

Weekly communication to Parents/Carers

Friday 15 May 2026



St Katherine's Website



Term dates



Termly newsletters



PE calendar

Message from Mr Humphreys

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last two weeks, there has been a great deal to celebrate across our school community, alongside moments of reflection, resilience and challenge. As always, what stands out most is not simply the range of opportunities our students experience, but the way in which they approach them with maturity, enthusiasm and a growing sense of responsibility towards one another.

A significant focus has been the start of the GCSE and A Level examination season for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Exams inevitably bring pressure and uncertainty, but they also provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate the knowledge, resilience and determination they have developed over many years. We have been incredibly proud of the calm and purposeful manner in which students have approached the exam season, supported by our well established routines. Around school, there has been a strong sense of encouragement and collective support, with staff working tirelessly to guide students through these important weeks. We know that success during exam season is not simply built in the examination hall itself, but through years of effort, perseverance and partnership between school and home. We wish all of our students the very best as the examination period continues.

Last Thursday we celebrated our annual Culture Day which is always one of the highlights of the school year. More than simply a celebration of culture in its many forms, the day reflected who we are as a community: inclusive, curious and proud of the diversity that strengthens us. Students shared music, food, language, traditions, clothing and stories from across the world, creating an atmosphere of joy, respect and genuine interest in one another's experiences. Events such as this are a powerful reminder that diversity is not something to simply acknowledge, but something that enriches learning, broadens perspectives and strengthens our sense of belonging as a community. The pride students showed in sharing their identities, alongside the warmth and respect shown by others in learning from them, was simply wonderful.

Students reflected on the legacy of Paul Stephenson as part of celebrations marking his birthday on 6 May. Students have explored his role in the Bristol Bus Boycott and the lasting impact this movement had on challenging racial discrimination in Britain. As a school community in North Somerset and Bristol, these conversations carry particular significance, encouraging students to consider the role individuals can play in creating positive social change and reminding us that respect, equality and courage are values that must continue to be actively lived out today.

This week, we have also marked Mental Health Awareness Week through a range of activities and discussions focused on wellbeing, connection and support. In a world where many young people face increasing pressures both online and offline, creating opportunities for open conversations about mental health remains vitally important.




Year 9 students recently completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice walk, demonstrating determination and collaboration throughout the experience. This weekend, fifty of our Year 10 will be completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition in the Quantocks. Experiences such as these often become defining memories of school life, not only because of the physical challenge involved, but because they encourage students to step beyond their comfort zones, solve problems together and grow in confidence. We are incredibly grateful to the staff who give their time so generously to support these expeditions.

Finally, thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Year 7 Virtual Progress Evening. Apologies to those appointments interrupted by the brief Virgin Media Internet outage. We hope the evening was informative and tutors can be contacted should any further clarification be needed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The last fortnight has once again highlighted the strength of our school community and the importance of providing young people with opportunities not only to achieve academically, but to reflect, celebrate diversity, support one another and grow into thoughtful, compassionate young adults.




Best wishes
Justin Humphreys





Whole School messages

Monkhouse	Whole school	<p>15% Off All Orders – Limited Time Only! Starting Monday, 18th May, we're offering a 15% discount on all uniform orders, a perfect opportunity for parents to get ahead on back-to-school shopping and save big. But don't wait – this offer won't be around for long! Offer available online and in-store Offer ends: Tuesday 26th May Extended Returns Period: To make things even easier, we're also extending our returns period until 11th September, giving parents extra flexibility.</p>
School	Whole school	<p>Learn to row this half term. Are you aged 11-18 in Bristol?</p> <p>City of Bristol Rowing Club is running a junior learn to row course, perfect for anyone looking to try rowing for the first time in a friendly, supportive environment. Led by an experienced British Rowing-qualified coach, sessions will cover rowing technique, safety, and teamwork - with plenty of time spent on the water!</p> <p>Many Learn to Row participants go on to row regularly, with some even progressing to GB trials. Whether you're interested in competitive rowing or simply want to make new friends and keep active, book onto the course today!</p> <p> 17 Mon 25th - Fri 29th May  9am - 3pm  £42</p> <p>Book now The price of the course will also cover your British Rowing membership for 12 months. If cost is a barrier, please get in touch with juniortlr@bristolrowing.co.uk</p> <p>City of Bristol Rowing Club</p>
School	Whole school	<p>We still have a few places available on the SK4, SK5, SK7, and SK8 coaches for the current academic year. If you are interested, please get in touch with Mrs Whiting at whitingj@skdrive.org</p>
School	School coach users	<p>Please ensure your child carries their bus pass at all times, as the driver will be conducting spot checks and the pass is required at all times.</p>
School	Whole School	<p>School Attendance and Sleep The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) recently shared some useful and engaging resources for parents and young people about the importance of good quality sleep. You can find them here. We know that when young people experience difficulties with sleep, this impacts on their school attendance. We are expertly supported by the School Nurse Service who can help our students if they are struggling with sleep and children and parents can self refer to their service. You can find out how to contact them here. You can also email your child's tutor who can do this for you. Please reach out if your child is struggling to sleep well.</p>

Year 7

Food and Nutrition	Year 7	Practical lessons:
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Mrs Jenkins		<p>All practical lessons are set on Classcharts, please ensure ingredients are brought to the lesson. Wednesday 20th May - 7R Fruit Kebabs Friday 22nd May - 7L Fruit Kebabs</p>
Mrs Ivey Science	Year 7	<p>This week and next week we will be talking to year 7 about the assessment week 2 assessments. You can find a copy of the information here.</p>
Bristol City Council	Year 7	<div style="text-align: center;">  <h2 style="margin: 0;">SCHOOL MASCOT SIGN COMPETITION</h2>  <p>Introducing our new mascot Active Ali WIN A Fitbit!</p> <h3 style="margin: 0;">COMPETITION DETAILS</h3> <p>The School's Active Travel Team at Bristol City Council are inviting pupils to design the sign that Active Ali will carry when they are out and about. <i>Open to all Year 5, Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8 pupils across Bristol</i></p> <p>You might spot our mascot visiting schools and at events across the city, encouraging families to walk, wheel, cycle and scoot!</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p>There will be one main winner for the best sign design! The lucky winner will not only win a Fitbit and a goody bag but will also be visited by the mascot for a whole school winner's celebration event! We will also award seven runners up for the sign competition, these winners will also win a Fitbit!</p> </div> <h3 style="margin: 0;">KEY THEMES</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active travel Being active/exercise Helping the environment Health (mental and physical) Modes of travel (wheelchair, walking, bike, scooter) <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 10px;"> Entries must be submitted by the end of the day on Friday 22nd May 2026 </div> <h3 style="margin: 0;">THE DESIGN NEEDS TO:</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Include the words 'School Active Travel' and this title must fill the majority of the page (A4) <input type="checkbox"/> Be linked to active travel/the benefits of active travel <input type="checkbox"/> Be drawn in coloured pencil ONLY (no felt tip allowed) <input type="checkbox"/> The design needs to be landscape NOT portrait <input type="checkbox"/> Be impactful and eye-catching - Attract attention from far away i.e. big and simple design <input type="checkbox"/> Not have too much writing and any words should be large and easy to read <input type="checkbox"/> Be imaginative and meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> Include some active travel themed drawings (walk, wheel, cycle, scooter) <h3 style="margin: 0;">HOW TO ENTER</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Email the School's Active Travel Team at activetravel.schools@bristol.gov.uk <input type="checkbox"/> Put the subject line 'School Mascot Competition' <input type="checkbox"/> Include child's name (first name and initial ONLY) <input type="checkbox"/> Include child's school name and class name <input type="checkbox"/> Include child's year group - <i>Please note, this is only open to Year 5, Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8 in Bristol</i> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>Please note, by entering, the parent or guardian gives full permission for their child's first name to be used in publicity material.</i> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">The deadline for entries is the end of the day on Friday 22nd May 2026</p> </div>
Mrs Cave	Year 7	<p>Year 7 Assessment week 8-12 June You should have received a letter with regard to your child's assessment timetable, please email the school if you have not received it.</p>
Year 8		
Food and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins	Year 8	<p>Practical lessons: All practical lessons are set on Classcharts, please ensure ingredients are brought to the lesson. Tuesday 19th May - 8R Cheese straws</p>
Mrs Ivey Science	Year 8	<p>Following on from the year 8 assessments, we are looking at year 8 setting. If students are moving sets then they will be informed next week.</p>

<p>Bristol City Council</p>	<p>Year 8</p>	<div style="text-align: right;">   </div> <h2 style="text-align: center;">SCHOOL MASCOT SIGN COMPETITION</h2> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div> <p>Introducing our new mascot Active Ali</p> <p>COMPETITION DETAILS</p> <p>The School's Active Travel Team at Bristol City Council are inviting pupils to design the sign that Active Ali will carry when they are out and about.</p> <p><i>Open to all Year 5, Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8 pupils across Bristol</i></p> <p>You might spot our mascot visiting schools and at events across the city, encouraging families to walk, wheel, cycle and scoot!</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0f0e0;"> <p>WIN A Fitbit!</p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 20px 0;">  <p>PRIZES</p> </div> <p>There will be one main winner for the best sign design! The lucky winner will not only win a Fitbit and a goody bag but will also be visited by the mascot for a whole school winner's celebration event! We will also award seven runners up for the sign competition, these winners will also win a Fitbit!</p> <p>KEY THEMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active travel • Being active/exercise • Helping the environment • Health (mental and physical) • Modes of travel (wheelchair, walking, bike, scooter) <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; background-color: #fff9c4; text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Entries must be submitted by the end of the day on Friday 22nd May 2026</p> </div> <p>THE DESIGN NEEDS TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Include the words 'School Active Travel' and this title must fill the majority of the page (A4) <input type="checkbox"/> Be linked to active travel/the benefits of active travel <input type="checkbox"/> Be drawn in coloured pencil ONLY (no felt tip allowed) <input type="checkbox"/> The design needs to be landscape NOT portrait <input type="checkbox"/> Be impactful and eye-catching - Attract attention from far away i.e. big and simple design <input type="checkbox"/> Not have too much writing and any words should be large and easy to read <input type="checkbox"/> Be imaginative and meaningful <input type="checkbox"/> Include some active travel themed drawings (walk, wheel, cycle, scoot) <p>HOW TO ENTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Email the School's Active Travel Team at activetravel.schools@bristol.gov.uk <input type="checkbox"/> Put the subject line 'School Mascot Competition' <input type="checkbox"/> Include child's name (first name and initial ONLY) <input type="checkbox"/> Include child's school name and class name <input type="checkbox"/> Include child's year group - <i>Please note, this is only open to Year 5, Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8 in Bristol</i> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0f0e0; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><i>Please note, by entering, the parent or guardian gives full permission for their child's first name to be used in publicity material.</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">The deadline for entries is the end of the day on Friday 22nd May 2026</p>
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Year 9

<p>Sirona</p>	<p>Year 9</p>	<p>MenACWY and Td/IP vaccination <u>catch-up clinics</u> are available for all Year 9 students who did not receive their vaccination at school.</p> <p>If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-immms@nhs.net</p>
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Year 10

<p>Art Ms Tallis</p>	<p>Year 10</p>	<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 = next Fri 22 May</p>
<p>Textiles Miss Everard</p>	<p>Year 10</p>	<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. 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 so last year had the most success with their GCSE results.</p>
Science Mrs Ivey	Year 10	<p>Year 10 mocks take place in term 6. This week we have been speaking to year 10 about their mocks and how to revise. You can view the presentation here.</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		
RJW	Year 11	<p>Health and Social Care Revision session in half term Wednesday 28th May 9.30-12.30</p> <p>I will be running a voluntary revision session for the Health and social Care R032 exam, students will need to meet me outside the sixth form entrance on the morning.</p>
Year 12 and 13		
GD	Year 13	<p>Year 13 exams are upon us, and we are so impressed by the commitment and dedication shown up to this point by the young people in our Sixth Form. Exams are a marathon, so we are encouraging all students to look after themselves, sleep well, eat and drink well, and do things to look after their mental and physical health in this stressful period. A timetable of all additional sessions - boosters, breakfasts and interventions - can be found here.</p>
GD	Year 12	<p>We are looking forward to the Oxford University trip next Wednesday, and are so pleased that we are able to provide this experience free of charge. Thank you to all parents/carers who have completed permission forms. If your child is attending this trip, please be aware that traffic-dependent, we will arrive back at St Katherine's between 6 and 7pm. A free lunch will be provided, but students should bring snacks and water. There will be time to explore Oxford, so some spending money may be needed.</p>

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

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