



Weekly Bulletin

FRIDAY 9 JANUARY 2026 LENT SPRING TERM WEEK 1

PRINCIPAL'S BLOG

Please read the latest blog from Mr Wilding here: ["Making the 'Magic' happen in 2026."](#)

Association for Families of Independent Schooling (AFIS)

Claires 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](#). Also, 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, Claires Court wishes to make sure as many families as possible are allowed 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



Wishing you a belated Happy New Year and welcome back to the new term.

Also, a very warm welcome to our new members of staff at Senior Girls



Mr Jones
History/Politics
6th Form/CCSG



Mrs Rider
PE/9A FT



Miss Deng
Maths
Teaching across SB/SGs

Start of Term Arrangements

w/c Monday 12 January - activities and study commence along with late coaches.

School Closure Communication

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 here as your main source of information. Depending on the circumstances for the closure we will also communicate via text message or email and separate communication about coach operation will be sent directly from Vectare to all coach users.



Lions Club of Maidenhead 41st Swimarathon - Braywick Leisure Centre

Please pop along to support all the swimmers from Claires Court who are participating in this event to raise funds for good causes in Maidenhead and also for the Lions Club on **Sunday 11 January from 12.30pm-2pm**. Please find the Just Giving Page for Senior Girls [here](#).

Claires Court Scholarships - w/c 12 January

Scholarships will be taking place on the following dates and those involved will have been emailed details directly by the registrars:

- Wednesday 14 January - Drama Scholarship
- Thursday 15 January - Music Scholarship
- Friday 16 January - Art Scholarship
- Saturday 17 January - Academic Scholarship

Marvellous Stage Moments Rehearsals

For those involved in this year's show, there will be after school [rehearsals](#) taking place at College Avenue on Monday 19 and 26 January. Parents should pick up from College Avenue (SL6 6AW) via the Atrium entrance at 7pm. Pupils may wish to bring a packed tea or snack.

After Dinner Speaker - Friday 6 February

Claires Court Speaker Series: Josh Reynolds, MP



SPEAKER SERIES: SAVE THE DATE



DATE
06 February, 2026



TIME
6-8PM



LOCATION
College Avenue



Bar Available
PTA Cash Bar



TICKET PRICE
Adults £5
Accompanying
children free (1:1)



JOSH REYNOLDS
MP, MAIDENHEAD

Save the Date for a unique evening with Maidenhead's MP, Josh Reynolds!

He will be sharing his story so far in a fireside chat hosted by his former teacher, Mr. Richards. This is your chance to ask questions, get an insider's view of Parliament, and hear his vision for our local area.

Tickets are available now on the Claires Court PTA [site](#)

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Tub-To-Pub 2026

As the season of over-indulgence (and excessive plastic) is now over, 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!**

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.

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 and Facebook plus photo albums from [Flickr](#) which can all be filtered by year group/activity/event.

From December

Christmas Hampers - Salvation Army

Please find Captain Rob Westwood-Payne's [letter of thanks](#) to all our pupils, parents and

staff for the donated hamper goodies in December.

St Luke's Christmas Tree Festival December 2025

The winner of the tree festival was Thames Hospice 'Café by the Lake'. A total of £11,110 was raised for St Luke's nominated charity Alzheimer Dementia Support and also for the church helping to sustain their building and the support work they do in the community. We will, no doubt, be back December 2026 with our Claires Court sponsored decorated trees.

ALL YEAR GROUP INFORMATION

Calendar

Please visit our website calendar, which is updated as new events and dates are confirmed.

Lost/Found Section - Uniform

Plea for missing items of school uniform

Frankie - named blazer - missing from just before Christmas.

Amari - two blazers (both named) lost during the last few weeks of Autumn term.

Evelyn - blue bench coat and initialled with EE.

Please may we ask if parents can double check that your daughter has not accidentally picked up any of the above clothing thinking it is theirs (so easily done) and wearing it. Please be reminded to label **ALL** items of school uniform.

Chromebooks

It has been reported to the office that some of the pupils have mislaid their Chromebooks in school and although our 'IT gurus' can do a remote search to find out when/where they were last connected to the system it would be appreciated if pupils could label their Chromebook so that they can be returned quickly to their rightful owner. The office can loan one for a couple of weeks (if spares are available) but it is ultimately the responsibility of parents to replace lost or damaged Chromebooks. Please see our [Chromebook Policy here](#).

Netball Development

This club has moved to Monday evenings. 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.

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:

- **12 January 2026**
- **2 February 2026**

The PTA would gratefully receive any donations of good quality school uniform (especially blazers) and sports kit.

Rewards and Sanctions email

You should have received an email from your daughter's Form Tutor yesterday sharing details of any rewards and sanctions your daughter 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.

YEAR 7 ONLY

G7 Parents' Evening - Thursday 5 February 6pm-8pm *SAVE THE DATE*

Further information to follow regarding when the Schoolcloud online booking is live enabling parents to make their timed appointments.

YEAR 10 ONLY

English Language Mock - Tuesday 10 February

A reminder that the Year 10s will be sitting a second English Language Mock exam on the morning of Tuesday 10 February.

YEAR 11 ONLY

Year 11 Online Parents Workshop

Wednesday 14 January 6pm - 7pm *SAVE THE DATE*

Mr Richards will be hosting an online Parent Workshop starting **promptly at 6pm** on Wednesday 14 January. The meeting will provide you with information on what to expect in the coming months and how you can support your daughter's GCSE exam preparation. The link to join will be emailed home to parents prior to the meeting on Wednesday and we would ask that you join with your camera and mic turned off. The meeting will be recorded and shared via email for anyone unable to attend.

Autumn Term Reports - Monday 19 January

Year 11 reports will be emailed home a week Monday and will also be available on the Report Portal.

English & Maths Mock Exams - 10 and 11 February

Year 11s will be sitting additional mock examinations for English Literature on Tuesday 10 February (PM) and Maths on Wednesday 11 February (AM). This will be another valuable opportunity to experience exam conditions leading up to the GCSE examination series.

G11 Parents Evening - Monday 9 February *SAVE THE DATE*

Further information to follow regarding when Schoolcloud online booking is live enabling parents to make their timed appointments.

GCSE Support Clinics

Please find [information here](#) regarding the support clinics that are available.

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.

Please note reference requests must come directly from the respective 6th Form College you are applying for - please ask that they email this to **Mrs Ruddick**.

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 today **Friday 9 January** via the [Payment Portal](#).

Year 10 Cultural French Trip to London - 5 February 2026

Please find the [letter](#) regarding the Cultural French trip to London taking place on Thursday 5 February.

Year 10 Spanish Trip to BFI, Southbank - 23 February 2026

Please find the [letter](#) regarding the Spanish trip to the British Film Institute taking place on Monday 23 February.

Year 10 Margam Park - 19-21 March 2026

Please find the [Year 10 GCSE Geography Field Trip letter](#) containing details of venue, itinerary, costs and consent. Please note the following required actions:

- Pay £200 non-refundable deposit via [Payment Portal](#) - **NOW OVERDUE**
- Complete [Consent Form](#) by Friday 12 December - **NOW OVERDUE**

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION



[January](#)

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

We will update our Linguists, Scientists, Sparx and AR section next week.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Reporting Absences

A reminder that if your daughter 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 seniorgirls@clairescourt.net
3. Telephone to 01628 327500

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](#)
- [Chromebook Policy](#)
- [Coach Booking](#)

- [Claires Court SchoolTV](#)
- [CC Administration of Medicine Request Form](#)
- [Term Time Holiday Request Form](#)
- [Term Dates](#)

RESPONSIBILITY ◆ RESPECT ◆ LOYALTY ◆ INTEGRITY