



SOMERVALE SCHOOL



Newsletter: Term 4



MN Midsomer Norton
SP Schools Partnership

Tel: [01761 414276](tel:01761414276) Email: enquiries@somervaleschool.com Web: www.somervaleschool.com

Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

It is so lovely looking out my office window at the sunshine we are experiencing at the moment. It really feels like spring is here and makes such a difference to the students not getting soggy on the way to school and at break time. We have had another really busy term with lots of fantastic activities both in and out of the classroom. You can read more about these events over the next few pages. Year 11 have approached their second set of mocks with maturity and focus and I am really looking forward to awarding prizes tomorrow for the most improved students. I told them it was going to be more revision resources but it is more biscuit shaped. We also have a student who has won a 'Golden Ticket' to Prom in recognition of the hard work they have put into improving their outcomes. As a teacher of Year 11 I am especially proud of the focus they are showing and the amount of extra effort they are all putting in on the run down to the start of the exams. We have had a lot of visitors to the school over the last few weeks where they have been signposted to visit us as a example of excellent practice. It has been really lovely showing off our school and students to these visitors. Every single one of them has commented on the outstanding attitude to learning in lessons and how delightful our students are when talking about their school. Corridor behaviour has also been an area that has been highlighted as being extremely strong. All of this is always lovely to hear as we are quite rightly extremely proud of our wonderful students.

Secondary offers day was last month and we have been oversubscribed again but I have limited the intake to 5 classes (150 students) so that we can continue to keep the unique feel of our slightly smaller school. We are looking forward to starting the process of getting to know our new students over the coming months.

We have got a few changes in the school after the holidays. Miss Stowell will be starting her maternity leave and her lessons will be cover by Mrs O'Connor, whom any of the students have already met when she has been in the school previously. The role of Year Leader for Year 9 will be covered by Mr Caton. We would like to wish Miss Stowell all the best and am looking forward to seeing lots of lovely photos when Baby Stowell arrives. We have the school ski trip departing on Saturday bound for Andorra and I have been lucky enough to talk Mr Batton into letting me join them. We are really looking forward to a week in the snow (however I think Yr11 are a bit concerned by the offer of organised revision sessions for every night...).

I would like to take this opportunity as always to thank you for all your support over the last term. This is a really fabulous school to work in and lead and a large part of that is down to the excellent relationship we have with you as parents and carers. So thank you and I hope you have a lovely relaxing break.

Best wishes

Joanna Hethwaite



Headteacher

Adolescence

You may be aware of the stories in the news about the Netflix drama programme called Adolescence. This discusses the upsetting topic of the long term effects of young people's online behaviours including accessing upsetting material and being involved in and victims of bullying and abuse. Quite rightly this drama programme has started a conversation around what more needs to be done to safeguard our young people and also to raise the awareness and understanding of what many young people view regularly and are exposed to, often without the emotional maturity levels of being able to process it. Despite what you may read in the press we have no plans to show this programme in school to the students. You may be interested to know that the Netflix series is rated as a 15. However I would recommend that as a parent you may wish to watch the series, if you haven't already, so that you can discuss the topics it highlights with your child. In school we work with the students through both the tutor programme, IT lessons, PSHCE and assemblies around keeping themselves safe and seeking help if they are experiencing anything on line that is upsetting them. Whenever discussing particularly upsetting or triggering topics with the students we would also contact you first so that you have the opportunity to brooch this subject with your child and then support them afterwards.

Child line is always a good source of information if you would like any support on how to start a conversation with your child about their online habits.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/>

This is also a good source of information

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Please also always reach out to the pastoral team if you have any questions or concerns about your child and their online behaviours. By working together we can keep all of our young people safe.



Attendance

Attendance at Somervale School

We are delighted to share that our school continues to maintain fantastic attendance, currently standing at 94.0% at the end of term 4 which is an impressive and huge 3.1% above the national average. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and commitment of our students, as well as the invaluable support from you as parents/carers. Your encouragement in ensuring that students attend school regularly plays a vital role in their success, academically, socially and emotionally.

Within these headline figures sit individual successes from improving attendance to those with outstanding attendance consistently.

This term we are able to also celebrate over 391 students who have achieved above 97% attendance. Wow!

We sincerely appreciate your partnership in helping us maintain such high standards. Together, we are making a real difference in their education and future opportunities. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Kind regards

Mr B Pearce
Assistant Headteacher

House News

Harridge Charity Week



Harridge House this term raised a brilliant **£310** for their chosen charity. Thankyou to all those that took part in all the activities. Especially our house captains Tyler and Nara, for all your help and organisation.



House News

House Colours

Ammerdown

Harridge

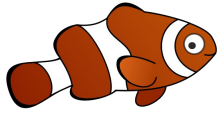
Stockhill

Greyfield

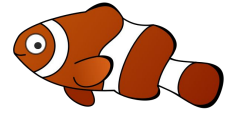


House Ties – available for purchase from Easter onwards from Norton Sports and Camping.
Compulsory for all students from September 2025

Geography Department



Bristol Aquarium Year 9 Trip



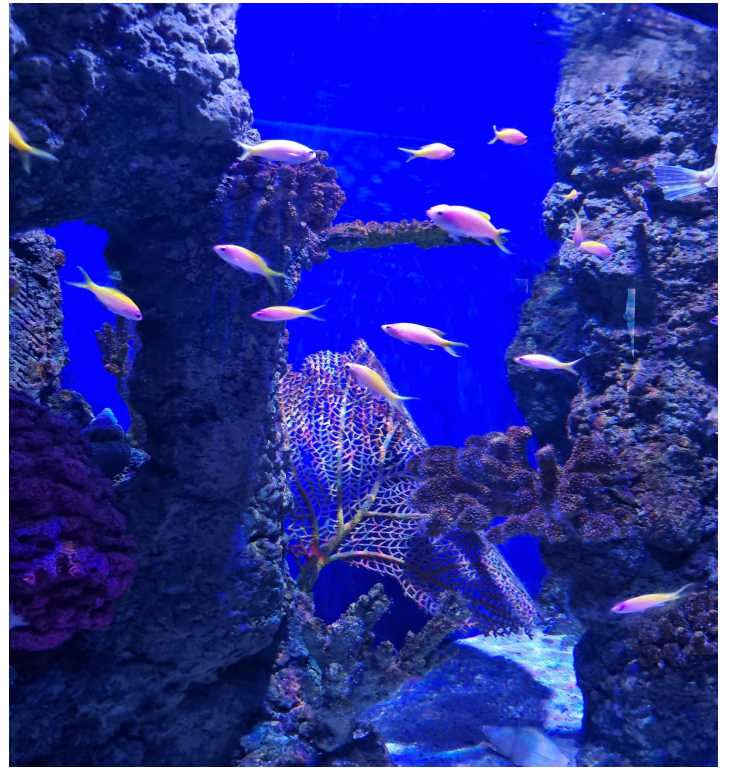
The Year 9 trip to the Bristol Aquarium was a successful and enjoyable experience for Somervale School students. They explored a variety of marine life, including sharks, seahorses, and vibrant tropical fish. A highlight of the day was meeting Sheila, the giant grouper, which amazed students with its impressive size. Another memorable moment was seeing Ravioli, the stingray, gracefully glide through the water. The interactive exhibits provided valuable learning opportunities, helping students understand marine ecosystems and the importance of ocean conservation. They participated in informative talks and engaging workshops, gaining a deeper appreciation for ocean life. The trip was both fun and educational, making it a great event for Somervale School this year. A big thank you to the team at the Bristol Aquarium and Somervale School staff for supporting this trip.



Geography Department



Geography Department



"Bristol was really good, I enjoyed looking at the fish."

"The Museum was the best and had lots of cool things to see."

"Next year will have fun when they do it."

"London was a great revision session with real life artifacts."

History Department



Imperial War Museum London Year 9 Trip

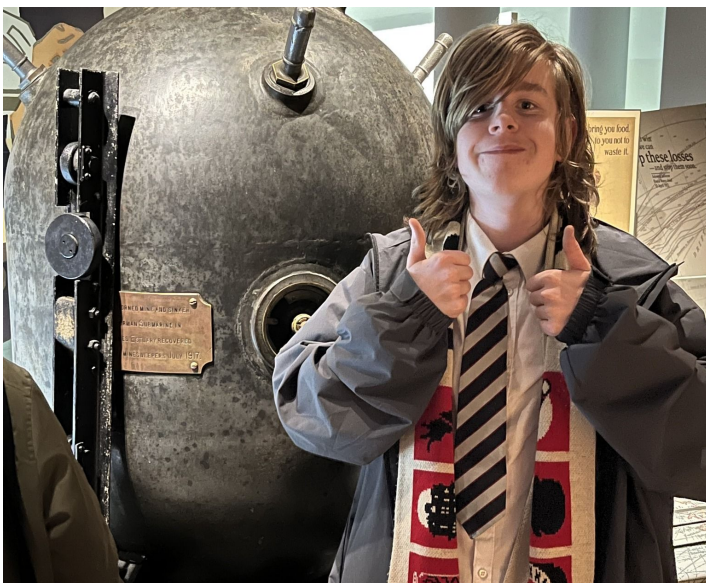


The Year 9 students from Somervale School had an unforgettable and highly educational trip to the Imperial War Museum, where they immersed themselves in the realities of World War I and World War 2. One of the highlights was navigating the museum's impressive model trench, allowing them to experience the cramped and challenging conditions soldiers faced on the front lines. Engaging hands-on activities, such as dressing up in authentic WWI uniforms and practicing cadet drills, brought history to life in a way that textbooks simply cannot. The students demonstrated enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day, asking insightful questions and fully embracing the interactive exhibits.

This trip not only deepened their understanding of the war's impact but also fostered teamwork and appreciation for the past, making it a resounding success.



History Department



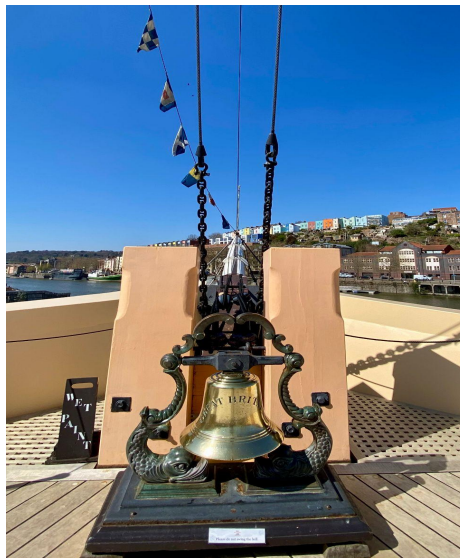
History Department

Year 8 Bristol Harbourside Trip

Somervale School Year 8 spent a fantastic sunny day visiting Bristol harbourside on Tuesday.

Students explored the way the industrial revolution and slavery had shaped Bristol's history. With visits to M-Shed, Brunel's SS Great Britain and a tour along the river; students heard tales of Bristol's past, and the way the city continues to evolve

"It was a superb opportunity for our students to visit these renowned landmarks and to see our students interacting and engaging with the diverse history of the Bristol area"



Science Department



Science Live Year 10 Trip



This term, some Year 10 students were given the opportunity to hear talks from some of the country's best and brightest scientists at The Forum in Bath. This included a talk from physicist and broadcaster Professor Jim Al-Khalili on the possibility of time travel, Dr Kate Lancaster who posed whether we could create a star on Earth, a talk from Professor Sophie Scott on the neuroscience of laughter, and more! A chief examiner also gave students some top tips on how to succeed in their science GCSEs. We hope that these talks have helped inspire some of our students to pursue a career in STEM.



Ten Tors



Dartmoor Walk



On Saturday 1st March, our Year 10 Ten Tors team set off to Dartmoor to complete a practice 25km walk. All students walked extremely well and showed excellent resilience, navigation skills and teamwork. Miss Dury was extremely impressed with the speed that they walked at; completing the furthest distance out of all of the teams on the practice expedition. Well done all!

On the most recent walk, the students walked roughly 45km over two days which is really impressive! The finalised team will be chosen for the next weekend walk but, Miss Dury is really going to struggle as everyone has walked extremely well. It has been brilliant to see so many students keen to take part in such an amazing and challenging competition.



Ten Tors



Physical Education



Boys' Football



This term has seen some excellent football matches from all year groups at Somervale School with a mixed bag of results against strong local opposition. Mr Pearce and Mr Kelly were very impressed with the overall workrate and teamwork shown by our teams.



Sport Leaders

Well done to our amazing Sport Leaders for helping run the Primary School Cross Country event, especially to the hare runners for guiding the students around the course.

Girls Netball

We have had some brilliant games and tournaments taking part this term! We have had some brilliant results from our recent games and the teams have showed some excellent play, sportsmanship and progress throughout the term!



Physical Education



Girls Football



Our Year 8 & 9 girls took the away trip to Millfield this term to play in a very competitive, well fought out game.

This term we hosted the 'FA's Biggest Ever Football session.' A national initiative to encourage the participation of girls in football. We had a number of girls from Year 7 to Year 10 take part in a full 11 a-side game. It was great to see the number of girls all participating, and encouraging each other, with some girls playing regularly, and others playing for the first time. Well done to all involved! Girls football will now be restarting in the new school year.



Year 11 Kit Donations

We are always looking for kit to help students when they forget their PE kit. If you have any PE kit that is no longer in need, including trainers and boots, please drop it off to the PE department in return for some chocolate.

Physical Education

Individual Success

Well done to Lucas in Year 8 for becoming Country Champion after winning both the U15 and U19 Somerset County Table Tennis Championships earlier this term.



Students of the Term

- A big well done to Archie W (Yr 8), for being selected as Students of the Term by their PE teacher for always putting in 100% into their PE lessons.
- A big well done to Poppy C (Yr 8) who has played multiple times for older year groups in netball. Poppy has been progressing in each game; well done!
- A shout out to Lyra P (Yr7) who has been selected by her PE teacher as a student of the term for her consistent effort in lesson, and willingness to help wherever she can!



Physical Education



Communication with Home



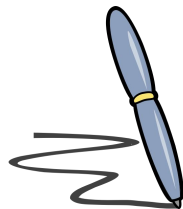
All information about our clubs and fixtures can be found on our Extra-Curricular Google Classroom: **j37g7zg**. Prior to a fixture, we always hold a meeting to disseminate information to students. As secondary school students, we hope they are able to then communicate this with home.



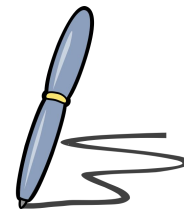
PE Kit Reminder



As we are moving towards summer, please can we remind students to be fully prepared for PE lessons. Sun cream, hats and water bottles are essential when the weather is good. I would still recommend that students have a second layer for their top half to keep them comfortable during cooler days. We continue to maintain our high standard of appropriate footwear for student safety. Please be reminded that students should be wearing running style trainers and not fashionable trainers such as Vans or Nike Airforce style trainers.



Looking ahead:



A full list of fixtures will soon be available on the PE Extra Curricular Google Classroom. Here are the confirmed events so far:

- District Athletics Tuesday 14th May
- Women's FA Cup Final, Wembley Trip 18th May
- Minor Athletics Wednesday 12th June
- Sports Day 25th June

Physical Education

Term 5 Extra Curricular



Extra Curricular Clubs

Term 5



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1pm-1.25pm	Astro Turf: open to all year groups. <i>Studded boots or astro boots required.</i>				
3.25-4.30 pm	Run Club (Consent required) Rounders Trampolining (sign up required)	<i>Fixtures</i>	Cricket Athletics	Dance	-
Exam groups only	-	Meetings	-	A Level Catch Up	Child Development Catch Up NCFE PE Catch Up

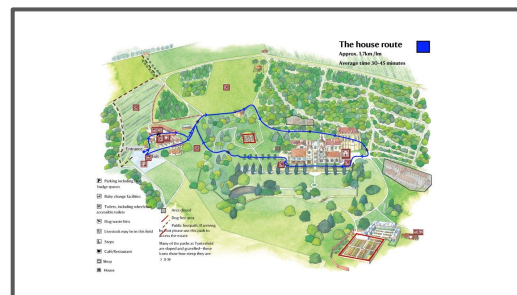
Photography



Year 11 Photography Trip



40 Year 11 Photography students attended the pre-exam trip. Our destination was Tyntesfield, a National Trust property north of Bristol. All of the students took several photoshoots, which they will edit in their exam next term. Luckily, the sun was shining and everyone enjoyed walking in the beautiful gardens and woodlands, as well as visiting the stately home.



Design and Technology



Year 9 MNSP Young Chef Final!



Last term Ethan represented our school at the MSNP Young Chef competition. Unfortunately he was unable to secure a win on the day but we are very proud of what he achieved on the day. Despite being nervous he showed a professional approach to the task, made a fantastic dish and was really happy he had taken the plunge to take part.



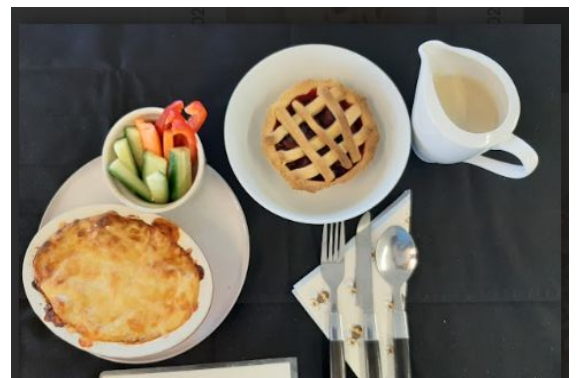
Well Done Ethan!



Design and Technology

Year 11 Catering

Year 11 have been busy working on their NEA work this term and last. We are super proud of them and what they have achieved during the practical element of this. Here is a flavour of the dishes they created!!



Library News

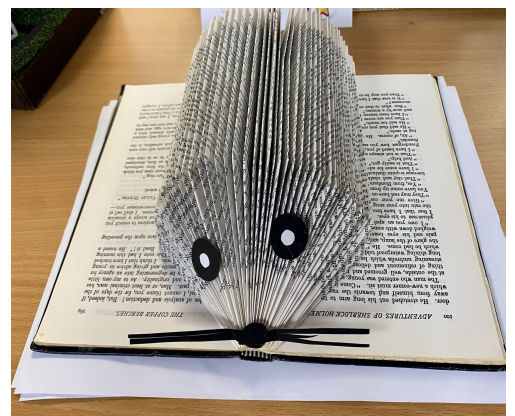
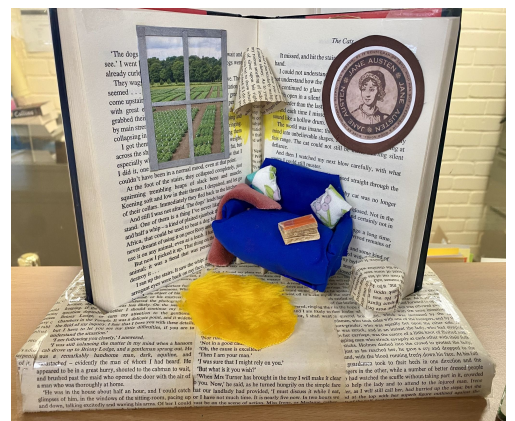
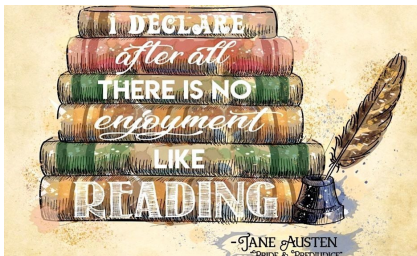
WORLD BOOK DAY®

6 MARCH 2025

World Book Day

We had a fantastic week of celebrating World Book Day (UK & Ireland) at Somervale School!

Thank you to everyone who took part, supported and enjoyed our celebrations of all things 'reading and books'



Library News



I SHALL BE
MISERABLE
IF I HAVE NOT
AN EXCELLENT
LIBRARY.

'Pride & Prejudice'

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

6 MARCH 2025



"If a book is well
written, I always find it
too short."



Jane Austen

Careers Week



National Careers Week 2025



Somervale School students celebrated all things "careers" from the 10-14th March. The week covered all aspects of student careers journeys, including Year 7 and Year 8 working with experts from industry on teamwork, business development and how to prepare for the world of work. Year 9 students worked with Bath Spa University ambassadors to explore Undergraduate Degree courses and how these are available at different universities. This was particularly useful for students as they explore their Options Pathways. Years 10 and 11 had an assembly with Amazing Apprenticeships, exploring this option beyond GCSE and Year 11 students were provided with a workshop on how to apply for apprenticeships in the local area and beyond. Finally, Year 10 were taken on a Campus tour to Bath Spa University at the Newton St Loe Campus. A fantastic week!



Careers Week



Pastoral Department

SOMERVALE SCHOOL

LEAVERS DAY AND PROM 2025

How to stand out from the crowd - As you are preparing for this fabulous day and evening are you thinking about being sustainable?

DRESSCODE:

The best way to ensure that you don't turn up in the same dress or suit as anyone else is to search for a vintage or second hand one!

MORE INFO:

Search Vinted and other websites for great value items at bargain prices.

Local charity shops also have large collections of dresses and suits.

You can bag a bargain and support the environment at the same time!



**WE CAN'T WAIT TO
SEE YOU!**

SEN Department

'Activate: Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme'

This scheme offers government funded holiday activities with a free meal for any child who is eligible for benefit related free school meals, which are inclusive of children with SEN needs.



How to book a place

HAF Easter Holiday activities will be running from 7th to 17th April 2025 (excluding weekends) and are free for all children and young people in receipt of benefit related free school meals (FSM). All sessions must be booked in advance. Sessions are booked through the HAF website:

<https://we-activate.co.uk/activate-your-holiday/>

Or for more information please go to the HAF brochure:

<https://we-activate.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ACTIVATE-HAF-BNES-Brochure-2025-EASTER-WEB.pdf>

School Office

WE ARE

COLLECTING

Drop any
donations off
at Somervale
School

**SPREAD
THE
WORD**

**Personal
hygiene is
a basic
human
right**

- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Shower Gel
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Flannels
- Soap
- Face Wash

**SVS
HYGIENE
BANK**

Lost Property Information

Please ensure that school clothing is labelled with your child's name and tutor group. We have a large amount of unnamed school jumpers in our lost property, plus lots of other unnamed items. If your child has lost anything, please ask them to check the lost property cupboard in the library. Thank you!

LOST PROPERTY

School News



03 458 686 688

WHG

We are looking for welcoming **Host Families**

Earn up to £350 per week per student

full support from Local Guardian
access to free safeguarding course
all families DBS checked



For more information contact Sue

☎ 0 7 939 211 193 ✉ avon@localguardians.co.uk

or visit <https://whitehouseguardians.co.uk/host-family>



White House Guardians

Important Dates

Important Dates

Monday 21st April - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 22nd April - Return to school (Week B)

**Tuesday 22nd April - Eden Project Parent Information
Evening 5.30pm - 6.15pm**

Friday 25th April - Year 10 Netball Tour

Monday 5th May - Bank Holiday

Thursday 15th May - Year 10 Eden Project Trip

Friday 23rd May - Last day of term

Term Dates 2024-25



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
Norton Hill Primary School,
Silver Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Somerset BA3 2UD
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www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Term Dates Academic Year 2024/2025

Term 1

Monday 2nd September 2024
Friday 25th October 2024

Term 2

Monday 4th November 2024
Friday 20th December 2024

Term 3

Monday 6th January 2025
Friday 14th February 2025

Term 4

Monday 24th February 2025
Friday 4th April 2025

Term 5

Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Friday 23rd May 2025

Term 6

Monday 2nd June 2025
Tuesday 22nd July 2025
(Friday 18th July last day for students)

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Monday 2nd September 2024

Inset day 2

Friday 25th October 2024

Inset day 3

Monday 6th January 2025

Inset day 4

Monday 21st July 2025

Inset day 5

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

National Bank Holidays:

*Wednesday 25th December 2024
Thursday 26th December 2024
Wednesday 1st January 2025
Friday 18th April 2025
Monday 21st April 2025
Monday 5th May 2025
Monday 26th May 2025
Monday 25th August 2025*

Term Dates 2025-26



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Term Dates Academic Year 2025/2026

Term 1

Monday 1st September 2025
Friday 24th October 2025

Term 2

Monday 3rd November 2025
Friday 19th December 2025

Term 3

Monday 5th January 2026
Friday 13th February 2026

Term 4

Monday 23rd February 2026
Thursday 2nd April 2026

Term 5

Monday 20th April 2026
Friday 22nd May 2026

Term 6

Monday 1st June 2026
Tuesday 21st July 2026
(Friday 18th July last day for students)

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Monday 1st September 2025

Inset day 2

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Inset day 3

Friday 24th October 2025

Inset day 4

Monday 5th January 2026

Inset day 5

Monday 20th July 2026

Inset day 6

Tuesday 21st July 2026

National Bank Holidays:

Thursday 25th December 2025
Friday 26th December 2025
Thursday 1st January 2026
Friday 3rd April 2026
Monday 6th April 2026
Monday 4th May 2026
Monday 25th May 2026
Monday 31st August 2026