

Weekly communication to Parents/Carers

Friday 11 September 2026



St Katherine's Website



Term dates



Termly newsletters



PE calendar

Message from Mr Humphreys

School is back

As we come to the end of our first week back, it has been wonderful to see students and staff settling back into the routines of school and starting 2026 with a clear sense of purpose. There is a real sense of energy around the school, and we have much to celebrate and be proud of as we begin the new year.

We have started the term by celebrating the achievements of our recent Year 11 and Year 13 students. Our GCSE students achieved an average grade of 5, while our A Level students achieved an average grade of C+, with almost half of all A Level grades awarded at A*-B. Almost 50% of our students have also gone on to attend Russell Group universities. These are excellent achievements and a reflection of the hard work, commitment and determination of our students and staff.

Our whole-school assembly on Monday posed the question - what are you capable of? and focused on three simple ideas: Dream. Do the work. Go again. We challenged students to think about what they want to achieve during their time at St Katherine's and beyond, to understand that ambitions require commitment and hard work, and to recognise that when things do not quite go to plan, we should learn from the experience and go again - but better.

**Dream.
Do the work.
Go again.**

RESPECT | RESILIENCE | RESPONSIBILITY

Thank you to our students and families for your support with the changes to mobile phone expectations this week. Students have been exceptional in the way they have accepted and embraced the change, and we are very grateful for the positive support we have received from families. Thank you also to everyone who attended our information evening on Wednesday. We hope you found the evening useful and informative.

We are looking forward to celebrating another year of sporting achievement at our Sports Awards Evening next Thursday, recognising the commitment, success and contribution of our students across the year.

Thank you for your continued support as we begin 2026 together. I hope that after a busy and positive first week back, you all have a restful weekend.

RESPECT | RESILIENCE | RESPONSIBILITY

Whole School messages

Wellbeing	Whole school	If you are concerned about your child and Self Harm there is an offer from North Somerset Council of a free training and information session on Wed 23 September 1800-2000
School	Whole school	Coffee with the Headteacher will be held on Friday 2 October from 0900-1000. In order for us to provide catering, please email school@skdrive.org if you would like to attend. The meeting is an opportunity to meet informally with Mr Humphreys and Mr Harding, Chair of Governors to discuss key themes and feedback around the quality of education.
School	Whole school	For those who have missed the Y7-Y11 Information evening, please find attached here slides . FAQ will follow.
Finance	Whole school	Parentpay One-Click Payments (Bank Transfer) We are currently experiencing a lot of failed payments. Parentpay is encouraging parents/carers to use this payment method rather than card payment. As a school we do not like this as potentially a transaction can fail several days later causing lunch accounts to go overdrawn. The direct debits take 3 working days to set up before a payment should be attempted. The transaction can then take another 4 days to show on your bank statement. We would recommend continuing with card payment as these transactions are pre-authorised. This can be done by skipping the first page asking you to set up a One Click payment then selecting the 'Add To Basket' button and then 'Other Payment Method' button.
Mrs Collins and Ms Adams	Whole school	Please see the letter from Mrs Collins and Ms Adams with regard to Matilda - The Musical.
Performing Arts	Whole school	Matilda the musical rehearsals begin Monday 14 September for the whole cast 1515-1715. Students wanting to join the school show must ensure they have arranged transport home with parents and carers. Students must add their names to the Matilda Google sheet and add themselves to the Matilda Jr classroom where they will receive all the relevant information regarding the show. Any questions please do email Mrs Collins on collinsl@skdrive.org We look forward to seeing you all there!
School	Lockers	Locker keys will be distributed during tutor time next week, and tutors will be able to show your child where their allocated locker is located.
School	School's coaches users	Bus passes will be issued from Wednesday 16 September. Please ensure that students have their bus pass with them every time while travelling on the school coaches. The first direct debit will be on Monday 14 September.

Year 7

Sirona	Year 7	Flu Vaccination Years 7 The Sirona Immunisation Team will be visiting school on 8 October to administer the flu vaccination to students in Years 7. If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccination, please complete the vaccination consent form . If you have any questions about the vaccination, please contact the School Immunisation Team on 0300 124 5515 or by email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net .
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Reading Ms Wild	Year 7	In their first library lessons, we explain the importance of reading and set their most important homework - reading for twenty minutes every day. We know that many students need support with their reading. Please email me if you have any questions about how you can best support your child with reading: wildi@skdrive.org
Library event Ms Wyld	Year 7	As our first welcome to St Kath's event our annual Roald Dahl quiz will take place on Wednesday 14th October. Only for our Yr7 students, teams will test their knowledge in this fun lunchtime quiz in the Library classroom. There are House points & a small prize for everyone taking part, a great prize for the winning team, and a bit of a surprise at the end! Sign up your team in the Library.
Food and Nutrition Miss Layton	Year 7	Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Monday 14th September - 7r Fruit kebabs Here is a copy of the breakdown of the lessons for the whole rotation.
School	Year 7	School photos are available to view and order online: https://order.colorfoto.net/ Each child will have been handed a unique and individual access code on Photo Day. If you have any questions or need help please call 02920 448210 or email us at orders@clickfoto.co.uk
Trailblazers Miss Adams	Year 7	If your child signed up for the trailblazers scheme you should have received an email confirming which instrument they have been allocated. Please respond to confirm their place. Payment details will be on Parentpay once all confirmations are complete. Your child's instrumental teacher will also be in contact regarding lesson day and time. Please also note that if your child is on the trailblazers scheme they will automatically be doing trailblazers orchestra during enrichment on a Wednesday afternoon. Please contact adamsa@skdrive.org or musicadmin@skdrive.org with any further questions.

Year 8

Food and nutrition Mrs Jenkins	Year 8	Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Wednesday 16 September - 8r Scones Here is a copy of the breakdown of the lessons for the whole rotation.
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Year 9

Reading Ms Wild	Year 9	In their first library lessons, year 9 are being introduced to our Bucket List. In year 9 students are expected to choose and read a book from the Bucket List each term, and write reviews on the Bucket List classroom when they finish. If you have any questions or would like to discuss how to support your child with their reading, please email me: wildi@skdrive.org
Food and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins	Year 9	Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Tuesday 15 September - 9L Mac and cheese Here is a copy of the breakdown of the lessons for the whole rotation.
DofE Mr Hodgson	Year 9	We will be starting the DofE Bronze programme on Wednesday 16th September. If you would like to participate, and haven't already done so, please complete the form found here and please pay the deposit on parent pay. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any more information hodgsont@skdrive.org

Year 10

Textiles Miss. Everard	Year 10	Year 10 have made a great start to their Textiles GCSE. They are working on a sustained project which will take them through most of year 10. To begin with, we are recapping and improving sewing machine skills learnt at KS3. Students will need to spend a minimum of one hour on homework every week. Your child may work in R13 at the following times: - After school on Thursdays 1500 - 1600 Room 13 - A lunchtime each week, day not yet confirmed. Please encourage your child to attend supported sessions, it is so helpful for them having access to equipment and materials. Thank you for your support.
English	Year 10	Please find the wider reading for this week here .
DofE Silver Mr Hodgson	Year 10	We will be launching Silver DofE with an online meeting on Wednesday 16th September at 1900. Silver DofE Information Meeting Time: Sep 16, 2026 1900 Meeting Link Meeting ID: 895 2952 9087 Passcode: j8mGWy The meeting will be recorded and posted on the Google Classroom, which you can join here.
 Work Experience Mrs A Fey	Year 10	Year 10 WEX week - 5th - 9th July 2027 Work experience will be launched to one half of Year 10 Wednesday 16th September and to the second half Wednesday 30th October. In the meantime I will be reaching out to students to ask them to join the WEX Google Classroom in preparation for the launch. This will contain key resources and information about work experience and will be used to advertise WEX opportunities and placements. Please encourage your child to join the Google Classroom - an invite link is being sent out today, Friday 11th September If your child is interested in Drama I would love to point you in the direction of the Bristol Old Vic WEX week. This is running outside of St Katherine's WEX week. If your child is successful in securing a placement please let me know so I can ask if the school will authorise them to attend: Bristol Old Vic WEX week 28th June - 2nd July 2027. Applications open Tuesday 14th September 2026 and close 30th October 12 Noon. Please click here for more information and a link to apply. If you have any questions or concerns please check the WEX FAQ document, visit the school WEX webpage (in the process of being updated) or do feel free to drop me an email and I'll get back to you as soon as possible - afey@skdrive.org

Year 11

Food Preparation and Nutrition	Year 11	We have now started the first piece of coursework - NEA 1. Please can you encourage and support your child to meet the deadlines outlined in the email sent. On a Wednesday lunchtime, there will be support available to students in room 11.
Textiles Miss. Everard	Year 11	Year 11 have made a flying start to their Personal Project, it is fantastic to see their ideas and see how their skills and confidence have grown in the past year. Textiles Mock Exam is on November 11th, and the Personal Project coursework leads directly up to this date - culminating in the exam day when they will create their 'final piece'. Students will need to spend a minimum of one hour on homework every week. Your child may work in R13 at the following times: - After school on Thursdays 15:05 - 16:05 Room 13 - A lunchtime each week, day not yet confirmed.

		Please encourage your child to attend supported sessions, it is so helpful for them having access to equipment and materials; those who did this last year had the most success with their Textiles GCSE results. Thank you for your support.
English	Year 11	Please find the wider reading for this week here .

Year 12&13

Mrs Garrett	Sixth Form	We would like to invite parents/carers to our in person Parent/Carer Information Evening, in school on Wednesday 16 September, 1800-1900. This will involve a brief outline of our expectations of Sixth Form students regarding academic progress, attendance and behaviour, an outline of the Sixth Form programme at St Katherine's and the opportunities available, as well as an opportunity for you to meet the 6th form team and ask any questions you may have about the year ahead. Much of the content will be aimed at incoming Year 12s, but there will also be information about post-18 options including the UCAS process and applying for Student Finance.
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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 1

15 September	Y8 to Y11 Flu vaccination clinic
15 September	Y12 Gold DofE information evening (Virtual)
16 September	Y10 Silver DofE Information evening (Virtual)
16 September	Y11 Future Brunels WECA Activity Day
16 September	Y12 Study Skills Day
16 September	Y12-Y13 Parent/Carer Information evening 1800-1900
17 September	Sports Award evening 1900-2130 (Canteen)
22 September	7S1 Trip to Sugar Loaf
23 September	Y8 Future Brunels WECA Activity Day

24 September	Whole school opening evening, school closes at 1230
25 September	Inset Day
29/30 September and 1 October	Open Mornings 0900-1030
1 October	7S2 Trip to Sugar Loaf
2 October	Coffee with the Headteacher 0900-1000
2 October	7T1 Trip to Sugar Loaf
2 October	Y13 Trip to We the curious
6 October	7T2 Trip to Sugar Loaf
6/7 October	Y9 Trip to Folly Farm
6/7 October	Open Mornings 0900-1030
7 October	Y10 Future Brunels WECA Activity Day
8 October	Y7 Flu vaccination clinic
9 October	7Y Trip to Sugar Loaf
14 October	Y11 Information evening 1700-1830 (in person)
15 October	7P Trip to Sugar Loaf
23 October	Y11 trip to Magistrate Court 0930-1300
21 October	End of Term 1 at 1505