#) will be held at Moor Hall in Cookham (SL6 9QH) on Wednesday 24 June. Tickets are priced £25 and are now 'bookable' via the [Payment Portal](#). The **deadline to purchase tickets is Friday 1 May**, so ensure payment is received by then. Parents are invited to a drinks reception on arrival at 6.30pm. After parents depart at 7.30pm there will be dinner and a disco for pupils. Carriages 10pm, but no earlier than 9pm please.



## **MFL Revision Session GCSE Speaking Exams - Thursday 26 March**

The Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department will be running a **revision session** to help pupils prepare for their upcoming **speaking exams** scheduled for Wednesday 22 and Friday 24 April. The revision session will be held on **Thursday 26 March from 9am - 12 midday**. This will be a valuable opportunity for pupils to practise their speaking skills and receive targeted support ahead of the assessment. Please complete this [MFL Revision Attendance Form](#) to let us know whether your son will be attending this session or not. Please note **dual linguists** will need to select which **one language** they want to attend the revision session for.

## **Year 11 Art Day - Tuesday 14 April**

Year 11 Art pupils are invited into school on Tuesday 14 April to work on their component 2 Art project in preparation for the 10 hour exam days on the 23 and 24 April. Please complete this [form](#) to indicate whether your son will be attending so that we know who will be on site at Senior Boys. The day will run from 9am until 3pm. Pupils will need to bring with them snacks and food for the day as the canteen will not be in operation.

## **Examination Dates & Booklet**

Please find a generic copy of the [GCSE Written Examination Timetable](#) noting that all pupils need to be available all day for Contingency Day on Wednesday 24 June. Confirmed dates for the Practical Examinations are:

- Drama Practical Exam - **CHANGE OF DATE** - NOW 17 April
- MFL Speaking Exams (German & French) - 22 April (P2/3)
- Art Exam - 23 and 24 April
- MFL Speaking Exams (Spanish & French) - 24 April (P4/5)
- PE - Monday 27 April

Please also find the [Exam Regulations Booklet](#) which we kindly ask that you read carefully as it contains important information that you will need to know for the GCSE Examination period. Please keep a copy for future reference as any questions you may have are likely to be answered within.

## **Year 11 Useful Links**

[Revision Calendar Template](#)

[GCSE Subject Directory](#)

[Claire's Court GCSE handbook](#)

[Work Experience letter](#)

[Year 11 Drop-In Timetable](#)

# **TRIP INFORMATION**

## **CCF Annual Camp 'Exercise Southern Fire' (21 - 26 June)**

Please find the [letter](#) emailed home to parents yesterday of our current Y9-13 CCF Cadets and note that the deadline for the payment via the [Payment Portal](#) of £50 is **Wednesday 25 March**.

## **Hazewinkel Rowing Camp (26 March - 2 April)**

Please find the [final letter](#) for Hazewinkel Rowing Camp containing departure/return details, kit list, money/food requirements etc.

### **Ski Trip (28 March - 4 April)**

Please note the amended departure time in the [Ski Information document](#). Any further changes to trip times/plans will be made in these [presentation slides](#).

### **German Day Goethe Institute - Thursday 23 April**

Please find the [letter](#) regarding the Year 10 GCSE German Language trip to London on Thursday 23 April. The cost of the trip is £35 and is available to pay via our [Payment Portal](#) by Monday 9 March please.

### **Turkey Watersports Trip (20 - 27 October 2026)**

A few spaces have become available on our October half term watersports trip to Turkey. Please find a copy of the [original letter](#) sent out in September. If you would like any further information or if your child is interested in participating please contact the Outdoor Education team via [outdoored@clairescourt.net](mailto:outdoored@clairescourt.net). For those already booked on the trip the payment schedule can be found in the [second letter](#).

## **DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION**

### **'Of the Month'**

Please find our **March 'Of the month'** containing interesting facts and information for your perusal! Today is the [Spring Equinox](#), the astronomical event that marks the moment the sun crosses the celestial equator, providing roughly equal daylight and darkness worldwide and signalling the official start of spring and warmer weather.

### **Linguists of the Week**

In Y9 & Y10 French for completing great extension work

Max L, Jay S, Jacques A, William B, Nathaniel W, Seb B, Luke B, Jacob T, Matthieu M, Sam B-S, Toby W

### **Mathematicians of the Week**

Year 7 - Hugo F, Harry H

Year 8 - Oscar B, Rory Mc, Zac G

Year 9 - Finlay M, Oliver W, Harry R

Year 10 - Ben T, George L

Year 11 - Cole K, Toby C, Sam R

### **Scientists of the Week**

Year 10 - Oscar O, Ben H and Laurence M for excellent designs with magnets and Lego

### **Sparx Reader of the Week**

Year 7 - Daniel TB

Year 8 - Guy H

### **Accelerated Reader of the Week**

Year 7 - Alex H

Year 8 - Monty G

Year 9 - Benedict B and Oliver G

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Reporting Absences

A reminder that if your son is unwell or unable to attend school due to medical/dental appointments, please let the School Office know by 9.30am on each day of absence by one of the following means (in order of preference).....

1. 'Absence Reporting' on the [Report Portal](#)
2. Email to [seniorboys@clairescourt.net](mailto:seniorboys@clairescourt.net)
3. Telephone to 01628 327600

Other absences during term time will need to be requested using the [Term Time Absence Request Form](#). Whilst we may 'approve' these absences they will invariably be recorded as 'unauthorised' due to the strict Department for Education guidelines to which we adhere.

## Please find below other links that you may find useful....

- [Payment Portal](#)
- [Sports Website](#)
- [Coach Booking](#)
- [Chromebook Policy](#)
- [Claire's Court SchoolTV](#)
- [CC Administration of Medicine Request Form](#)

