



**CLAIRES COURT**  
**SENIOR BOYS**

## Weekly Bulletin

**17 JANUARY 2025 (SPRING TERM WEEK 2)**

### **Parent Survey**

As expected of independent schools within the UK, we are required both to complete surveys by the Department for Education and the Independent Schools Council (ISC) at this time of year. In addition, we also make use of the Independent Schools Inspectorate questionnaire to survey the views of our own parents and guardians, and we keep to the same format (with some minor tweaks as requested in previous surveys) so we can compare year on year the views and contributions that surface during the survey. The survey will be sent early next week and will be open until Friday 31 January 8pm, after which we will take stock and check then use that feedback to aid our plans for the future.

### **VAT Update**

Our preparations for the imposition of VAT on tuition fees from January have not been assisted by the pace at which HMRC and schools have had to work. ISBA are representing our sector in those discussions, and over the next weeks, we hope full clarity will emerge to assist us in our longer term planning too. As you may recall, ISC and other groups have called for Judicial review of the imposition of this new tax on independent school tuition fees, and preliminary hearings commence shortly. As news emerges, we will of course keep parents and guardians informed. James Wilding

### **Principal's Blog**

Please read Mr Wilding's new blog for this week: ["Everything that needs to be said has already been said. But since no-one was listening, everything must be said again"](#).  
[André Gide](#)

## **FROM THE OFFICE**

### **Lions Club Swimarathon**

Claire's Court had a wonderful representation at the Lions Club Swimarathon event held at Braywick leisure centre last Sunday. With six lanes of the pool, Claire's Court completed a total of 369 laps (= 738 lengths) in our allotted 50 minutes. Juniors swam 57 laps (boys) and 63 (girls), Senior Girls 59 laps, Senior Boys (assisted by teachers and the Potter family) 78 laps, Year 12 58 laps and Year 13 54 laps. So far the sponsorship raised by Claire's Court is £1240 (and to which gift aid will be added) and this is still increasing. Further donations can still be made via <https://www.justgiving.com/page/clairescourt2025>. This money will be shared

between Maidenhead Lions Club local charities and our school's charity choice of Thames Hospice. Thank you to all the pupils and teachers who participated or supported and all the people who have sponsored them.

### **Tub-2-Pub**

If you still have any remnants of Christmas in the form of empty plastic sweet/cracker tubs please do bring them to school to be recycled raising funds for MacMillan Cancer Support. Head of Outdoor Education Mr Wragg will be taking them to his local GREENE KING establishment, deadline Monday 10 February 2025. More information can be found at [Tub2pub.co.uk](http://Tub2pub.co.uk).



**TUB-2-PUB**



**Leave your plastic tubs  
in the School Office**

Tubs will be recycled by Greene King pubs, which in turn raises funds for Macmillan Cancer Support!

*"Tens of millions of plastic tubs containing our festive favourite treats are sold each year. Following the success of last year's Tub2Pub collection scheme, we've partnered with co-Cre8 once again to recycle these empty tubs to help the environment and raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support." -Greene King Tub-2Pub Scheme*

**Full details at [tub2pub.co.uk](http://tub2pub.co.uk)**  
**Final Collections Monday 10 Feb 2025**

Thank You, Mr Wragg  
(Head of Outdoor Education)



### **Reminder - Friday Morning Run Club**

It's that time of year when people are trying to start new habits and get back in shape. So in the hope of supporting that, a reminder about our weekly run club that happens every Friday morning for staff and pupils. This is open to everyone, you don't have to be a seasoned runner to get involved, in fact you don't even have to run it, but it's an opportunity every week to train at a set time with a good group of people. This [Consent Form](#) will need to be completed prior to participating.

- **When:** Every Friday morning 7.20am arrival for a 7.30am (sharp!) start
- **Where:** Starting and finishing from outside the Senior Boys' reception
- **Distance:** Choose between a 3.5km ([Sheep](#)) or 5km route ([Double Sheep](#))

### **New, news, news!**

Take a look here..... <https://bit.ly/40ggNjs> 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.

# FORTHCOMING DIARY DATES & INFORMATION

## YEAR 7 ONLY

### Theatre Trip "Pig Heart Boy" - Wednesday 5 February

Please find the [Year 7 English trip letter](#) to see Malorie Blackman's Pig Heart Boy at the Unicorn Theatre. School uniform should be worn and pupils will need a nut free packed lunch/drink.

### B7 Parents Evening - Wednesday 5 February

**\*SAVE THE DATE\*** Further information to follow.

## YEAR 9 ONLY

### B9 Immunisations Consent Form

Please complete a YES or NO Consent Form using school code BK110153B at your earliest convenience. You will need your son's NHS number which can be requested here if not known. Further information can be found in the following publications:

- [Letter](#)
- Leaflet for Secondary School Vaccinations
- Meningitis ACWY leaflet
- Teenage 3-in-1 booster

### B9 Parents Evening - Thursday 13 February

**\*SAVE THE DATE\*** Further information to follow.

## YEAR 10 ONLY

### Year 10 English Language Mock Exam - Tuesday 11 February

In preparation for the GCSE examination in the Summer, Year 10 will be sitting another English Language Mock Examination on the morning of Tuesday 11 February. This will replace normal lessons on that morning. We will be preparing for this in class, but students should be encouraged to revise and prepare for this at home as well.

### Year 10 Geography Trip to Margam Park - 20-22 March 2025

Please find the [Margam Park Geography trip letter](#) taking place 20-22 March 2025, where boys will undertake fieldwork to collect data for their paper 3 Geographical Investigations. The [consent form](#) should be completed and the non-refundable £360 [payment](#) made by Friday 28 February 2025.

## YEAR 11 ONLY

### Year 11 Reports - Friday 17 January

Year 11 Full Reports were emailed home to parents today and will also be available on the [Report Portal](#).

### **\* NEW DATE \*** Exam Preparation Evening - 6.30pm Monday 20 January

Mr Richards will be hosting an online 'Exam Preparation Evening' at 6.30pm on Monday 20 January. The meeting will last approx. 30 minutes and will provide you with information on what to expect in the coming months and how you can support your child's GCSE exam preparation. Please join with your camera and mic turned off. The meeting will be recorded and shared via the Bulletin for anyone unable to attend.

## **B11 Coursework Evening (online) - Tuesday 21 January**

Parents of selected pupils have been invited to book an online appointment to discuss Art, Design & Technology, Food and/or Music coursework on Tuesday 21 January. These appointments are for those pupils who teachers feel would benefit from additional support with their coursework at this stage. The appointments will be held virtually via [schoolcloud](#) and can be booked in advance with booking closing 7am Monday 20 January.

## **Year 11 English Literature Mock Exam - Tuesday 11 February**

As we were unable to run a full English Literature exam during the Mocks last term due to where we were in the teaching of the course content, we will be running another English Literature Mock Examination for students in Year 11. This will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 11 February and will replace their normal lessons that afternoon. We will be preparing for this in class, but students should be encouraged to revise and prepare for this at home as well.

## **Year 11 GCSE PE Practical Mock Moderation - Friday 14 February**

## **Year 11 GCSE Food Technology Practical Exams - 5-7 March**

The Food Technology Practical Exams will be taking place on Wednesday 5, Thursday 6 and Friday 7 March, and boys have been allocated to one of these three sessions.

## **Year 11 Parents Evening - Wednesday 19 March**

A full Parents Evening will be held in person in school for all pupils and parents, covering all subjects, on Wednesday 19 March.

## **B11 Subject Drop-in Sessions**

Year 11 teachers will be running weekly drop-in sessions according to this [timetable](#), so if your son has any questions that arise from his revision or requires help in these subjects please encourage him to come along and make the most of this resource.

# **DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION**

## **Root of the Week**

A reminder about 'Root of the Week' where pupils learn one new word root and its meaning each week, along with examples of words containing that root in an attempt to increase vocabulary and comprehension.

- The root this week was '**Non**' meaning '**not**'
- Example words: nonfiction, nonexistent, nonsense, nondescript

# **Non**

**Origin:** Latin

**Meaning:** Not

### **Examples:**

Nonfiction

Nonexistent

Nonsense

Nondescript

## **Linguists of the Week**

In Y9 French for great work on family relationships:

Toby W, Louis C, Ewan G, Luke B, Seb B, Jacob T, Seb S

## **Mathematicians of the Week**

Year 7 - Zach G

Year 8 - Leon H

Year 9 - Varan PA

Year 10 - Aaron R

## **Scientists of the Week**

Year 9 - Mac HS for excellent work on atomic structure

Year 9 - Ben T and Aaron R for working exceptionally well during their core practical

Year 10 - Josh B-P for excellent focus in Physics

## **Sparx Reader of the Week**

Year 7 - Robert S (7D)

Year 8 - Thomas K (8D)

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **Term Time Absence**

Please see our [Attendance and Holidays in Term Time Policy](#) noting that absence for holidays is not encouraged during term time and will not normally be authorised for the first or last week of any term. If you do wish the headteacher to review a request please complete the [Request for Term Time Absence Form](#).

## **Sickness Absence**

Please report all absences daily to the school office before 9.30am either via the [Report Portal](#) (accessible via the Parents page of our [website](#)), by email to [seniorboys@clairescourt.com](mailto:seniorboys@clairescourt.com) or 01628 327600.

## **Medical/Dental Appointments**

Please notify the school office at least 24 hours prior to the appointment via email to [seniorboys@clairescourt.com](mailto:seniorboys@clairescourt.com). We would also ask where possible that appointments are made outside of school hours or during school holidays.

## **Medication**

Any medication should be handed into the school accompanied by the [CC Administration of Medicine Request Form](#) for nurses to administer.

## **Illness and Games afternoons**

If your son is unable to play sport, he is expected to accompany his year group to games and will be given an alternative role. Permission for non-attendance at games afternoons can only be signed off by the nurses ([Medical-CC@clairescourt.net](mailto:Medical-CC@clairescourt.net)) or the Director of Sport, Mr Carter ([sic@clairescourt.net](mailto:sic@clairescourt.net)).

