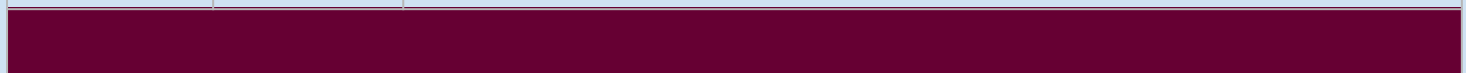


## Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 21 March 2025

Here are the latest school messages and updates for your information.

MESSAGES		
Mr Humphreys	Whole School	<p>Dear Parents/Carers</p> <p>We have experienced an unfortunate amount of staff absence since February which is impacting on the delivery of our curriculum for some classes. Where individual classes are affected by longer term absence, we are rotating classes with a subject specialist to ensure that lessons are delivered by subject specialists, with time taken to check and clarify work set within the Cover Hub. For example, at least two out of five GCSE lessons a fortnight. Where possible, we have secured subject specialists from within Cathedral Schools Trust to deliver lessons to further minimise the impact on students.</p> <p>Our Cover Hub has provided a productive study environment for students to complete work set in each subject, test and recall prior knowledge along with practicing mathematics on Sparx. Students have responded well to this on the whole and we are conscious of how this feels for students when, on occasions, have spent up to three lessons in a single day in the coverhub. We have reviewed and modified how work is set, along with a focus on the monitoring and completion of the work set by both teachers and students to minimise disruption and coverage of the planned curriculum.</p> <p>We recognise this is not ideal and looking forward to returning to a full complement of staff as soon as possible.</p> <p>Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.</p>
School	Whole School	<p><b>SKYFund</b></p> <p>Please find the <a href="#">letter</a> from Mr Humphreys with regards to SKYFund. Thank you to those who have made contributions, this is gratefully received. We have been able to set up this on ParentPay if you would like to also donate that way, please click on “view”.</p>
School	Whole School	<p><b>Issues with the Canteen Tills Software on Thu 20th March</b></p> <p>Yesterday the canteen staff experienced software issues posting food taken onto the tills. Food was posted at the end of the day once Civica had dealt with the issue. We are aware that for some students the free school meal allowance wasn't accounted for and Civica are working to rectify this.</p> <p>We have started a list of students we know this has affected but please check your child's account over the weekend and if you have any concerns please email <a href="mailto:finance@skdrive.org">finance@skdrive.org</a>.</p>
School	Whole School	<p>We have dedicated email addresses in School to help you reach the correct department as efficiently as possible.</p> <p>Please therefore note the following and redirect your email as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child absence, medical appointments etc - <a href="mailto:attendance@skdrive.org">attendance@skdrive.org</a></li> <li>• Finance (e.g. ParentPay) - <a href="mailto:finance@skdrive.org">finance@skdrive.org</a></li> <li>• Student support &amp; detentions - <a href="mailto:sso@skdrive.org">sso@skdrive.org</a></li> <li>• Visitor reception - <a href="mailto:reception@skdrive.org">reception@skdrive.org</a></li> <li>• Admissions - <a href="mailto:admissions@skdrive.org">admissions@skdrive.org</a></li> </ul>

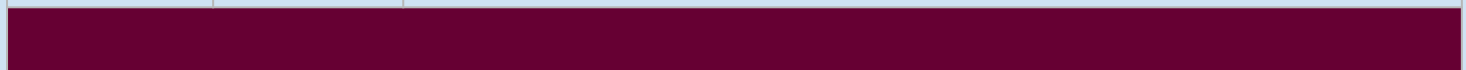
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing - marketing@skdrive.org</li> <li>• Exams - exams@skdrive.org</li> <li>• Safeguarding - safeguarding@skdrive.org</li> </ul> <p>Emails sent to the school inbox will be responded to within 3 working days.</p>
School	Whole School	<p><b>Avon Wildlife Trust</b> Please see a <a href="#">poster</a> from the Avon Wildlife Trust, Portishead for events in 2025.</p>
School	Whole School	<p><b>Facial Piercings</b> A reminder that facial piercings, including nose studs are not allowed in school. Pupils will be asked to remove piercings if in breach of this rule. Please ensure your child does not get a new piercing in school term time. We will not be able to provide clear nose studs or plasters to cover piercings.</p>
School	Whole School	<p><b>RAG Week</b> is back and bigger than ever! <b>22nd -25th April.</b> There are lots of events over the week planned and we are largely <b>pre-selling tickets via Parentpay</b> (to avoid any disappointment) or students can use cash on the day. Please keep an eye out to purchase tickets for certain events.</p>
Mrs Crocker	Whole School	<p><b>Online Safety Act</b> This long awaited piece of legislation was published this week and a useful explanation of its scope and powers can be found <a href="#">here</a>. The new law puts a range of new duties on social media companies and search services, making them more responsible for their users' safety on their platforms. Whereas the law will no doubt make children safer online, it will not prevent all harm from taking place and it does not replace the important role parents must play in ensuring their children use their devices responsibly. Therefore, we encourage all parents to regularly check their child's devices, ensure they only have age appropriate Apps installed and have conversations with their children about responsible online communications. Advice for parents can be found from the UK Safer Internet Centre <a href="#">here</a>.</p>



Ms Smith	Year 7	<p><b>Food preparation and nutrition</b> Here are the practical lessons taking place next week for the following classes. All ingredients are set on Classcharts. Any problems, please let Miss H Smith / Mr Brochot know.</p> <p>Year 7R - Tomato Ragu (as per Class Chart) - Monday 24th March P4b</p> <p>Please bring an apron and an airtight container to take your food with you.</p>
----------	--------	---



Ms Smith	Year 8	<p><b>Food preparation and nutrition</b> Here are the practical lessons taking place next week for the following classes. All ingredients are set on Classcharts. Any problems, please let Miss H Smith / Mr Brochot know.</p> <p>Year 8L - Fajitas (as per Class Chart) - Wednesday 26th March P1 Year 8R - Fajitas (as per Class Chart) - Tuesday 25th March P4b</p> <p>Please bring an apron and an airtight container to take your food with you.</p>
----------	--------	---





School	Year 9	<p>All Y9 children whose parents consented will be offered the Meningococcal ACWY vaccination and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccination in school on Thursday 8 May 2025. Please complete the consent <a href="#">form</a>.</p> <p>It is important that you complete the consent form even if you do not want your child to receive the vaccinations; you are able to consent for none, either or both vaccinations. If you can't access the internet, please call Sirona on 0300 1245515. If your child has received the Men ACWY vaccine as a travel vaccine since the age of 10 they do not need an additional booster at this time. Please indicate whether they have received MenACWY as a travel vaccine on the consent form and contact your GP surgery who will be able to confirm the date it was given.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please contact the Immunisation Team at <a href="mailto:sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net">sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net</a> or 0300 1245515.</p>
Ms Smith	Year 9	<p><b>Food preparation and nutrition</b></p> <p>Here are the practical lessons taking place next week for the following classes. All ingredients are set on Classcharts. Any problems, please let Miss H Smith / Mr Brochot know.</p> <p>Year 9L - Pizza (as per Class Chart) - Monday 24th March P3 Year 9R - Pizza (as per Class Chart) - Tuesday 25th March P1</p> <p>Please bring an apron and an airtight container to take your food with you.</p>
Mrs Ivey	Year 9	<p>Just a reminder that <b>year 9 science homework</b> moves to Sparx from next week. Please encourage your child to complete 20 mins of homework 3 times a week on Sparx science.</p>
Ms Smith	Year 10	<p><b>No Food preparation practical lesson on WK2</b></p>
Mrs Weatherson	Year 11	<p><b>GCSE photography</b></p> <p>We are in a crucial stage of working through the exam unit (worth 40%). Students should be taking photographs and working on their personal projects consistently. The exam date is fast approaching and students will not be able to work on these projects (in their one time) when the observed time begins on 28th April.</p>
Ms Smith	Year 11	<p><b>Food preparation and nutrition GCSE Exams</b></p> <p>Y 11B <b>Group 1 Practical 3 hr exam</b> - Thursday 27th March P1 P2 P3 plus evaluation task afterwards. Y 11B <b>Group 2 Practical 3 hr exam</b> - Monday 31st March P1 P2 P3 plus evaluation task afterwards.</p>
Ms Tallis	Year 11 Art GCSE	<p>Students now have four school weeks before the final 10 hour art exam on <b>6 and 7 May</b>. They are working hard to plan their final pieces that will be completed during these two days.</p> <p>Students must spend a <b>minimum of two hours</b> on art homework <b>every week</b> to get this essential work done. Please support your child to complete this.</p>

		Students are welcome to work on their art exam project Mon-Thurs at lunchtimes or Tues/Thurs after school in the Art Dept.
Mr Davies	Year 12	Year 12 mocks will take place from April 28th-May 9th. Students will have the content of these exams confirmed shortly.
Mr Davies	Year 13	Student Finance applications for 25/26 admissions are open now. Year 13 students have had a number of sessions about student loans, but this is a process which should be completed as a family - the school is not able to provide independent financial advice. However, I would be happy to speak with any parents who feel uncertain or unclear on the process - please just email me. Applications can be completed at <a href="#">this link</a> . I would also recommend <a href="#">this article from Martin Lewis</a> which addresses some questions and misconceptions about student loans.
Mrs Weatherson	Year 12	On Wednesday we will be taking the year group to UWE for the day. The coach will be leaving at 9am and returning by 3pm so students can use their normal methods of transport to and from school. Students will need water, packed lunch. There may be opportunities to buy food on the day from the facilities at UWE but would not want students to rely on this in case there are large queues.
Mr Davies	Year 13	Bath University are running some sessions to support parents/carers who have questions about sending their children to university. The sessions include <a href="#">finance, scholarships and bursaries</a> and <a href="#">applying for accommodation</a> . Please sign up at these links.
Mrs Ivey	Year 13	There will be A-level biology revision afterschool on Tuesday, all students should attend.

**LETTERS - click [here](#) to see all letters**

**SPORT - click [here](#) to see updates via our X page or [here](#) for the PE @ SK calendar**

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 4

22 Mar	Portishead Swimathon
22 Mar	DofE Silver Practice Walk
25 Mar	Y7 Reading Fluency Programme Parent Workshop #2, Library
26 Mar	0900-1505 Y12 UCAS Higher Education and Apprenticeship Convention
27 Mar	0835-1505 Y8 Future Brunel, WECA activity day
4 Apr	Football trip, Madrid