



CLAIRE'S COURT
SENIOR GIRLS

Weekly Bulletin

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2025 AUTUMN TERM WEEK 13

PRINCIPAL'S BLOG

Please read the latest blog from Mr Wilding here: [Lethal Mutations – When the direction of Government Policy is fundamentally flawed](#)

Claire's Court is a founding partner school for the Association for Families of Independent Schooling (AFIS). AFIS is the only membership organisation that brings together families who choose and value independent education in the U.K. and British international schooling. Their work supports their member families, and the wider sector, by championing choice, fair representation, and greater access to independent education.

You can join AFIS here: <https://www.afis.org.uk/register>

AFIS Members can save money from day one with heavily discounted prices from local businesses, and well-known brands such as Waterstones, Clarks, Booking.com, Theatre Tickets Direct, Tastecard, and many more. Just in time for gift giving this holiday season!

In addition to excellent money-saving opportunities and numerous other benefits, AFIS has commissioned the University of Chichester to conduct research investigating "what are the demographic profiles of independent school families and why do they choose independent education for their families?" With AFIS, Claire's Court wishes to make sure as many families as possible are given the opportunity to contribute their views, as part of the mission to give independent school parents a voice in the national education conversation and provide evidence.

FROM THE OFFICE



As this is our last bulletin of the Autumn term (and thank you for reading each week) may the office and Derek wish all our pupils and families a lovely Christmas break and see you in January 2026!

Merry Christmas from our Libraries



Immerse yourself in some fantastic award-winning books over the Christmas Holidays!
[Click here](#) to find out more

****Seniors Carol Concert - Tuesday 16 December****

Parents are warmly invited to our Carol Concerts at St Luke's Church, Norfolk Road, Maidenhead SL6 7AX

1st Service: 10am - Joint Senior Boys & Girls 7, 8, 9 & G10 Senior Girls

2nd Service: 11.30am - Y11 Joint Senior Boys & Girls, 6th Form & B10 Senior Boys

A reminder about the last week of term

- **W/C Monday 15 December - Wednesday 17 December**
The last three days of term with lessons ending at 4pm and **early buses, no study or activities in operation!**
- **Monday 15/Tuesday 16 December** - Year 9 Ypres Trip
- **Tuesday 16 December St Luke's Carol Service**
10am Joint Senior Boys & Girls Years 7-9 and G10 only
11.30am Joint Senior Boys & Girls Years 11-13 and B10 only
- **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 the Christmas/New Year period.

And.....

- **Start of Spring Term - Thursday 8 January 2026**
Please note that we finish early on Thursday 8 January at 4pm with no study or activities in operation until Monday 12 January. Friday is the usual 4pm finish as normal.

Lockers

All lockers need to be emptied and left unlocked for cleaning. If your daughter is not going to be in school for the last week, please ensure she clears her locker before her last day at school. Any lockers left locked will have padlocks cut off and all lockers will be emptied. If she has any lost property, please ask her to check with the office, staff room, PE office for clothes, books, pencil cases, water bottles etc. Anything unclaimed and unnamed will be donated to charity.

Year 11 Pupils' Transport - **IMPORTANT!**

Many parents opt to drive their child to school during the GCSE examinations period but also have coach transport booked. You can however book ad hoc trips without committing to the whole term and therefore if you do not require daily transport in the summer term due to exams, a full term's notice will need to be given. This is required in writing to [Vectare](#) via the 'contact us' form on the website by **Wednesday 7 January 2026** to avoid charges in the summer term. Unfortunately, no exceptions or refunds can be made in the Summer term if notice has not been received by 7 January.

Christmas Hamper Collection

Thank you for all the donations for our 'hampers' for the Salvation Army Maidenhead but would welcome more non-perishable foodstuffs. Their preferred list is available to view on their [flyer here](#).

Can we suggest the following year groups donate:

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

The 'hampers' are situated underneath our Christmas tree, by the dining hall and are being collected on **Tuesday 16 December** by Captain Westwood-Payne, Commanding Officer, from the Salvation Army in Maidenhead.

Tub-To-Pub 2026

As the season of over-indulgence (and excessive plastic) is upon us, we will once again be collecting plastic Celebrations / Heroes / Roses / Cracker tubs to be recycled and raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Further information can be found at [TUB2PUB](#). Last year the school collected 127 tubs which was fantastic, 52 more than the previous year and potentially 127 less tubs going to landfill. Overall, the campaign collected 240,000 tubs raising £10,916 for Macmillan. Tubs should be handed into Form Tutors or the staff room with the final collection being 6 February 2026. **It's an environmental win-win!**

Christmas Lunch/Christmas Jumper Day - Wednesday 10 December



A **BIG** thank you to our catering team (L-R) Sandra, Valanka, Kelly, TeeJa, Ann and Lorraine for all their hard work in providing a delicious Christmas lunch for pupils and staff on Wednesday.



Our reindeer were also a great help to the ladies in helping serve pupils and staff so thank you to them too. Ms Bhachu did a great job as a reindeer herder!



Thank you to all staff and pupils who wore their festive jumper on Wednesday 10 December in support of [Save the Children](#) which raised **£170** so far - The Payment Portal is still open until today, **Friday 12 December**, to receive any late £2 donations.

A massive well done to everyone who joined the Santa Run this morning!

We had a fantastic turnout of over 40 runners.



St Luke's Christmas Tree Festival

Please [link here](#) to St Luke's website - they haven't put their photos of the trees yet but please check again to view all the decorated trees - we hope some of you managed to get along to see them last weekend.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Riverside Tree Care is offering free local Christmas tree collections in exchange for a donation to Thames Hospice. It's a simple, sustainable way to clear out your tree while supporting a great local cause. See the flyer to book your collection!



Claire's Court TV- Christmas Report

Please do take a look at the Claire's Court School TV [Surviving Christmas Report](#) where you might pick up a few tips to keep things running smoothly over the festive period.

Claire's Court SchoolTV - **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED RESOURCE, TAKE A LOOK** - [Claire's 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.

School Closure re weather conditions etc

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 circumstances for the closure we will also communicate via text message or email and separate communications will be sent directly from Vectare regarding coach operation.

Calendar

Please see our website [calendar](#) which gets updated when new events and dates are confirmed.

News, 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.

ALL YEAR GROUP INFORMATION

Only for those pupils who have played in hockey fixtures this term

'Classpicks' Photos taken today Friday 12 December

Please see the [link here to view](#) - the access code will be shared via email with pupils who are involved directly from Mrs Lee (Director of Sport, CCSG)

- Products will be available for purchase from **Sunday 14 December**
- Delivery is free if 'pupil post' is selected
- Orders made very promptly will be in school for collection on the last day of term. If this is not possible, they can be collected on the first day of next term.

You can also select postal delivery if preferred. Please check from Sunday! Do [contact me if you](#) have any queries.

Netball Development

This club has moved to Monday night next term. During the darker months, it will take place at Braywick until 5:15pm. Parents should collect from Braywick. After February half term the club will be at College and finish in time for late buses. Thank you for your support.

Tempest Photography

A reminder that your school group photograph taken on 24 April 2025 for Senior Girls and 6th Form can still be ordered but orders placed after 5 December are not guaranteed to arrive before Christmas. Please see the link here - <https://htmp.st/121124-362>

For assistance, please call 01736 752411

Option 3 - Place an order

Option 5 - Customer services

YEAR 7 ONLY

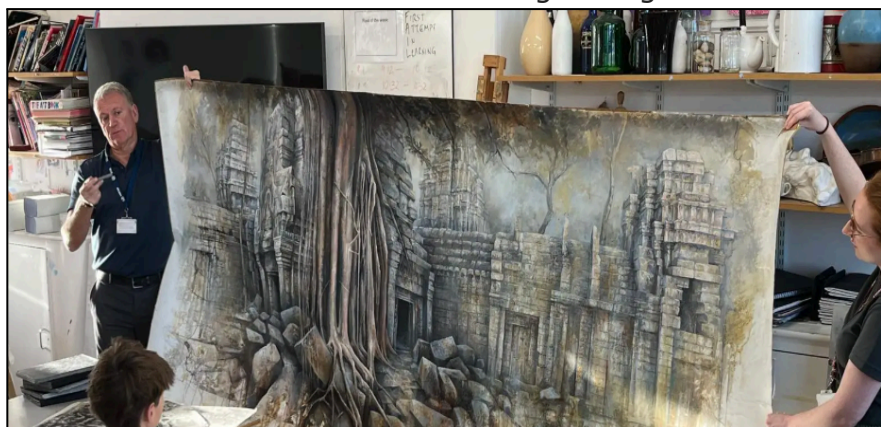
After a term designing Memphis-inspired office furniture the Year 7 pupils show off the prototypes they have made. Memphis-inspired design is a bold, postmodern style from the 1980s, characterised by vibrant, clashing colours and bold geometric shapes.



YEAR 10 ONLY

Art Workshop - Thursday 11 December

All the Year 10 GCSE Art pupils had a very informative day yesterday with visiting Artist, Ian Murphy, learning about his art techniques - please see Ian's [website here](#). Thank you to Art Teacher Mrs Moorhouse for organising.



YEAR 11 ONLY

Year 11 Pupils' Transport - **IMPORTANT!**

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GCSE Support Clinics

Please find [information here](#) regarding the support clinics that are available for Year 11 Senior Girls.

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 seniorgirls@clairescourt.com FAO: Mr Bennett (HOY 11).

Please check out these resources about exams on [Claire's Court SchoolTV](#). 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 [GCSE Subject Directory](#) containing useful information on revision checklists, past papers, coursework deadlines and exam dates by subject.

TRIP INFORMATION

Residential Trips Brochure

The 2025- 2026 Residential Trips Brochure is now available to [view](#). As and when trips become available to book, an email letter will be sent containing all the details you need to know.

Year 10 - 13 Hazewinkel 2026

Please find the [Hazewinkel Rowing Camp letter](#) taking place 26 March - 2 April 2026 which invited pupils would have received by email yesterday. To confirm their place, please make payment of the £450 non-refundable deposit **by Friday 9 January** via the [Payment Portal](#).

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION



[December](#)

What do you know about December? Can you find out any other facts?

Well done to all the girls named below this week!

Linguist of the Week

w/c 8 December

Year 10: Naina Verma - *working with ambition and making good progress. Great performance in the writing test.*

Scientists of the Week

w/c 8 December

Year 9: Ellie H, Lucie T, Lucy W - *for their amazing enthusiasm in STEAM this term.*

Sparx Reader of the Week



w/c 8 December

Year 7: Millie M

Year 8: Ava M

Accelerated Reader of the Week



w/c 8 December

Year 7: Sophie B

Year 8: Ruby W

Year 9: Georgie C

RESPONSIBILITY



RESPECT



LOYALTY



INTEGRITY