



# Weekly Bulletin

**30 JANUARY (SPRING TERM WEEK 4)**

## FROM THE OFFICE

### Principal's Blog

Please read the latest blog from Mr Wilding here: ["Play is Not a Luxury - It's a Higher Form of Learning"](#)

### "Marvellous Stage Moments" Show

Thanks to everyone who participated and supported the "Marvellous Stage Moments" show featuring the talents of our Seniors and Sixth Form students. What a brilliant effort directed by Mr. Bennett, Ms. Olivier and Mr. Odeh! To see the highlights photo album from the show, visit [here](#). A **BIG** thank from the Drama Staff to all the pupils for all their hard work in the recent rehearsals - they performed superbly on the night so well done!



### U15 National Quarter Final RFU Vase - Friday 6 February

Wednesday's fantastic performance by our Drama and Music students set a high bar for what it means to step into the spotlight. At Claires Court, we view the theatre and the sports pitch as two versions of the same classroom. Training is our rehearsal like lessons; the match is our opening night like exams. Both require a rare kind of bravery. Whether it's a Year 9 monologue, a Year 10 scrum-half managing a Quarter Final or a Year 11 going into their first GCSE exam, they are all learning how to channel nerves into focus.

We are hugely proud to share that our U15 Rugby team have progressed to the National Quarter Final of the RFU Vase, having won their division last week. This is the furthest any CC U15 team has ever reached (or any school in Maidenhead) and matches the achievement of the 1st XV in 2023. There are now eight very large schools left in the competition, including five large grammar schools (one of which is our opponent, Plymouth College) and two independent schools, both of which are selective and far larger than us. This is a fantastic achievement for the boys and the school already.

As a school with our facilities largely off site and year groups training on different afternoons, one thing we often miss is the opportunity for younger boys to be inspired by the achievements of older pupils. We are fortunate that this fixture is a home game, with access to a pitch and large stand that allows us to create this shared experience. Therefore we are very keen for the school community to get behind the team and support our Year 10s. As a result **all boys in Years 7-11 will attend the match at Maidenhead RFC**. If we manage to win, the Semi-Final and Final are played at Neutral grounds, so there would be no plan to go en masse to those games. We want our younger boys there on Friday not just to watch a game, but to see what happens when the 'rehearsal' of daily school life meets the 'performance' of a national stage. We would also like to invite all parents and anyone in our community to come along to the game; all are welcome. The tea bar will be open in the club and admission is free but the parking is pay and display I am afraid. Location is Maidenhead Rugby Club, Braywick Road, SL6 1BN.

The plan for the afternoon is as follows:

- 2.30pm - Kickoff
- 3.40pm – Boys win the game
- 3.40pm – Boys return to school on the coaches with PE staff

Please note that the **boys in Y7-10 will not be permitted to go home from Maidenhead RFC with parents** unless they are members of the playing squad. While I appreciate this will be a change to the normal Friday afternoon routine for the boys, we firmly believe the value added to school spirit and culture makes it worthwhile and we hope you can join us to #packthepark.

### **Tub-To-Pub 2026 - deadline 6 February**

Last chance to hand in any tubs for recycling to Form Tutors or the staff room to raise funds for Macmillan ([TUB2PUB](https://tub2pub.com)). Last year the campaign collected 240,000 tubs raising £10,916 for Macmillan.



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

Take a look here..... <https://bit.ly/40qgNjs> 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 FORTHCOMING DATES

## ALL YEAR GROUPS

Please see our website [calendar](#) for this term's dates, which will be updated when new events and dates are confirmed.

### **\*CANCELLED\* An Evening with Maidenhead MP Josh Reynolds - 6 February**

### **PTA Quiz Night - Friday 6 March**

Please keep Friday 6 March free to come to the next installment of our popular Quiz Night hosted by Mr Richards and Mrs O'Clee.

### **PTA Summer Party - 27 June 2026**

The PTA Summer Party date has now been confirmed as Saturday 27 June in the grounds of the Junior School. Please **SAVE THE DATE** and further details will follow in due course.

## YEAR 7 ONLY

### **B7 Parents' Evening - Tuesday 3 February**

Parking will be available at school, but please do not drive in until after 5.45pm when all the coaches will have safely departed. Your son can remain at school and meet up with you when you arrive. On arrival please make your way to the Sports Hall to sign in. All teachers will be based here and there will also be refreshments available. You can view your appointment times via [SchoolCloud](#).

## YEAR 9 ONLY

### **Y9 Preliminary GCSE Options Form - deadline to complete 13 February**

Parents of pupils in Year 9 were emailed a Preliminary GCSE Options Form on Wednesday 21 January. The form needs to be completed by Friday 13 February and pupils will need to choose six optional subjects. Any queries should be directed to Deputy Head Academic Dr Loughran.

### **B9 Meningococcal ACWY & Booster Vaccinations - Friday 27 February**

Thank you to those who have already completed the consent form. Those who have not were sent a reminder yesterday so please complete a [YES or NO consent form](#) using school code BK110153B before half term. Further information can be found in this [letter](#) and queries should be directed to the Berkshire Immunisation Team via 0300 365 0077.

## 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 10/11 GCSE DRAMA PUPILS ONLY

### **Theatre Trip The Talented Mr Ripley - Thursday 26 February**

Drama pupils in Year 10 and 11 are invited to The Talented Mr Ripley at the Theatre Royal Windsor, please see the [letter](#) for further information. Payment of non-refundable £34.50 via the [Payment Portal](#) and completion of the [Consent Form](#) are required **by 1 February** to confirm your place, thank you.

## YEAR 11 ONLY

### Year 11 Revision Assembly

With just over 17 weeks until study leave, Miss Mirza shared a [Revision Calendar Template](#) with the boys at assembly this morning to help them start planning their revision over the coming weeks. Please also find the [presentation slides](#) from the assembly for your information.

### B11 Parents Evening - 11 February - booking opens Tuesday 3 February

Appointment booking via [Schoolcloud](#) will open midday Tuesday 3 February and close midday Monday 9 February. Please opt to book **manually** so as to leave sufficient 'travel time' between English/Maths/Science/Food appointments which will be based in the Maths block classrooms and all other subjects which will be in the Sports Hall. If you are unable to make an appointment with a teacher you would like to see, please contact them directly to arrange an alternative means of receiving feedback. Your son can remain at school and meet up with you when you arrive. On arrival please make your way first to the Wellbeing lobby to sign in and where refreshments will be available.

### Sixth Form Interviews - w/c 2 & 9 February

The Sixth Form team will be interviewing boys in Year 11 who have either reserved a place for Year 12 or are still undecided. The registrar has emailed to inform you of your son's allocated interview date.

### English & Maths Mock Exams - 10/11 February

Year 11 pupils will be sitting the following additional mock examinations under exam conditions w/c 9 February:

- Tuesday 10 February (PM) - English Literature
- Wednesday 11 February (AM) - Mathematics

These assessments will provide valuable further experience of exam conditions in preparation for their GCSE examinations.

### Year 11 Sixth Form Coffee Morning - Friday 13 March

Confirm your attendance [here](#).



YEAR 11 PARENTS

You're invited to our  
*coffee catchup*

Friday 13 March

9 - 10 am  
Sixth Form Bistro

Join the Head of Sixth Form and senior staff for coffee and a conversation regarding your child's academic journey, courses, and future progression.

Kindly RSVP below to let us know you are coming, or to book an individual visit if you cannot join us.

RSVP: 

## 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 the January report and November mocks exam results.

Pupils should therefore use these sources 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 report and mock exams that the pupils have used which should therefore ensure consistency.

## Year 11 Subject Directory

Please find for reference the [GCSE Subject Directory](#) containing useful information on revision checklists, past papers, coursework deadlines and exam dates by subject.

## Year 11 Drop-In Timetable

# B11 Subject Drop-In TT 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	*Art (1-1.30, Rm17) D&T (1-1.30, Rm14) English (1-1.30, Rm4) German (1-1.30, Rm20) RS (1-1.30, Rm18)	Art (1-1.30, Rm17) Biology (1-1.30, Rm10) Business (12:50-1.10, Rm2) D&T (1-1.30, Rm14) Drama (1-1.30, Rm29) Geography (1-1.30, Rm7) Maths sets 1&2 (Rm1) Spanish (1-1.30, Rm21)	Drama (1-1.30, Rm29) Food (1-1.30, Rm30) PE (1-1.35, Rm3)	D&T (1-1.30, Rm14) French (1-1.30, Rm22) Maths - all sets (1-1.30, Rm1) *Music (1-1.30, Rm28) Physics (1-1.30, Rm12)	Art (1-1.30, Rm17) *D&T (1-1.30, Rm14) Food (1-1.30, Rm30) *History (1-1.30, Rm19) *ICT (1-1.30, Rm16) *PE (1-1.35, Rm3)
After school 4.15-5.15	*English (Library) History (Rm19) Music (Rm28) Physics (Rm 12) RS (Rm 18)	Art (Rm17) Chemistry (Rm9) Drama (Rm29) *French (Rm22) Maths sets 3&4 (Rm8) Physics (Rm 12) RS (Rm F14 at SG)	*Business (POD) *Food (Rm30) *German (Rm20) Physics (Rm 12)	Biology, Chemistry, Physics (Rm12) *Spanish (Rm7)	

## 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.

### Spanish Trip - 17-20 October 2026

Pupils studying Spanish in Years 9-12 are invited to participate in the Spanish trip next October half term. Places are confirmed by payment of a £300 non-refundable deposit via the Parent [Payment Portal](#) and completion of the [Consent Form by Friday 6 February](#).

## **Auschwitz Trip - 13-15 February 2026**

Please find the [letter](#) containing details of departure/return, packing list, emergency contact number etc. A copy of the slides from the information evening last night can be found [here](#) and a reminder of the following actions required of you, if not already done:

- Inform Mr Flynn of any dietary requirements ASAP
- Print and complete this [document](#), with a signature by hand, by both parents and return to Mr Flynn ASAP
- Complete the [CC Administration of Medicine Request Form](#) and return to the nurse **by Friday 6 February**
- Your child needs to read and sign the [Ground Rules for Overseas Trips](#) **by Monday 9 February**

## **Ski Trip Information Evening - Thursday 26 February**

Please join Mr Carter in the Sports Hall at Senior Boys for a 6pm start ([letter](#)). Parking will be available in school after 5.45pm.

## **Turkey Watersports Trip October 2026**

Please find the [updated letter](#) noting the new deadline of 30 January for the second installment of £300 payable via the [Payment Portal](#).

## **Y10 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.

## **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

## **Hazewinkel Rowing Camp Easter 2026**

Please find the [Hazewinkel Rowing Camp letter](#) taking place 26 March - 2 April 2026.

# **DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION**

## **Root of the Week**

In our 'Root of the Week', 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 '**Ped**' meaning '**foot**'
- Example words include '**pedal**' and '**centipede**'

# Ped

**Origin:** Latin

**Meaning:** Foot

## Examples:

Pedestrian

Pedal

Pedicure

Pedometer

Centipede



## Of the month

### 'Of the Month'

Please find the last January edition of '[Of the month](#)' containing interesting facts and information for your perusal! January's natural wonders include Aurora Borealis, meteor showers, bird migrations and the Winter Hexagon.

### Linguists of the Week

In KS4 French for improved essay writing:

Year 10 - Jacob M, Toby W, Curtis L

Year 11 - Ollie C, Josh L, Lucas R

### Mathematicians of the Week

Year 7: Sammy A-O'N, Billy G

Year 8: Jack G, Alex E

Year 9: Thomas L, Benedict B

Year 10: Ben D

Year 11: Henry B, Josh N-B, Tee G

### Scientists of the Week

Year 9 - Bronte S for his incredible hard work in Physics this week

Year 11 - Dylan H for his hard work on his Chemistry past paper in Science Drop In

### Sparx Reader of the Week

Year 7: Felix S

Year 8: Harry B

### Accelerated Reader of the Week

Year 7: George B

Year 8: Tim F and Fin M

Year 9: Noah P and Matteo S

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Reporting Absences

A reminder that if your son 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 [seniorboys@clairescourt.net](mailto:seniorboys@clairescourt.net)
3. Telephone to 01628 327600

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](#)
- [Coach Booking](#)
- [Chromebook Policy](#)
- [Claires Court SchoolTV](#)
- [CC Administration of Medicine Request Form](#)