

# FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2025 AUTUMN TERM WEEK 10

#### PRINCIPAL'S BLOG

Please read the latest blog from Mr Wilding here, <u>"Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths" – Arnold Schwarzenegger</u>

#### FROM THE OFFICE

# PTA QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER - only 2 tables remaining!

Last chance to <u>buy tickets or a table</u> for this unmissable Quiz Night hosted by our brilliant Quizmasters, Mr Richards and Mrs O'Clee, taking place 6-8pm at College Avenue. For those that have bought tickets, there will be a bar run by the PTA selling refreshments and remember to bring your own snacks, picnic dinner or takeaway.



#### SCHOOL CLOSURE

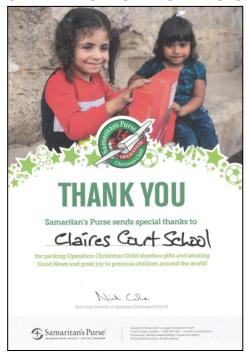
Following the flurry of snow we saw on Wednesday morning, a reminder that if school is closed due to weather conditions or any other reason, an announcement will be posted on our website, so please check there as your main source of information. Depending on the circumstance for the closure we will also communicate via text message or email and separate communications will be sent directly from Vectare regarding coach operation.

#### **DROP-IN FLU CLINICS - VARIOUS DATES**

NHS Berkshire Health will be holding drop-in flu clinics for those who missed the school immunisations at Foundation House, Windsor at the times shown below:



#### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES**



A very **BIG** thank you to all the pupils, parents and staff who donated a shoe box of goodies to school in support of the Operation Christmas Child project which our Head Girls, Ava and Chloe, organised - Mrs Ruddick very kindly took all 100 boxes on Monday this week to the drop off point in Maidenhead.

#### HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER CANCELLED

Please note that hockey development on Friday 28 November at Altwood School has been cancelled due to their school closure on that day.

#### **DINING ROOM SPEND**

The default daily spending limit for Seniors has been increased to £10 as a result of the recent catering price increase. If you would like to increase this further, please contact the school office via <a href="mailto:seniorgirls@clairescourt.net">seniorgirls@clairescourt.net</a>

# Claires Court SchoolTV - HIGHLY RECOMMENDED RESOURCE, TAKE A LOOK - Claires Court SchoolTV

Please make use of this valuable resource 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.

#### PTA NEARLY NEW UNIFORM SALE DATES

All Nearly New Sales are on a **Monday morning from 8am-9am** and take place just inside the Atrium entrance. Payment is by card only and **NOT** cash. Please see below the next two sale dates at Senior Girls:

- 1 December 2025
- 12 January 2026

If you are having a pre-Christmas clear out, the PTA would gratefully receive any donations of good quality school uniform and sports kit. All money raised from uniform sales goes directly to the PTA to provide valuable funds to support the school, so please feel free to drop any items into the school office. If you wish to purchase any uniform, please contact the school office who can put you in touch with our amazing parent helpers who give up their time to manage our uniform (so a big **thank you** to them for all they do!).

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- <u>Payment Portal</u>
- Sports Website
- Coach Booking
- Claires Court SchoolTV
- CC Administration of Medicine Request Form
- Term Time Holiday Request Form
- Absences: Report Portal /seniorgirls@clairescourt.com /01628 327500 (please report absences before 9.30am for each day of sickness)
- Senior Girls Calendar here
- <u>Term Dates</u>

#### RESIDENTIAL TRIPS BROCHURE

The 2025- 2026 Residential Trips Brochure is now available to <u>view</u>. As and when trips become available to book, a letter will be sent containing all the details you need to know.

# **NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!**

Take a look here..... <a href="https://bit.ly/40qqNjs">https://bit.ly/40qqNjs</a> 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.

#### CHRISTMAS AND END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS



Yes it is almost that 'time of the year' again.....

#### CHRISTMAS LUNCH - OPT OUT BY 28 NOVEMBER

Christmas Lunch will be served at Senior Girls on Wednesday 10 December and **all girls** are automatically booked in for Christmas Lunch and the £6.30 payment will be charged to your cashless catering account **UNLESS** you opt out using this <u>Christmas Lunch Opt Out Form</u> by Friday 28 November. There will be no other meal options available that day, so if your daughter is opting out she will need to bring a packed lunch. Please also use this form to tell us of any dietary requirements she may have.



# **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY - Wednesday 10 December**



It is also Christmas Jumper Day for senior girls on Wednesday 10 December for <u>Save the Children</u> and all pupils are invited to wear their festive jumper instead of their school jumper. A donation of £2 in support of this very worthwhile charity to be made via our <u>Payment Portal</u> which will be available from **Friday 5 December to Friday 12 December** to receive donations. Cash donations to be given directly to the Form Tutor

on the morning of Wednesday 10 December. Thank you.

#### **CHRISTMAS TREES ON SALE**



#### They're Tree-Mendous!

Get your Christmas tree and support the Claires Court Boat Club this festive season!

- How to Order: visit our <u>PTA website</u> and order by Tuesday 25 November
- **Pick-up:** from Claires Court Senior Boys (SL6 8TE) Friday 5 December (4.45pm-5.45pm) or Saturday 6 December (10am-12pm)

# CC SAILING CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING EVENING (£35 per person)



CC Sailing department and the PTA warmly invite you to a Christmas Wreath Making evening on Wednesday 3 December at Senior Boys. Ticket price includes: drinks,

nibbles, an oasis ring and small decorations. Bring your own foliage and clippers and any additional decorations that you would like to add to your wreath. Book <a href="here">here</a> via the PTA website by Wednesday 26 November.

# CHRISTMAS HAMPER COLLECTION 24 November - 15 December

We are again collecting non-perishable foodstuffs for the Salvation Army Maidenhead. Their preferred list is available to view on their flyer below and although the usual tinned food items/pasta is mentioned they would also request some 'luxury' items such as chocolate selection packs, festive biscuits, Christmas puddings (please ensure date exceeds December).



Can we suggest the following year groups donate:

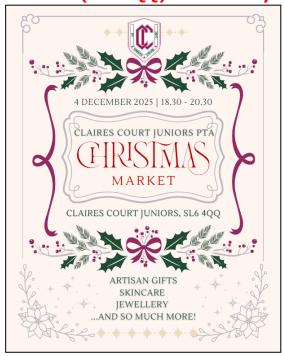
Year 7	Children's Chocolate Selection Packs
Year 8	Christmas Biscuits
Year 9	Christmas Puddings (please ensure Best Before date exceeds December)
Year 10	Boxes of Chocolates - 200g/300g packs
Year 11	All other foodstuffs: tinned vegetables and soup, rice, pasta, cereals

The 'hampers' will be outside the dining hall from **Monday 24 November up until Monday 15 December** and Captain Westwood-Payne - Commanding Officer, Salvation
Army is popping along on Tuesday 16 December to collect all items donated by our pupils
and staff. Thank you once again in advance for your generosity.

# JUNIORS PTA CHRISTMAS MARKET Thursday 4 December 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Whether you're looking for that special, unique present or some perfect stocking fillers,

there's something for everyone. Pop along to the Junior PTA Christmas Market being held at Juniors (SL6 4QQ) on Thursday 4 December 6.30pm-8.30pm. All are welcome.



#### ST LUKE'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



# Friday 5 - Sunday 7 December

Please pop along to St Luke's to view all the decorated trees on display. You will also find four Claires Court trees from Juniors, Senior Boys, Senior Girls and Sixth Form. Buy a token and vote for your favourite decorated tree - **Senior Girls of course!!** and help raise funds for St Luke's chosen charity this year, Alzheimer Dementia Support.

#### SENIORS CAROL CONCERT - TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER



Parents are warmly invited to our Carol Concerts at St Luke's Church, Norfolk Road, Maidenhead SL6 7AX at 10am for Years 7,9,10 and 11.30am for Years 11 and 6th Form.

#### An overview of dates for your information:

• Tuesday 25 November Deadline

Have you ordered your Christmas Tree from the PTA in support of the Claires Court Boat Club?

• Wednesday 26 November Deadline

Don't forget to book your place on the wreath making evening on 3 December

• Thursday 4 December

Juniors PTA Christmas Market 6.30pm-8.30pm (Sat Nav SL6 4QQ)

• Friday 5 December - Sunday 7 December

St Luke's Church Christmas Tree Festival

- Wednesday 10 December Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
   Pupils are also invited to wear their festive jumper on Christmas lunch day for a £2
   donation for Save the Children with payment preferred via the Payment Portal
   from Friday 5 December Friday 12 December. Cash payments of £2 can be
   paid directly to the Form Tutor.
- W/C Monday 15 December Wednesday 17 December
   The last three days of term with lessons ending at 4pm with early buses and no study or activities in operation!
- Tuesday 16 December

Seniors Carol Service at St Luke's Church, Norfolk Road, Maidenhead SL6 7AX The timings for each service is:

Years 7-10 10am Years 11-13 11am

#### Wednesday 17 December

End of Autumn Term with a full day of lessons until 4pm/early buses/no study or activities. Parents 'end of term' letter will be emailed home

#### • Thursday 18 December

Grade Cards and Reports will be emailed home to parents and will be available to view on the Report Portal

• W/C Monday 22 December - Wednesday 24 December

Although the school is open the Senior Girls' office will not be staffed until Friday 2 January 2026 and on Christmas Eve there will only be a limited number of staff on site. If you require assistance during this time, please telephone 01628 327700 where all calls are monitored during holiday periods

#### FOR ALL YEAR GROUPS

Please see our website <u>calendar</u> for this term's dates, which will be updated when new events and dates are confirmed.

## YEAR GROUP INFORMATION

**YEAR 7 ONLY** 

# **Year 7 Winchester Science Trip - Wednesday 3 December**

Please find the Year 7 Winchester Science trip letter taking place on Wednesday 3 December, noting that Senior Girls need to be dropped off near to the Senior Boys school (e.g. Ray Park Avenue) by 8.35am. Normal collection arrangements will apply, so your usual school at the usual time or school coaches. Pupils will need a nut-free packed lunch and drinks for the day and should wear their school uniform.

#### YEAR 7 - 8 ONLY

# Science Space Week 'Dress up Day' Friday 12 December

Pupils in Year 7-8 have been invited to wear something into school along the theme of space on Friday 12 December.

#### **YEAR 9 ONLY**

# Year 9 'Online' Options Information Evening Monday 24 November

Please join Mrs O'Clee and Dr Loughran from 6-7pm for this online GCSE Options Information Evening. Further information can be found in the <u>Y9 GCSE Options Process Letter</u> which was emailed home recently.

## Year 9 Ypres Online Parents Meeting Tuesday 25 November 5.30pm

A letter containing information and a MEET link has been emailed home to all parents whose child is on the trip in December.

# **Year 9 Options Fair Tuesday 2 December 6pm-7.30pm SAVE THE DATE**

Parents and pupils are invited to the GCSE Options Fair from 6pm - 7.30pm at College Avenue (SL6 6AW) where each of the Options subjects will have a stall so you can ask any questions you may have about studying that subject at GCSE. Further information can be found in the Y9 GCSE Options Process Letter which was emailed home yesterday.

#### **YEAR 10 ONLY**

#### Year 10 GCSE French Language Students Only!

#### **Cultural French Trip to London February 2026**

Please find the <u>letter here</u> regarding the above trip taking place on Thursday 5 February. The deadline for the payment of £34 is **Friday 5 December**.

# Year 10 GCSE Spanish Language Students Only!

# Spanish Trip to BFI, Southbank February 2026

Please find the <u>letter here</u> regarding the above trip taking place on Monday 23 February. The deadline for the payment of £42 is **Thursday 4 December**.

#### **G10 English Mock Examinations - Friday 28 November**

Year 10 will be sitting their mock English Language examination during the morning of Friday 28 November as shown in the <u>Mock Examination Timetable</u>. There will be a further opportunity to sit another English Language Mock Examination on Tuesday 10 February.

# Year 10 GCSE/Year 12 & 13 'A' Level Art Students Thursday 11 December

Due to the artist, Ian Murphy, being unwell on 16 October we have managed to rearrange the visit for **Thursday 11 December.** All details remain the same as in previous information which you can find again <a href="here">here</a>.

# YEAR 11 ONLY

# Post Mocks Movie Evening

# Friday 28 November

Year 11 boys and girls are invited to a movie night with pizza and popcorn to celebrate the completion of their mock exams. This will take place at Senior Girls. Please complete this

<u>form</u> by **Monday 24 November** to confirm attendance and indicate arrangements for your daughter to travel home.

#### **Y11 Sixth Form Reference Requests**

Most Sixth Forms will use an online system for reference requests that requires the applicant to put in the grades they are predicted to achieve. At Claires Court, we do not issue 'predicted' grades, but instead use 'working at' grades, which will be based on a combination of pupils' most recent grade cards:

- Year 10 Summer Exams Grade Card which covers Year 10 work and
- Year 11 Half Term Grade Cards which covers the start of Year 11

Pupils should therefore use these grade cards to enter a considered grade after which the application is sent to us and we will be asked to agree or disagree with the grades they have put in. We will be basing our judgement on the same grade cards that the pupils have used which should therefore ensure consistency. The picture will obviously build following the Year 11 Mocks in November and full report in January. If you have any queries over grades, please ask your daughter to discuss with their **form tutor** in the first instance.

Please note reference requests must come directly from the respective 6th Form College you are applying for - please ask that they email this to <a href="mailto:seniorgirls@clairescourt.com">seniorgirls@clairescourt.com</a> FAO: Mr Bennett (HOY 11).

#### Year 11 Mock Examinations - w/c 17 and 24 November

The Year 11 Mock Examinations continue next week according to this <u>timetable</u>, with the following additional dates:

Food practical - Wednesday 3 & Thursday 4 December MFL speaking - Friday 5 December

Please check out these resources about exams on <u>Claires Court SchoolTV</u>. FYI, there will be a further opportunity to sit another English Literature Mock Examination on Tuesday 10 February.

#### **Year 11 Subject Directory**

As mentioned at the Year 11 Parent Workshop, please find shared the <u>GCSE Subject</u> <u>Directory</u> containing useful information on revision checklists, past papers, coursework deadlines and exam dates by subject.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION**



Welcome to November

Root of the Week is...... 'Multi' meaning Many



Origin: Latin

**Meaning**: Many

#### Examples:

Multiple

Multiplication

Multitude

Multivitamin

Multicoloured

# Well done to all the girls named below this week!

# **Linguist of the Week**

#### w/c 17 November

Year 7: Holly D Spanish - Fantastic effort and attitude in Spanish! Well done and keep up the good work.

Year 8: Ava M German - A brilliant CT1 result which shows all your efforts in the subject have paid off.

Year 10: Tegan M French - Consistent hard work and a great piece of writing including complex language recently.

# **Scientists of the Week**

#### w/c 17 November

Year 10: Amelia N - Brilliant work in Physics this week.

# Sparx Reader of the Week



#### w/c 17 November

Year 7: Sophia N Year 8: Ava M

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



#### w/c 17 November

Year 7: Amaya

Year 8: Molly

Year 9: Georgina Bed\*\*\*\*