



CLAIRES COURT
SENIOR BOYS

Weekly Bulletin

13 FEBRUARY (SPRING TERM WEEK 6)

FROM THE OFFICE

Principal's Blog

Please read the latest blog from Mr Wilding here: ["The Author, The Village and the Paradox of Independence"](#)

PTA AGM - Friday 27 February

All parents are warmly invited to our PTA Annual General Meeting from 9.15-11am on Friday 27 February at Claire's Court Juniors Sports Hall. There will be pupil presentations and updates on projects for which the PTA have kindly provided funding. Coffee and pastries will be provided. The agenda can be found [here](#).

Words from The Head

Dear Parents

I would like to thank you all for a wonderful half-term; despite the relentless rain, the spirit of our school has truly shone. I have been immensely impressed by the boys' positive approach to both their studies and school life over the past few weeks. During my frequent tours with prospective families, the strong relationships with our teachers and the excellent attitude of the boys are always on full display. It was heartening to see this reflected so clearly in our recent parent survey, so thank you for your feedback.

I also want to take a moment to celebrate our recent sporting achievements. It was fantastic to see the whole school turn out for the U15s in what was arguably the biggest rugby game in our history. Having so many parents, students, and members of the wider Claire's Court family supporting the boys in the pouring rain was a testament to our community. That sense of pride in the badge was wonderful to witness, and the convincing win was the perfect finishing touch. You can read the full write-up in the [Advertiser here](#). We look forward to the next round in Aylesbury on March 8th—all are welcome! Additionally, congratulations to our U16 boys, who became ISA National 7s champions this week, and to our sailors for their dominant wins against Magdalen College and Clifton College.

Looking ahead, Year 10 and Year 11 will be focusing closely on their upcoming exam preparations after the break. As the evenings draw out, I am hopeful the sun will finally make an appearance. In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful and well-deserved holiday with your families.

Steve Richards



Transport Questionnaire - deadline to complete 16 February

A gentle reminder to please complete the [Transport Questionnaire](#) you should have received by email on Wednesday. This will help us determine the transport requirements for the next academic year. Please complete it by Monday 16 February, even if you have decided not to use school transport to let us know your reasons. If you have any questions please contact Hayley Morrissey at travel@clairescourt.net.

Lost Air Pods

Mrs Ronci has had a number of air pods handed in to her now that are waiting to be reunited with their owners! If your child's air pods have recently gone missing, please ask them to check in at reception to see if any may belong to them.

PTA Quiz Night - Friday 6 March - [Book your ticket/table now!](#)

Get ready for an evening of fun, laughter, and healthy competition at the Claires Court PTA Quiz Night on Friday, 6 March! Hosted by the fantastic Quizmasters Richards and O'Clee, this is the perfect chance to team up with fellow parents and friends to support our school.

- When: 6 March 2026, 6PM – 8PM
- Where: College Avenue (SL6 6AW)
- Tickets: £10 per head / £100 per table
- Bonus: PTA Cash Bar available

All proceeds go directly toward PTA initiatives for our students. Spaces fill up fast, so grab your team and book your spot today. [Book Your Tickets Here](#)

CLAIRES COURT PTA PRESENTS

QUIZ Night

Join us for a night full of fun, laughter, and brain-twisting questions!

6 March 2026
6-8PM

College Avenue
SL6 6AW

HOSTED BY QUIZMASTERS RICHARDS AND O'CLEE

Form a team, have fun and raise funds for the PTA!

PTA Cash Bar

Tickets £10 per head
£100 per table

Book at www.ccpa.org.uk

Junior Bake off - applications open until 15 March

Applications are now open for the 12th series of Junior Bake Off, a Channel 4 competition series celebrating Britain's young baking talent! Young budding bakers between 9-15 years old can apply here - www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk. Applications close 15 March, with filming taking place from July 2026.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?
We'd love to hear from you!

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

Claire's Court SchoolTV Peer Pressure

Please take a look at this Claire's Court School TV Special Report on [Peer Pressure](#) - by understanding how peer pressure works both offline and online you will be better able to support your son in managing any negative peer influence he may experience.

Rewards and Sanctions email

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

New, 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.

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.

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.

Seniors Spring Concert - Wednesday 18 March

For those parents whose child is participating in this event please don't forget to complete the Google form emailed home earlier this week by Friday 13 March so we have an idea on numbers for hall capacity and refreshments. Thank you.

YEARS 7-9

Year 7-9 Academic Breakfast - Thursday 26 February

Year 7-9 Scholars have been invited to the next Academic Breakfast taking place in the Senior Girls Library from 8.15am - 9am on Thursday 26 February. Pupils who have confirmed their attendance by 13 February should come prepared to discuss: If we were to abolish homework what would we replace it with? There will be transport back to Senior Boys afterwards.

YEARS 7 ONLY

Year 7 Dorney Court - Tuesday 10 March

*** Save the Date *** and details will follow after half term.

YEAR 9 ONLY

B9 Study Skills - Tuesday 24/Wednesday 25 February

Those involved will have received an email on 9 February indicating their son's allocated day/time. Pupils should bring their chromebook, writing materials, highlighters and coloured pencils, as well as a couple of textbooks and exercise books.

B9 Meningococcal ACWY & Booster Vaccinations - Friday 27 February

For those who have given consent the NHS Berkshire Immunisation team will be in school on Friday 27 February to administer the Meningococcal ACWY & the 3-in-1 teenage booster (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio) vaccinations, further information in this [letter](#). Please direct any queries to the Berkshire Immunisation Team via 0300 365 0077.

YEAR 10 ONLY

Exam Regulations Booklet

Please find the [Exam Regulations Booklet](#) that was handed out to boys in school yesterday. If you haven't had sight of it yet, please ask your son for it! We kindly ask that you read this booklet carefully as it contains important information that you will need to know for the English Language GCSE examination in the summer. Please keep a copy for future reference as any questions you may have are likely to be answered within.

Spanish Trip to BFI, Southbank - Monday 23 February

Please find the [letter](#) regarding the Spanish trip to the British Film Institute taking place on Monday 23 February. Pupils need to meet at Senior Girls at 7.50am for travel to London by coach, and aim to return to Senior Girls by 4.40pm in time for coach travel home from Senior Boys. Pupils will need a pen, notebook, nut-free packed lunch, snacks and drink and dress code is smart casual.

German Day Goethe Institute - Thursday 23 April

Please find the [letter](#) regarding the Year 10 GCSE German Language trip to London on Thursday 23 April. The cost of the trip is £35 and is available to pay via our [Payment Portal](#) by Monday 9 March please.

YEAR 10 AND 11

The Talented Mr Ripley Theatre Trip - Thursday 26 February

For Year 10 and 11 Drama pupils who have paid and completed the [Consent Form](#) details of the trip to the Theatre Royal Windsor can be found in this [letter](#). Boys can remain at school after activities/study and will be supervised by Mrs Olivier or can go home and return to school by 6pm for a 6.10pm departure. Pupils should be collected from the Senior Girls site at approximately 10.30pm, unless prior agreement has been made to collect directly from the theatre.

YEAR 11 ONLY

Form and Year Group Photographs - Friday 20 March

Please save the date and ensure your son is in school and looking his best in smart uniform (with tie!), neat hair, polished shoes etc. on Friday 20 March for his Form Group and Year 11 photographs. The photographs will be available to purchase and ordering details will be shared afterwards.

Exam Regulations Booklet

Please find the [Exam Regulations Booklet](#) contained in the Summer Exam Pack you picked up at Parents' Evening on Wednesday. Please read this carefully as it contains important information that you will need to know for the GCSE Examination period. Please keep a copy for future reference as any questions you may have are likely to be answered within.

Exam Timetable

Your son's personalised Exam timetable was shared in the Summer Exam Pack collected at Parents Evening and please also find a generic copy of the [GCSE Written Examination Timetable](#). Practical Examination Dates are shown below:

- 5/6 March - Food Practical Exam
- 12 March - Drama Practical Exam
- 23/24 April - Art Exam
- TBC - PE & MFL

Work Experience

Please find the [Work Experience letter](#) emailed home earlier this week containing dates for proposed work experience weeks, guidance on obtaining work experience, a journal to log work experience and the assembly slides shared with boys.

Year 11 Revision

Please find the [Revision Calendar Template](#) Miss Mirza shared with the boys at assembly to help them start planning their revision over half term and beyond.

Year 11 Sixth Form Coffee Morning - Friday 13 March

Please confirm your attendance by completing this [form](#).



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

Auschwitz Trip - 13-15 February

Please find the [letter](#) containing details of inbound flight details and Braywick collection. In the event of an emergency, please contact Mr Flynn via 01628 327387.

Spanish Trip - 17-20 October 2026

Now open to **all pupils currently in Years 9 and 10**, please find the [Spanish Trip letter](#) taking place in 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 27 February**. If oversubscribed places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

French Trip - 17-20 October 2026

Please find the [Paris Trip letter](#) taking place in October half term open to pupils currently in Years 9 and 10. To secure your place please pay the £300 non-refundable deposit via the [Payment Portal](#) and complete [Consent Form](#) **by Monday 2 March**. If the trip is oversubscribed, places will be offered on a first come first served basis and students in KS4 from September 2026 will be prioritised.

Margam Park Geography Trip - 19-21 March

Please find the [final Margam Park letter](#) containing information about itinerary including departure/collection details, kit list, emergency contact number, mobile phones etc. noting the following requirements:

- Pay final £185 via [Payment Portal](#) by 1 March
- Sign [UK Residential Trip Ground Rules](#)

Hazewinkel Rowing Camp, 26 March - 2 April

Please find the [final letter](#) for Hazewinkel Rowing Camp containing departure/return details, kit list, money/food requirements etc. noting the following actions required of you **by Tuesday 17 March please:**

- Completion of [Consent Form](#)
- Final Payment of £375 via [Payment Portal](#)
- Print [document](#) to sign by hand & return
- Sign up to Ground Rules included in [letter](#)
- Check medical details are up-to-date

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](#).

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 '**Circum**' meaning '**around**'
- Example words include '**circumnavigate**' and '**circumvent**'

Circum

Origin: Latin

Meaning: around

Examples:

Circumference

Circumnavigate

Circumspect

Circumvent



'Of the Month'

Please find our February edition of '[Of the month](#)' containing interesting facts and information for your perusal! February birthstone is amethyst and sometimes bloodstone and birth flowers are violet and the common primrose.

Linguists of the Week

In Spanish for great preparation for CT2 & Mock exams:

KS3 - Thomas A, Finn D, Rhys N, Harry R, Zak D, Manny B, Phoenix A, Jack M, Alex E

KS4 - Jack H, Akhil V, Max B, Charlie V, Euan S

Mathematicians of the Week

Year 7 - Thomas H, Harry H

Year 8 - Errol W, Ethan L

Year 9 - Harry N-B, Dylan G

Year 10 - Jacob M, Ollie W

Year 11 - Will B, Tee G

Scientists of the Week

Year 8 - Phoenix A, Rufus C and Berty L for an excellent presentation on gas exchange in our pets

Year 9 - Tom L for excellent focus and effort in Biology

Year 10 - George R for excellent effort and attention in Biology

Year 11 - Will S for excellent work on Chemistry past papers

Sparx Reader of the Week

Year 7 - Sammy A-O'N

Year 8 - Tomo R

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
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](#)
- [Claire's Court SchoolTV](#)
- [CC Administration of Medicine Request Form](#)

