

FRIDAY 28 MARCH - Week 11

James Wilding Blog

Read the latest blog, <u>"In an era of 'fake news' the role of trained and</u> professional journalists has never been more important."

FROM THE OFFICE.....

As this is the last bulletin of the Spring Term the office would like to wish you all a lovely `End of Term' Break.



Remember the clocks go forward 1 hour on Sunday 30 March! Happy Mothering Sunday to all our Mums, Nans and Grandmothers - have a lovely day!

IMPORTANT EOT INFORMATION - please read

End of Spring Term w/c Monday 31 March

Early buses, **Early Finish 4pm all week**, No Study or Activities **Tuesday 2 April** - Non Uniform Day £2 in support of Autism Awareness **Thursday 3 April - Last day of term is a full day of lessons ending at 4pm** EOT letter will be emailed home

Friday 4 April - Reports/Grade Cards

These will be emailed home and will be available to view on the Report Portal

Start of Summer Term Wednesday 23 April

Please note that it is Early Buses, Early Finish at 4pm with No Study or Activities Wednesday 23 April and Thursday 24 April with the normal Friday finish. All Activities/Study Clubs/Late Buses commence **Monday 28 April**

Our App is temporarily unavailable

Unfortunately our school app is experiencing technical issues that are out of our control. We hope that it's back up and running by early next week.

Potential traffic disruption - Cookham

Cadent gas works have been granted a licence from the Highways agency to undertake major works on Sutton Road, Cookham. This is the main route many of our buses take to get to/from school and the route you may take your child/ren to school. They plan to carry out this work in phases from 31 March- 6 June. We will aim to minimise any disruption to our coach routes where we can but suggest you allow extra time for your journey to school if you go that way.

ISC's legal challenge re. VAT on school tuition fees

The Independent Schools Council (ISC) Board voted in October to begin legal action over the government's decision to introduce VAT on independent school fees. Before the Christmas break, families supported by the ISC filed a judicial review claim in the High Court of England and Wales and, in January, it was agreed that this legal action should be fast tracked. The defendant to the claim is the chancellor, Rachel Reeves, as the minister responsible for the Treasury. The court case backed by the ISC will be heard in the High Court next week, from 1 - 3 April. Please find an <u>FAQs document</u> to answer some of the most common questions about the upcoming hearing.

Additional Transport Route

We are exploring the introduction of new school bus routes from Bracknell (starting September 2025) and Hillingdon (starting September 2026). If you are interested, please contact Vectare by today **Friday 28 March** via the <u>'Contact</u> <u>Us'</u> form and select 'Express interest in additional transport routes'. Please note that if we do not receive sufficient demand, we will not be able to run the route.

Autism Awareness Day - Wednesday 2 April Non Uniform Day

Autism Awareness Day aims to raise awareness, promote acceptance and advocate for inclusion of autistic people. There will be an assembly on Monday 31 March to increase understanding of Autism and on **Wednesday 2 April girls can contribute £2** to wear their own clothes and raise money to support the work of these charities (payable via the payment portal, or in cash to form tutors).

Whole School Photograph - Thursday 24 April

The school photographer, Tempest, will be in on **Thursday 24 April**, to take the senior girls' whole school photograph (sometime between 11.30am-12.30pm). Full school uniform including blazers, hair tied back off face, tights minus holes in them and smiles please. We will let parents know how and when you can view and order the photograph from Tempest.

Charity Week Money Raised Update

We have so far raised a total of \pounds 412 for Thames Hospice with money still to be counted. Thank you to everyone for their support.

Uniform Expectations

Please may we remind you and our pupils of our uniform expectations:

• Skirt to be on the knee.

- Hair to be of natural colour, and in a ponytail and off the face if below shoulder length.
- Pupils can wear up to two pairs of plain silver or gold stud earrings in each ear of maximum diameter 3mm, one per earlobe. Cartilage and nose piercings are not allowed. No further jewellery is permitted.
- Make up is not allowed in Year 7-9 and only light, discreet makeup is allowed in Years 10 and 11.
- Pupils may wear a Claires Court branded coat to and from school and also through the school day over your blazer through the colder months.
- If their coat is not a Claires Court branded coat then they can wear it to and from school but it must be put away in their locker once arrived.

Reporting Sickness/Medication/Holiday Requests

Sickness/Medical Appointments: Please report all absences daily to the school office before **9.30am** either via the <u>Report Portal</u> (accessible via the Parents page of our <u>website</u>), by email <u>seniorgirls@clairescourt.com</u> or 01628 327500. For medical appointments we would appreciate 24 hours notice, where possible, so that the office can inform the teaching staff if a pupil has to leave a lesson early or is missing in the morning due to an appointment.

Medication: Any medication must be handed into the school office together with a completed <u>Administration of Medicine Request Form</u>. Both will be given to the nursing team to keep and administer.

Holidays: For holiday requests please complete the <u>Term Time Holiday Request</u> <u>Form</u>.

Sparx Reader of the Week



Friday 28 March - the winners this week are: Year 7 Amelie W Year 8 Olivia D

Accelerated Reader of the Week



Friday 28 March - well done to the following girls: Year 7 Izzy M-C Year 8 Martha

News, News, News!

Take a look here..... <u>https://bit.ly/40qgNjs</u> 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 INFORMATION/LETTERS/TRIPS......

Reminders below but please do look at the school calendar

Belgium Choir Tour - October half term

Belgium Choral Music Tour letter 18 - 21 October for pupils currently in Years 7-12. To secure a place, a non-refundable £350 deposit is required via the Payment Portal.

Hazewinkel Training Camp 5-12 April

Please find the <u>final letter</u> for the Rowing Training Camp with details of final payment, departure/return times/locations, kit list, consent forms, ground rules.

YEAR 8

Year 8 HPV Immunisations - Monday 28 April

The NHS Immunisation Team will be visiting school on **Monday 28 April** to offer Year 8s their Human Papillomavirus vaccination. Please complete a YES or NO Consent form using school code **BK110153G** before the end of term. Please only submit one form per child and if you are unsure if you have completed a form please check your emails for communication from Cinnamon Digital. Further information can be found in the links following:

- Letter
- Leaflet
- Information

Year 8 Sponsored Fancy Dress Walk

Sponsorship money raising funds for <u>Thames Hospice</u> should be paid preferably electronically via the <u>Payment Portal</u> or by cash handed into form tutors by the end of term please and thank you.

Scientific Calculator - for the Summer Term

Currently, our students in Year 7 and 8 complete non-calculator work in Mathematics, but the IGCSE examinations papers are both calculator only, and 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 daughter will need a scientific calculator for her Maths lessons from Easter. Our strong recommendation is that the best calculator for their IGCSE studies is the Casio FX-83GTCW, as it has the best functionality and ease of input for pupils.

YEAR 10

Year 10 GCSE Business Trip - payment by Monday 31 March

Please find shared the GCSE Business Trip Letter 2025 for Year 10 pupils taking place on Monday 30 June. To confirm your child's place on this trip to the Warner Brothers Studios, please pay the non-refundable £45 via the Payment Portal by **Monday 31 March.**

YEAR 11 please find lots of information for our Year 11 Senior Girls and Parents below......

Year 11 Form Group Photographs - Friday 28 March

We will inform parents by email when they are available to view you can order the photographs

Reminder GCSE PE Moderation - Monday 31 March

Year 11 Exam Support Evening - 6pm Monday 31 March

Mr Richards will be hosting another short online meeting on Monday 31 March where he will talk about support for the forthcoming examination period and final arrangements in school. This will be followed by a Q&A session. The MEET link will be emailed to you in advance of the evening.

Year 11 Prom/Thorpe Park/Hoodies - payment deadline 4 April

Please note the deadline to make payment for the <u>Year 11 Prom</u>, <u>Thorpe Park</u> and <u>Leavers Hoodies</u> is Friday 4 April and we regret we cannot accept any late request for tickets/orders. Those who have not paid for one or more of these items have been emailed a reminder this morning. If you do not wish to attend/order any of these, please complete this form so that we do not keep sending you reminders!

Year 11 Music Coursework Day - Friday 4 April

For those who have confirmed their attendance at the Music Coursework 'Catch-up and Complete' day on Friday 4 April please arrive at 9.30am, bring a packed lunch and make collection arrangements for 3.30pm.

GCSE Examination Timetable

Please find the generic written timetable <u>here</u>. Pupils have received a personalised timetable from their Form Tutor.

GCSE Subject Directory 2024/25

Please find <u>details here</u> regarding the various subjects/exam board/coursework deadlines/exam dates. You will also find a link to the GCSE handbook on the document.

'Drop In' GCSE Clinics

Please find the Year 11 GCSE Clinic Timetable here.

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