

Weekly communication to Parents/Carers

Friday 9 October 2026



St Katherine's Website



Term dates



Termly newsletters



PE calendar

Message from Mr Humphreys

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy fortnight at St Katherine's, with plenty happening both inside and beyond the classroom.

Today we are marking Hello Yellow Day, supporting YoungMinds and the campaign championed locally by North Somerset Youth Parliament. Thank you to everyone who has joined in by wearing something yellow. More importantly, it has been a useful opportunity to remind ourselves that looking after our mental health is something we all have a part to play in.



Black History Month has also been an important focus this month, with this year's theme, *Honouring Our Communities*, prompting students to explore the people, stories and communities that have helped shape our society. This sits closely with our own values of respect, responsibility and resilience, and our belief that there is more that unites us than divides us.

Our Year 7 students have continued their Sugar Loaf experiences during Term 1. Walking, navigating and working together in a different environment provides something that cannot always be replicated in a classroom. It was a great opportunity to build relationships with people who, only a few weeks ago, were complete strangers.

Year 9 Biology students have also been putting theory into practice at Folly Farm. As part of their GCSE required practical work, students used quadrats and transects to sample and compare different ecosystems. It was a great example of students applying scientific methods to the real world.

Thank you to the parents and carers who joined Coffee with the Headteacher alongside our Chair of Governors, Mr Harding. The conversation covered curriculum, homework, assessment and wider school systems.

We are also asking families to contribute to our Family Voice Survey on transitions. Your feedback helps us understand what is working well and, importantly, where we need to improve. Please do take a few minutes to complete the survey; the details are included in the whole-school update below.

Following the success of our Open Evening on 24 September, we have continued to welcome prospective families through our Open Mornings. It has been a pleasure to see parents and children experiencing the school during a normal working day, meeting staff and asking questions about life at St Katherine's.

This week culminated in our Sixth Form Open Evening. We welcomed prospective students and their families to see what our Sixth Form has to offer and, importantly, to hear directly from the students who are already part of it.

I was particularly proud of our Head Students, Bea and Felix, who spoke alongside Ms Huzzey with confidence, honesty and real pride in their experience at St Katherine's. They were excellent ambassadors for the school. I would also like to thank all of our staff and students who gave their time to support the evening. Their commitment reflected something that is central to our Sixth Form: high expectations alongside a genuinely caring and supportive community.

After the energy of our Open Evening and the final Open Mornings, it was a fitting way to finish the fortnight with our students showing prospective families, rather than simply telling them, what makes St Katherine's special.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Justin Humphreys

Whole School messages

Amplify	Whole School	Important Update on Recent Connectivity Issues Please find attached letter here from Sue Elliott, COO and Deputy CEO of the Trust.
School	Whole School	 <p>Tell us what you think - Family voice survey (Transitions)</p> <p>We would like to work collaboratively with you to ensure the best possible experience for your children at school.</p> <p>To help us improve how we communicate, work together and support transitions (moving into a new year group or school), we would like to invite you to complete our Family Voice survey. Your views will help us understand what is working well and where we can make positive changes.</p> <p>Survey link: Family Voice Survey</p> <p>Closing date: Monday 19 October at 4pm.</p> <p>The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and all responses are anonymous.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your thoughts, we will give feedback on the results through our school communications. Your feedback really does make a difference.</p> <p>Important guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have more than one child at your school, you can complete a separate survey for each child. The first question may seem unclear without this context • The survey will be automatically translated into the language of the device being used • If there are any technical difficulties or further support is needed, please contact school@skdrive.org
School	Whole School	Studybugs <p>We're pleased to announce that St Katherine's School has introduced a new, more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs.</p> <p>If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.</p> <p>From September, this is the way we ask you to report your child's absence from school.</p>

		<p>Get the app or register now (https://studybugs.com/about/parents)</p> <p>Top 3 reasons to use Studybugs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It's integrated with our systems so we know right away if your child is unaccounted for. 2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted. 3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations improve children's health. (https://studybugs.com/about/schools)
School	Whole School	  <h2>Winter Inclusive Multi-sport Festival 2026</h2> <p>A great opportunity for d/Deaf, Disabled and Neurodivergent people and their families to try local inclusive sports and activities – Full list of sports/ accessibility options to be announce soon</p> <p>Sign up is now open!</p> <p> Sunday 22nd November 2026, 1 – 4 pm</p> <p> 224 Youth Zone, Hartcliffe Way, BS4 1GQ</p> <p> Please let us know if you require a BSL interpreter at the event</p> <p>Register your FREE place using this link or QR code: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/0KKt3aALQu</p>    
School	Whole School	<p>School site</p> <p>We received a report last week of a spectator vaping on site during a sports fixture. A polite reminder that our school site is strictly non smoking/vaping.</p>
School	Whole School	<p>SEND Coffee Morning - 9 November 2026</p> <p>Providing an informal opportunity for parents/carers to meet, ask questions and discuss SEND provision and educational needs. A forum for general discussion and information sharing rather than individual case discussions. If you would like to attend please email school@skdrive.org.</p>
Finance	Whole School	<p>Parentpay One-Click Payments (Bank Transfer)</p> <p>We are currently experiencing a lot of failed payments.</p> <p>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.</p>
Mr Ovink	Whole School	<p>Homework: Clear expectations, consistent routines</p> <p>Homework plays an important role in helping students strengthen their understanding, practise key knowledge and build the independent learning habits they need to succeed. To make sure</p>

		<p>homework is purposeful and manageable, we want to ensure that expectations are clear and consistent across the school.</p> <p>What should students and parents/carers expect?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposeful practice: Homework should give students the opportunity to practise and consolidate learning that has already been taught in lessons • Clear instructions: Every homework task should make clear when it is due, how long it should take, what successful completion looks like and where students can access the resources they need • Predictable routines: Students should have at least one week to complete homework. Tasks should be set and due on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday • Recognition of effort: Students will receive a +1 positive for completing their homework <p>Where can students complete their homework?</p> <p>We provide additional spaces for students who would benefit from time and support to complete their work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR2: Open every lunchtime to students in all year groups • CR4: Open Monday to Thursday for Year 11 students only <p>We encourage parents and carers to discuss homework routines with their children and to support them in developing the habits that will help them become confident, independent learners.</p> <p>We will share a regular homework update in this bulletin each week to keep these expectations clear and ensure that students, parents/carers and staff are working together to support successful learning.</p>
School	Whole School	<p>Celebrating our students</p> <p>Congratulations to Frankie Peacock 9T2 who competed in the WKO British championship last weekend and is now the Champion for his weight category. Alongside this, Frankie is top of the table for all three categories entered (boxing, light continuous kickboxing and light contact) so on target to become world Grand Prix winner, this November! Thank you for sharing this with us, wonderful news.</p> 
Year 7		
Food and Nutrition Miss Layton	Year 7	<p>ONLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN THE FOOD ROTATION</p> <p>Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Monday 12th October -7R Potato wedges + dips</p> <p>Here is a copy of the breakdown of the lessons for the whole rotation.</p>
Sirona	Year 7	<p>The Sirona Immunisation Team will be visiting school on 20 October 2026 to administer the flu vaccination to students in Years 7.</p>

		<p>If you would like your child to receive the flu vaccination, please complete the vaccination consent form. If you have any questions, please contact the Sirona on 0300 124 5515 or by email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net.</p>
Trailblazers	Year 7	<p>This week you will have received a letter regarding instrument insurance. Please complete the short google form to confirm the instrument is covered on your house insurance. Students will then be able to take their instruments home to practice.</p>
Year 8		
Food and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins	Year 8	<p>ONLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN THE FOOD ROTATION Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Tuesday 13th October - 8l Swiss roll Wednesday 14th October - 8r Swiss roll</p> <p>Here is a copy of the breakdown of the lessons for the whole rotation.</p>
Year 9		
Food and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins	Year 9	<p>ONLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN THE FOOD ROTATION Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Monday 12th - 9r Fajitas (changed because of the Folly farm trip) Tuesday 13th - 9r and 9l Pizza</p> <p>Here is a copy of the breakdown of the lessons for the whole rotation.</p>
Year 10		
Engineering	Year 10	<p>Students are expected to work on their coursework at home or in their own time for at least one hour per week. In order to help with this we offer before school (everyday from 8:00-8:30), breaktime/lunchtime (everyday) and afterschool (varies weekly, your child's teacher will confirm) sessions for them to stay up to date.</p>
Textiles Miss Everard	Year 10	<p>GCSE Textiles trip is on Thursday 15th October. Payment can be made on ParentPay. School uniform must be worn.</p> <p>Students will need to spend a minimum of one hour on homework every week. Homework is set on Classcharts, and is also on Google Classroom.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to attend catch-up sessions in R13 at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After school on Thursdays 1505 - 1615 Room 13 - Thursday lunchtime each week. <p>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.</p>
Work Experience Mrs A Fey	Year 10	<p>futures →</p> <p>Year 10 WEX week - 5th - 9th July 2027 Deadline to secure placement and add to Unifrog - Tuesday 23rd February 2027 Students have been encouraged to start reaching out to employers as soon as possible. Placements book up fast so it's key to start early.</p> <p>Please encourage your child to join the WEX Google Classroom, this contains key resources, information and WEX opportunities. The code for students to join is a2fuaxhx.</p> <p>WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK: Architect Firm - Chapman Taylor - link here to apply (please note this doesn't guarantee a placement. Students should continue to reach out to other employers in the meantime)</p>

		<p>Once your child has secured a placement they will need to add the placement to Unifrog.</p> <p>To do this they will need to follow these steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Log on to their Unifrog using their school email address - Scroll down to the colourful boxes - Click on the lilac 'Placements' box - Click on 'add a placement' - This will take them to a form asking for the employer information e.g. email address, phone number, as well as some information about the placement <p>I will be posting WEX opportunities weekly and would encourage students to check the classroom regularly.</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns about WEX 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</p>
English	Year 10	To support our study of An Inspector Calls, students need to think about capitalism. Here's the wider reading for this week to spark debates at home.
Year 11		
Mr Sugden	Year 11	<p>On 14 October 2026, we look forward to welcoming you to this year's Year 11 Parents/Carers Information Evening. We will outline our plans for the year, including Prom, how we will support your child academically and pastorally, and for us to let you know how you can best support your child at home as their GCSE examinations approach.</p> <p>Heads of English, Mathematics and Science will share information about supporting your child in their subject, and there will be opportunities for you to place orders for the revision guides we endorse and equipment at school-prices.</p> <p>I would strongly encourage your attendance. Students are welcome to attend, but it is not required that they attend. To help us plan our resourcing and catering, please could you register your intention to attend here.</p>
Mr Sugden	Year 11	Please see the additional academic support available to Year 11s this term. Please encourage them to strongly consider attendance to as many sessions as possible.
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Year 11	<p>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.</p> <p>The investigations are taking place on the 19th and 20th October.</p> <p>On a Wednesday lunchtime, there will be support available to students in room 11.</p>
Engineering	Year 11	Students are expected to work on their coursework at home or in their own time for at least one hour per week. In order to help with this we offer before school (everyday from 8:00-8:30), breaktime/lunchtime (everyday) and afterschool (varies weekly, your child's teacher will confirm) sessions for them to stay up to date.
Textiles Miss Everard	Year 11	<p>GCSE Textiles trip is on Thursday 15th October. Payment can be made on ParentPay. School uniform must be worn.</p> <p>Year 11 students have just 7 lessons left (7 hours) before their mock exam on November 11th. They must be completing coursework independently at home - at minimum 1 hour each week.</p> <p>They may also work in R13 at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - After school on Thursdays 15:05 - 16:15 Room 13 - Thursday lunchtime each week <p>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.</p>
English	Year 11	This week in our study of Romeo and Juliet they have just met - and fallen in love. Here the wider reading for this week - something a little bit different.

Sixth Form	Year 11	Applications are now open to apply to St Katherine's Sixth Form for next September. The application form is here and on the school website.
Music	Year 11	GCSE performance exams take place on Friday 6 November (solos) and Friday 22 January (ensembles) . These two performances are worth 30% of their final grade. Students have been given lots of guidance about selecting appropriate repertoire and also have access to a difficulties levels booklet on their google classroom. You can support by asking your child which pieces they are performing and listening to them at home. Any questions please contact me: adamsa@skdrive.org

Sixth Form

Work Experience Mrs A Fey	Year 12	 <p>Year 12 WEX week - 14th - 18th June 2027 Deadline to secure placement and add to Unifrog - Tuesday 23rd February 2027 Students have been encouraged to start reaching out to employers as soon as possible. Placements book up fast so it's key to start early.</p> <p>All students have been invited to join the WEX Google Classroom which contains key resources, information and WEX opportunities.</p> <p>Once your child has secured a placement they will need to add the placement to Unifrog. I will be posting WEX opportunities weekly and would encourage students to check the classroom regularly.</p> <p>WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK: Architect Firm - Chapman Taylor - link here to apply (please note this doesn't guarantee a placement. Students should continue to reach out to other employers in the meantime)</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns about WEX 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</p>
------------------------------	---------	--

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




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

9 October	0835-1505 7Y Trip to Sugar Loaf
12 October	Bouldering Competition
12 October	0835-1505 Y11 Future Brunel WECA Activity Day (2 students)

13 October	0835-1505 7P Trip to Sugar Loaf
14 October	1700-1830 Y11 Information evening (in person)
15 October	0900-1450 Y10 & Y11 GCSE Textiles Trip to RWA Open Exhibition and Bristol Museum
20 October	Y7 Flu vaccination clinic
21 October	End of Term 1 at 1505
22-24 October	Gold DofE Practice Expedition