

Weekly communication to Parents/Carers

Friday 1 May 2026



St Katherine's Website



Term dates



Termly newsletters



PE calendar

Message from Mr Humphreys

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 5.

Over the past ten days students have continued to demonstrate a strong sense of purpose, resilience and community spirit, both in and beyond the classroom. This term begins with our Celebration and Culture week theme, which provides an important opportunity for students to reflect on identity, belonging and the richness of the diverse experiences within our school. It is always striking how these moments strengthen not only individual confidence, but also our shared understanding of one another. We are looking forward to culture day next week.

Year 11 students have begun their practical examinations in Photography and Textiles. These subjects demand not only technical skill, but creativity, independence and sustained focus over time. It has been a pleasure to see students approach these final pieces with such commitment, taking pride in the work they have developed over many months.

Mock examinations have commenced for Y12's. An important milestone, giving students the opportunity to reflect honestly on their progress and refine their approach to A Level study as they look ahead to their final year. The maturity with which many students are approaching this period speaks to their growing independence and ambition.

Last Friday, 106 Year 9 students took part in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award experience, beginning with an overnight camp on the school grounds and a trial walk around Abbots Leigh. These experiences are often transformative with students stepping outside of their usual routines, developing teamwork and problem-solving skills, and learning more about themselves and one another. Fresh from their Duke of Edinburgh expedition for many, Year 9 students embraced their assessment week, showing real resilience in managing both physical challenge and academic focus.

On Wednesday, students and staff came together with others from across the Amplify Trust at the Bristol Beacon for a performance centred on the theme "All Together Now." This was a powerful reminder of the role that the arts play in bringing people together. Events like this go beyond performance; they build confidence, foster collaboration and create a shared sense of belonging across schools and communities. It was a wonderful occasion, and one that many students will remember for a long time. Speaking with students over the last two days revealed the positive impact of such a grand event and the deep sense of satisfaction the students are feeling. Playing amongst the Birmingham Conservatoire was a real highlight although a little scary for some!

We now look ahead with real excitement to our Culture Day on 7 May. It is always a highlight, not only a celebration of culture in its many forms, but a reflection of who we are as a community: inclusive, curious and proud of the diversity that strengthens us. Fingers crossed for the weather!

Have a lovely long weekend.

Best wishes
Justin Humphreys



Whole School messages

Mrs Ivey	Science	STEM learning is offering free online career mentoring for students aged between 13-19. More details can be found here .
Mrs Ivey	Science	The University of Bristol is offering a 'Delve into Dentistry' session on the afternoon of 8th July, for students in years 10-13, to find out more about careers in dentistry. Students can find out more and apply here .

Year 7

Food and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins	Year 7	<p>Practical lessons:</p> <p>All practical lessons are set on Classcharts, please ensure ingredients are brought to the lesson.</p> <p>Friday 8th May - 7L Quesdillas</p>
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Year 9

Food and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins	Year 9	<p>Practical lessons:</p> <p>All practical lessons are set on Classcharts, please ensure ingredients are brought to the lesson.</p> <p>Wednesday 6th May - 9R and 9L Homemade pot noodle</p>
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Year 10

Art Ms Tallis	Year 10	<p>Y10 GCSE art students are working hard on their Personal Projects (second coursework project). They must spend a minimum of one hour on homework every week.</p> <p>Your child may work in the Art Dept at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every Tue after school - Every Thu after school - Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu lunchtimes <p>Please support your child to attend one of these sessions regularly; those who did this last year had the most success with their art GCSE results.</p> <p>Deadline for the drawing/photos for the Personal Project = Fri 22 May</p>
Textiles Miss Everard	Year 10	<p>Y10 GCSE Textiles students have now started their second coursework project, on the broad theme of 'Organics'.</p> <p>Year 10 Mock date is Monday June 8th. The mock exam piece will be based on their work over the next few weeks - (Organics).</p> <p>They should be spending at least an hour on homework each week, and they can attend catch-up sessions at lunch times and after school in the Art/Textiles Dept.</p>
Photography Mr Frullo	Year 10	<p>Y10 GCSE Photography students have now started their Independent Projects. They must spend a minimum of one hour on their coursework every week.</p> <p>Your child may work in the Art department any break/lunch/day after school. However, I have put aside Tuesday and Thursday after school if students require my support, I will try my best to be there to help outside these times.</p> <p>Please support your child to attend one of these sessions regularly; those who did this last year had the most success with their GCSE results.</p>

Year 11



Art Ms Tallis	Year 11	It is now the FINAL PUSH before the 10 hour exam next Tues 5 & Wed 6 May .
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		<p>This marks the end of the art GCSE course & when students leave the exam room on Wed, ALL EXAM PROJECT WORK MUST BE LEFT.</p> <p>I would also like all coursework to be left on Wed too.</p> <p>Your child must spend the time they need over the long weekend to complete ALL supporting exam project work.</p> <p>Many thanks for your support at this very important time for your child on their final chapter of the art GCSE course.</p>
Science Mrs Ivey	Year 11	Next week on Tuesday we will be offering afterschool revision for all year 11 students. The revision session will be on Physics and will run after school in lab 3.

Year 12 and 13

Biology Mrs Ivey	Year 12&13	A-level Biology revision will continue after school on Thursday next week. All students should attend.
Physics Mrs Ivey	Year 12&13	Isaac science is offering free mentoring for year 12 and 13 physics students. Students can sign up here .

PE & SPORT - sign up for Spond (our communication platform)


Spond



We're using Spond to communicate with students & parents

If you are looking for information about extra-curricular activities, school sports teams, fixtures, events, competitions, clubs and practices then you need to be on Spond!


Students

bit.ly/skpe_spondstudent



Parents

bit.ly/skpe_spondguardian



We are using a new platform called Spond to manage selection for and communication around extra-curricular PE fixtures and events. We hope that using Spond will improve our communication with students & parents.
Spond is available as a freely downloadable app and as a web app which allows organisations like clubs & schools to set up groups, publish details about events and collect responses for availability. Students and parents can sign up for Spond accounts using the links above. Parents will be linked to their child's account as a guardian.

UPCOMING EVENTS - TERM 5

4 May	BANK HOLIDAY
6 May	Paul Stephenson's birthday celebrations
7 May	1400-1505 Culture Day (whole school)
7 May	0835-1505 Y8 Future Brunel WECA Activity Day (3 students)
To be rearranged	0835-1505 Y7 Chepstow Castle (whole year group over the two days)
9 May	Y9 Bronze DofE Practice Walk
11 May	Mental Health Awareness week

12 May	0835-1505 Y10 Future Fundamentals Trip to UWE (21 students)
-12 May	0835-0900 Y12 & Y13 Rolls Royce Assembly (whole year group)
13 May	1600-1900 Y7 Virtual Progress Evening (W)★
13 May	0900-1505 Y7 Race The Line, DAT block P1-P4, Bottom Courts P5 (whole year group)
13 May	1320-1505 Y12 ICE South West - STEM Outreach Roadshow (whole year group)
16 & 17 May	Silver DofE Practice Quantocks (Sat/Sun) (50 students)
18 May	0900-1000 Coffee with the Headteacher
18 May	0835-0900 Y7 Careers Assembly - Careers in the space industry with Equinox LT (whole year group)
18 May	1000-1100 Y7 Successful Me workshop (20 students)
19 May	0835-0900 Y12 STEM food tech talk (50 students)
20 May	0835-1505 Y10 Future Brunel WECA Activity Day (3 students)
20 May	0835-1505 Y12 & Y13 Oxford - Exeter College (30 students)
21 May	0900-1505 Y12 UWE guidance interviews (whole year group)
22 May	1200-2000 Hay Festival - Malala Yousafzai talks to Anna Foster (32 students)
22 May	1505 END OF TERM 5