

Weekly communication to Parents/Carers

Wednesday 21 October 2026



St Katherine's Website



Term dates



Termly newsletters



PE calendar

Whole School messages

Mr Humphreys	Whole School	<p>A very well done to the following students for receiving a Head Teachers commendation this term</p> <p>Wiktor Lietzau Carys Weidner Sonny Mitchell Beau Cole Phie Lamarque Sophia Kadir Oliver Reynolds Joey Thayer</p> 
School	Whole School	<p>Studybugs</p> <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>
School	Whole School	<p>SEND Coffee Morning - 0900-1000 on 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>
Mrs Collins	Whole School	<p>Matilda Jr the musical!</p> <p>Rehearsals are well underway and students are working exceptionally hard to bring to life this hilarious piece of theatre! Reminder for named roles and ensemble that we have an additional rehearsal Thursday 22 October 09:15-15:00. Students are reminded to bring water and a packed lunch, and to wear warm suitable clothing for rehearsing. The information regarding this additional rehearsal was sent early term 1. Any concerns please do get in touch collinsl@skdrive.org</p> <p>Chorus are not needed for this rehearsal.</p> <p>Tickets are now on sale via ParentPay so please get yours now before it's too late!</p> <p>Please see the letter here with further info for next term's rehearsals and show week preparations. There is a change to when the chorus will be needed from. Thanks so much!</p>
HAF	Families in receipt of	<p>The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme runs during the Easter, Summer and Winter school holidays. To be eligible for HAF, children and young people must be in</p>

	Targeted Free School Meals	<p>receipt of Targeted Free School Meals. Eligibility checks will only be possible during term time, as school staff will not be available during school holidays to confirm eligibility. Unfortunately, any HAF bookings received during a school holiday or school closure period that require an eligibility check may need to be declined if we are unable to obtain confirmation from the school. We want to ensure that parents and carers are given sufficient notice of this process so that there is no unexpected disappointment when booking activities.</p> <p><u>Holiday, activities and food (HAF) programme North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk)</u></p>
Aspens	Whole School	Please see here new menus for next term, these will also be on our website from Wednesday 21 October.
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>
Outdoor Education	Whole school	<p>Get outdoors and take some awesome pictures!</p> <p>We are running an Outdoor Education Photography competition. There will be a different theme each term. Prize for the best picture. All age groups are welcome! Find instructions and this term's theme here.</p>
Uniform Update	Whole school	<p>In Term 2, we will be focusing on ensuring that all pupils wear their uniform correctly and consistently. In particular, we expect all pupils to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear their blazers appropriately. • Keep their top buttons fastened and wear their ties correctly. <p>Please also note that the uniform policy has been updated to include the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are now permitted to wear a small, single nose stud. • Hair may be any colour. <p>Please visit the school website for full details of the uniform policy. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards of uniform and appearance.</p>
School	Whole school	Our school choir has again been invited to perform at the LEAP concerts alongside professional musicians from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and students from other schools within Amplify Education. The concerts will take place at Trinity Academy on Wednesday 11th November. If your son/daughter is a regular member of the choir you will receive a letter with all the details. Please note that students will be returning to school between 4pm-4.15pm and therefore will need to organise alternative transport home if they normally travel by school bus.
School	Whole school	<p>Bake Sale for Female Power Club</p> <p>To raise money for the International Women's Day celebrations later in the year, we will be running a bake sale on Friday 6th November.</p>

		Please bring cakes to the maths office the morning of the bake sale, the theme is purple and equality. There will be prizes for the most impressive cakes! Please bring cash to buy cakes outside of SSO at break and lunchtime.
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Year 7

Food and nutrition Ms Layton	Year 7	Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Monday 2nd November - 7r Muffins
School	Year 7	Y7- Meet the tutor 4 November 4pm-7pm Book a virtual appointment to meet your child tutor.
Trailblazers	Year 7	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.

Year 8

Food and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins	Year 8	Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Wednesday 4th November - 8r Savoury rice
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Year 9

Food and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins	Year 9	Practical lessons Below are the practical lessons taking place this week. Tuesday 3rd November - 9r Goujons
Miss Cave	Year 9	You should have received a letter regarding your child assessments which will take place on the week commencing the 9 November . If you have not received it, please see details here . Any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Year 10

Engineering	Year 10	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.
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 🔍:  Creative video agency placement at Dirty Jack. If your child is interested they can apply here  Environmental WEX Opportunity at Redcatch Community Garden. If your child is interested they can apply here</p> <p>Once your child has secured a placement they will need to add the placement to Unifrog. 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'

		<p>- 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> <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>
Textiles Miss Everard	Year 10	Students will need to spend a minimum of one hour on homework/coursework each week. Homework is set on Classcharts, and is also on Google Classroom. This week they have been set their Architecture Photoshoot and to complete their Wendy Dolan page in their sketchbooks. A reminder that any images students require printing, must be sent to me prepared on slides, not as individual images. Thank you for your support.

Year 11

Mr Sugden	Year 11	<p>A huge thank you to all parents/carers/students who attended last week's Y11 Information Evening. It was great to collect and collaborate on how to best support the Class of 2027 through this important year.</p> <p>Please see the slides from the evening for reference. If anyone has any questions, please do get in touch.</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.
Food Preparation and Nutrition Mrs Jenkins	Year 11	<p>NEA 1 investigation deadline.</p> <p>Thank you for your support in the completion of the NEA 1 investigations. The deadline for the completed coursework is the 9th November.</p>
Textiles Miss Everard	Year 11	<p>Year 11 students have just 4 lessons left, after the half term break, before their mock exam on November 11th.</p> <p>They must be completing coursework independently at home - minimum 1 hour each week.</p> <p>A reminder to help with planning for mock: Elements of their final piece that require drying time or setting time, can be made in advance, please encourage your young person to think about their prep and time planning. Help will be on Classcharts/Google classroom.</p>
Ms Huzzey	Year 11	It was great to see so many of you at Sixth Form open evening. Don't forget to make your application here .
GCSE 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

Year 12 & Year 13

Work Experience Mrs A Fey	Year 12	<p>Futures →</p> <p>Year 12 WEX week - 14th - 18th June 2027</p> <p>Deadline to secure placement and add to Unifrog - Tuesday 23rd February 2027</p> <p>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>
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		<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 🔍:  Creative video agency placement at Dirty Jack. If your child is interested they can apply here  Environmental WEX Opportunity at Redcatch Community Garden. If your child is interested they can apply here</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>
Mrs Garrett	Year 12 & 13	<p>Last week the 6th form had a talk about TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). Please see this link for more information. Students can let Mrs Garrett know if they are interested. The deadline is 6th November.</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

22-24 October	Gold DofE Practice Expedition
28 October	Surfing Westward Ho! (15 students)

UPCOMING EVENTS - TERM 2

2 November	Start of Term 2
3 November	0835-0900 Y12 & Y13 Tom Mitchell ex student talk
4 November	1405-1505 Y13 CV and cover letter workshop with Andrew Banfield
4 November	1600-1900 Y7 Meet the Tutor, virtual
w/c 9 November	Y9 Assessment week

9 November	0900-1000 Parent/Career Inclusion forum, conference room
9 November	0900-1100 Y8 Equinox STEM Workshop (30 students)
9 November	0835-0900 Y11 Bristol Robbins Assembly
10 November	0835-0900 Y12 & Y13 Royal Holloway University Talk
11 November	Remembrance
11 November	LEAP Ensemble, from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
w/c 16 November	Y11 mocks
16 November	Anti Bullying week
17 November	0835-1505 Y9 UWE Future Mindset (25 students)
17 November	0835-0900 Y12 & Y13 Chris Dunkin from DWP talking about LMI
18 November	0835-0900 Y12 BFI film talk, (40 students)
18 November	1000-1100 Y8 Successful Me (25 students)
18 November	1405-1505 Y12 & Y13 UWE How to build your skills for the future
19 November	0835-1505 Y8 Future Brunels WECA activity day
w/c 23 November	Y11 mocks
24 November	0835-1505 Y9 UWE Future Mindset (25 students)
24 November	0835-0900 Y12 & Y13 'Why Sheffield' university talk
25 November	1000-1100 Y8 Successful Me (25 students)
30 November	0835-0900 Y11 Access Creative College Assembly
1 December	0835-0900 Y12 & Y13 Boomsatsuma Assembly
1 December	0900-1000 Parent/Carer Coffee with the HT, JJH office
2 December	1000-1100 Y8 Successful Me (25 students)
2 December	1405-1505 Y12 & Y13 DWP apprenticeship workshop with Chris Dunkin
2 December	1600-1900 Y8 Virtual Progress Evening
3 December	0835-1505 Y9 Future Brunels WECA activity day
w/c 7 December	Winter House Sport
7 December	0835-0900 Y11 City of Bristol College Assembly
8 December	0835-1505 Y10 Future Brunels WECA activity day
8 December	0835-1505 Y11 Sixth Former For the Day
9 December	1800-1900 Christmas Carols, LT
10 December	0835-0900 What is an Apprenticeship assembly with Junior Saunders
15 December	0835-1505 Students in Matilda off timetable - tech run
15 December	0900-1100 Y1 Post 16 Providers Event

16 December	1900 Matilda Jr the musical!
16 December	1405-1505 Y10 RAF talk with Adam Smith
16 December	1405-1505 Y12 & Y13 Career session on AI, Aberystwyth Uni
17 December	1900 Matilda Jr the musical!
17 December	1220-1305 Christmas lunch
18 December	0835-0900 Y11 Mock certificate day
18 December	School closes at 1230
18 December	1400 Matilda Jr the musical!