

September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this finds you and your families well and no doubt we are all ready for school routines to recommence. We are looking forward to welcoming all students back and full details are below to ensure a smooth start to the year.

The return to school will be staggered:

Date of Return	Year group to return	Time
Friday 4 September	Year 7 only	Through the gates by 8:30
Monday 7 September	All year groups 7-13	

Friday 5 September – Year 7 only

Year 7: We ask Year 7 students to arrive at 8:30am and go to the Top Court where they will be welcomed by staff. Students will have an extended tutor time at the start of the day to answer any questions and help them settle in. This will also include their school photograph and biometrics set up for the canteen system for those for whom we have permission. From period 3, Year 7 students will have their first lesson.

Monday 7 September - All Years

All years: We ask that all year groups are on site by 8:30am. Students should go directly to their tutor groups for an extended tutor time. Lessons will begin from period 3.

Please find below information that will support you and your child(ren) through the remainder of the school year:

School day: The school day begins at 8:30am and ends at 3:05pm. If your child walks, cycles or is driven to school, please ensure they arrive at school by 8:30am.

School coaches: If your child is in Year 7, please ask them to sit on the front rows of the coach. If your child is in Yrs 8-13, please ask them to sit towards the middle or back of the coach.

Mobile phones: Changes for September 2026

We would be grateful if you could discuss these mobile phone changes with your child/ren to ensure a smooth start to the new academic year.

As shared in July and in line with updated government guidance, we will become a completely mobile device-free school from 4 September. All mobile devices **must be switched off** and kept in students' bags **before they enter the school gates** and cannot be accessed again **until they exit the school gates**. This is a change from our current arrangements, where students have been permitted to use their devices before and after the school day on the school site.

From September, mobile devices must not be seen or heard anywhere on the school site. Any device that is seen or heard, including one kept in a pocket, will be confiscated for 24 hours. For the purposes of this updated policy, mobile devices include mobile phones, smartwatches, smart glasses and headphones.

Uniform and equipment: please read the letter from Mrs Humphries below, shared at the end of term 6.

Virtual Parents/Carers Information Evening: We would like to invite you to our virtual Parents/Carers Information Evening that will take place on Wednesday 9 September between 1800-1830 via GoogleMeet. The evening will provide the opportunity to better understand our school and offer you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. We will be covering the following:-

- Safeguarding
- Attendance
- Curriculum
- Systems
- Transport

The event can be accessed here: video call link: <https://meet.google.com/wbi-bphx-qxp>

If you are unable to attend, a recording of the evening will be attached to our weekly communication to parents/carers on Friday 11 September.

We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely



Justin Humphreys
Headteacher

July 2026

Dear Parent/Carers

As we approach the end of this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the school and reinforcing school standards and expectations with your child/children. We continue to positively drive standards to allow us to focus on learning and academic success.

To help ensure a smooth start to the new academic year, we would like to remind you of the key changes taking effect from September, along with our expectations for student equipment and uniform, which are outlined below.

Key Changes for September

1. Single Lunchtime

A reminder that from September, we will move from a split lunch to a single lunchtime for all students. This change will strengthen our sense of community by creating more opportunities for friendships, clubs and whole-school events, while providing calmer, more consistent routines with enhanced supervision and support. It will also improve the school day by reducing congestion, protecting learning time and expanding access to homework, revision and wellbeing support, ensuring lunchtime is a positive and enriching experience for every student. Extended communications regarding this change have been shared with parents and pupils.

2. Mobile Devices

In line with updated government guidance, we will become a completely mobile device-free school from September. All mobile devices must be switched off and kept in students' bags **before** they enter the school site and cannot be accessed again until they **leave** the school site. This is a change from our current arrangements, where students have been permitted to use their devices before and after the school day on the school site.

From September, mobile devices must not be seen or heard anywhere on the school site. Any device that is seen or heard, including one kept in a pocket, will be confiscated for 24 hours. For the purposes of this policy, mobile devices include mobile phones, smartwatches, smart glasses and headphones. The school gates at the top of the school represent the threshold for the school site.

Equipment List

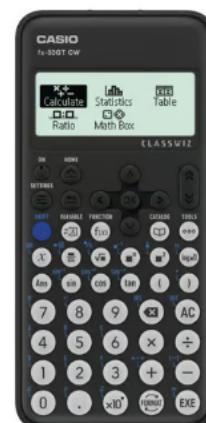
All students are expected to have the following items in their bag each day to support learning. Tutors will check and support students to ensure they are fully equipped each day and will contact home should there be any concerns.

Getting ready for September



Equipment checklist

- Water Bottle
- Pencil case
- Black or blue pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Rubber
- Ruler (at least 15 cm)
- Highlighter (any colour)



(Casio FX-85GT CW)

RESPECT | RESILIENCE | RESPONSIBILITY

Uniform and Equipment for Years 7-11

Our uniform, including house ties, plays an important role in fostering a sense of pride, belonging and identity within both our House family and the wider school community. If we have any concerns about a student's uniform, we will contact home promptly so that the issue can be resolved quickly and avoid unnecessary behaviour points. If you anticipate any difficulties with uniform, please let your child's tutor know as soon as possible so that we can work together to find a solution.

If a student arrives at school or tutor time wearing incorrect uniform, they will be directed to Student Support so the issue can be addressed. Students will be expected to change into the correct uniform where possible. Appropriate exceptions will, of course, be made where there are genuine medical reasons.

School uniform - [Monkhouse](#)

School ties - Collect from Student Support and paid for with £4 cash or via [Parentpay](#)

PE kit - The Sports Shop, 39 High Street Portishead - [form](#)

Outerwear	Weatherproof coat. Coats, gloves and hats are to be removed for lessons. Hijabs and durags must be plain in colour. Reminder: Denim coats, fleeces and sweatshirt garments, hoodies are not allowed.
Blazer	Maroon blazer from Monkhouse. To be worn at all times unless directed otherwise by staff.

Clip-on Tie	House ties.
White Shirt	White, collared shirt with buttons to the neck. Shirts must be tucked in at all times except during social time on the courts/field.
Trousers	Grey tailored trousers and of a length, material and style appropriate to an academic working environment with no fashion elements. Reminder: No leggings, jeggings, tight Lycra/tight-fitting trousers or pockets on legs, zipped pockets, very narrow or very wide-bottomed trousers.
Skirt	Grey knee-length pleated skirt. Reminder: No tube, Lycra, skater-style or elastane skirts. Skirts must not be rolled up at any time.
Shorts (optional)	Grey tailored knee length shorts.
Jumper (optional)	Grey v-neck jumper with maroon stripe (available from Monkhouse only).
Socks	White, black or grey ankle socks (no colours).
Tights	Black, natural or grey.
Shoes	Black shoes. Reminder: trainers, shoes with heels and shoes made of canvas and other non-waterproof materials are not allowed.
PE Kit	St Katherine's branded top, shorts, jogging bottoms, leggings and skorts. School socks are red, white and black hooped socks. Plain black long socks are an acceptable alternative. Training shoes suitable for physical activity and studded boots. Shin pads are compulsory for football. Reminder: no cycling shorts or similar shorts.
Make-up	Students may wear discreet makeup and nail varnish. Reminder: false nails or false eyelashes are not permitted. If your child has had nail extensions over the summer holiday, please ensure these are removed before the return to school. Students with excessive makeup will be asked to remove it.
Body piercings	For Health and Safety reasons, the school does not permit body piercing apart from small studs/small hoops in ear lobes.

	Reminder: We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that body piercings usually take a minimum of 6 months to heal. We would therefore strongly recommend that students do not get any piercings over the summer that cannot comfortably and easily be removed for school in September.
Hairstyles	Unnatural hair colours, 'extreme' hairstyles, or hairstyles that do not meet health and safety requirements for practical lessons are not allowed.
Jewellery	Rings, bracelets, badges and necklaces may be worn. Jewellery must be easily removable for practical lessons. Any jewellery deemed unsafe or excessive must be removed when requested.

Thank you once again for supporting our standards and we look forward to welcoming students back in September.

Wishing all families a pleasant summer break.

Yours sincerely



Alice Humphries
Assistant Headteacher