

## Termly Communication to Parents/Carers

### Lent Term 1 2026

## Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to our Lent Term 1 half termly newsletter. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

## Staffing News

We are sad to say farewell to Miss Cooley, our Pastoral Lead Year 10. In her time at the school, Miss Cooley has been such an integral part of the support network for students. We also said farewell to Mr Walker, our Teacher of PE. He has been providing students with fantastic PE lessons since joining in January 2025. We also said farewell to Miss Drewett, our maths teacher. She has given over 12 years of service and will be much missed.

Over the past few weeks, we have welcomed Jurg Läderach as a teacher of maths and the returning Mrs Chapman (teacher of English).

## Upcoming dates

Monday 12th January	Y13 Mock Exams Fortnight
Tuesday 27th January	Y9 HPV Vaccinations
Friday 30th January	Inset Day 6 (School Closed to all Students)
Thursday 5th February	Pop and Rock Concert
Friday 13th February	End of Term 3
Monday 23rd February	Start of Term 4

## Helpful Links

[School Website](#)

[Parent/ Carers Calendar](#)

[Timings of the School Day](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Our Curriculum](#)

[Futures careers bulletin](#)

[Co-Curricular](#)

[Homework Timetables](#)

[Year 9 Options](#)


[Contacting Us](#)

# Whole School Messages

## Whole School Messages

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Attendance	Attendance of your child is now completed in Arbor not ClassCharts. We are aware that sometimes these systems do not communicate fully and if your child is part of a non-subject activity that ClassCharts does not show this correctly, particularly around music. When we move fully over to Arbor this will not be the case but we ask that you are patient in the interim. There is no need to contact our attendance team if you find that ClassCharts is reporting absence and you know they have music. Thank you. Attendance Team		
Year Teams Y7-Y11 2025/26	Year Group	Head of Year	Pastoral Support Leader
	11	Mr Murphy	Mr Darlington
	10	Mr Welch	Ms Cooley
	9	Mr Frost	Ms Hudson
	8	Mrs Hicks	Ms Brewer
	7	Dr Harris	Ms Louise
Equipment	Bringing all of the correct equipment to school each day is a crucial foundation to your child’s educational success. We want to encourage students to take responsibility for their stationary which is why bringing the correct equipment for learning is one of our new school rules.  If your child arrives at school without their pencil case they can collect a pen, pencil and ruler from the Cresswell Doors from 8.00am until the start of school without any sanction. As long as they look after this equipment throughout the day they will not be given any behaviour points for equipment. If you notice that your child is receiving behaviour points for lack of equipment please support them with their organisation and remind them to take up this offer on the Cresswell doors.  We ask all students to bring the following equipment to school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A pencil case</li><li>• At least 2 black or blue pens</li><li>• A pencil</li><li>• A sharpener</li><li>• A rubber</li><li>• A ruler</li><li>• A scientific calculator</li><li>• A reading book</li></ul>		

Science	<p>The new year means some curriculum changes, particularly for year 9, who are now starting their GCSEs in Science. Please see the links below for more information on Science Pathways and how you can support your child in Science at BCCS.</p> <p><a href="#">Year 9 Science</a> <a href="#">Year 10 Science</a> <a href="#">Year 11 Science</a></p>											
Science Educake Homework	<p>Educake quizzes are set to help students revisit and strengthen their prior Science knowledge and build their recall skills. All Educake homework is due at 9am on a Monday. They should take up to 30min. Please give your child a quick reminder over the weekend so they can complete it on time and make the most of these planned opportunities for review. Many thanks.</p> <p><b>Educake for children with SEND</b> <b>Improving the display:</b> You can find some additional information for supporting your child <a href="#">here</a>. The article is directed at teachers, but really useful for parents and carers supporting their child too. <b>Spelling:</b> It may be useful for you to know that when a student types a response, Educake is programmed to accept 2 incorrect characters. If your child has received 'incorrect' but they are sure the answer is right, they can click on the purple question mark and their response goes to their teacher to check. Teachers can manually over-ride to accept correct answers that are spelt incorrectly. <b>Duration:</b> Educake quizzes are intended to take up to 30 minutes for children in year 7 and year 8. If your child has spent 30min on their homework and has still not finished, please ask them to leave the remainder of the questions. The quiz will show as incomplete on our records, but we can check how long a student has spent working through it.</p>											
Sixth Form	<table><thead><tr><th>Year Group</th><th>Head of Year</th><th>Pastoral Support Leader</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>13</td><td>Mr Davies</td><td>Ms Jaishree</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>Ms Berry (Ms Kerry as maternity cover)</td><td>Ms Jaishree</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year Group	Head of Year	Pastoral Support Leader	13	Mr Davies	Ms Jaishree	12	Ms Berry (Ms Kerry as maternity cover)	Ms Jaishree	<p>There are many members of our sixth form community who struggle to buy clothing suitable for school. If any adults in your household have smart / professional clothing that is in good condition that they no longer need, the sixth form would welcome donations. Please bring it to reception and we can make sure your donation finds a good home!</p>	
Year Group	Head of Year	Pastoral Support Leader										
13	Mr Davies	Ms Jaishree										
12	Ms Berry (Ms Kerry as maternity cover)	Ms Jaishree										
Y11 Art, Textiles, Graphics and 3D Design GCSE	<p>The GCSE NEA paper was released to students on the 2nd January 2026 via Google Classrooms. This work is worth 40% of the final mark and culminates in a 10hr timed and supervised session in which students will make their outcomes in exam conditions.</p> <p>Attendance to school and punctuality to art lessons during this term becomes more important than ever as if you students are not in their practical lessons they cannot make progress.</p> <p>Please talk to your child about their NEA theme choice, what they are doing and what ideas they are developing. There will be ways in which you can support your child to make progress out of lessons such as taking them to exhibitions, driving to site visits for primary photos or helping them to source equipment and materials.</p> <p>Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.</p>											


<p><b>Hardship Fund</b></p>	<p>The school is currently welcoming donations to our community hardship fund. Over the years, we have successfully supported a significant number of families from our school community who have required financial assistance. You can find the link to donate on ParentPay.</p> <p>The Christmas period can be a particularly challenging financial period. Anything that you donate will go directly and fully towards essential supplies for families in need. We will ask families to complete a form that outlines their circumstances and will make an award where we see the most need.</p> <p>If you are a taxpayer and would like to add gift aid to your donation please indicate this in the note section with either a yes or a no, you will then be emailed a form to complete.</p> <p>Thank you to all those who have donated in the past. Your contributions have had a significant positive impact on our students and their families</p>
 <p><b>We are an 'Operation Encompass' school</b></p>	<p>Through Operation Encompass the police will share information with our school about <b>all</b> police-attended domestic abuse incidents which involve any of our learners or who are related to either of the adults involved in the incident.</p> <p>Children are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right even if they are witnesses rather than victims of abuse (Domestic Abuse Act, 2021) As such, there is a legislative requirement for police forces to share information with educational settings through Operation Encompass.</p> <p>The notification will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mia Helmich) about the context of the incident, who was involved and where possible, will include the Voice of the Child. The Operation Encompass notification is stored in line with all other confidential safeguarding and child protection information. This information is then shared only on a 'need to know basis' and in the best interest of the child or children affected.</p> <p>We have a warm and experienced Pastoral Team at BCCS, who can support young people on a day-to-day basis and particularly following an Operation Encompass notification.</p>

# Futures

<p><b>All Years - Futures Careers Bulletin</b></p>	<p>The weekly <a href="#">Futures careers</a> bulletin has lots of amazing opportunities for students including university open days and tasters along with live apprenticeships starting in Sept 2026. Please feedback if any of the opportunities have been useful. Any questions please contact Roz Keir, (BCCS Careers Lead) , <a href="mailto:careersadvisor@bristolcathedral.org.uk">careersadvisor@bristolcathedral.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Post-16 Careers Personal Guidance</b></p>	<p>All Post-16 students are entitled to see our L7 Qualified Careers Advisor, Mrs Keir from the week commencing 26 January. To ensure students get the most from this process they should register with <a href="#">Careerpilot</a> and complete the Pathway Planner quiz - please encourage your son/daughter to complete these tasks.</p>
<p><b>Yr 10 &amp; 12 Work Experience</b></p> <p><b>Mrs A Fey Work Experience Coordinator</b></p>	<p>Year 10 and 12 have the amazing opportunity of Work Experience this year.</p> <p><b>WEX dates:</b>  <b>Yr 10 - 22nd - 26th June (deadline to add to Unifrog 24th February 2026)</b>  <b>Yr 12 - 4th - 8th May (deadline to add to Unifrog 30th Jan 2026)</b>  <i>Please note the 4th May is a bank holiday, students are not obligated to work that day but may attend their placement if the option is open to them</i></p>

	<p>Please encourage your child to make a list of businesses/companies they would like to work at during this week and support them in reaching out to the employers to ask if they would be happy to host them. This is best done sooner rather than later to ensure your child gets their first choice placement as work experience opportunities get snapped up quickly.</p> <p>Once a place has been secured all your child will need to do is add this to their <b>Unifrog</b> 'placements' and pat themselves on the back for having their work experience in hand. There's a guide on how to add a placement to Unifrog available on the <b>WEX Google Classroom</b>.</p> <p>I post weekly work experience opportunities on the WEX Google Classrooms, which also hold many other key WEX resources such as the Employer database and a template email to the employer.</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns surrounding work experience please check the information available on the website <a href="https://www.bccsworkexperience@bristolcathedral.org.uk">here</a> or drop me an email, <a href="mailto:bccsworkexperience@bristolcathedral.org.uk">bccsworkexperience@bristolcathedral.org.uk</a>, and I will be more than happy to help.</p>
<b>Careers</b>	<p>Here is the <a href="#">careers bulletin</a> for this week. Packed full of opportunities.</p> <p>Year 8 - Employer encounter - <a href="#">Medical mavericks</a> will be here 9th December for the whole of year 8 to find out more about health careers. Labour Market Information: the NHS is the biggest employer in the UK with over 350 careers to choose from.</p> <p>Year 11 - please ensure your child has applied for a post 16 course. Please note the following deadlines - North Bristol Post 16 - 5th December, SMRT - 8th December, V6 - 15th December</p> <p>Yr 10 WEX week - <b>22nd - 26th June 2026</b> (deadline to secure placement <b>24th Feb 2026</b>)</p> <p>Yr 12 WEX week - <b>4th - 8th May 2026</b> (deadline to secure placement <b>30th Jan 2026</b>)</p> <p>Students should be <b>reaching out to employers</b> to ask for placements and adding any secured placements to Unifrog as soon as they've been confirmed.</p> <p>Students can find guides and resources available on the <b>WEX Google Classrooms</b> under 'Classwork'. If you have any queries or concerns please contact Mrs Fey, WEX Coordinator, <a href="mailto:afey@cathedralschoolstrust.org">afey@cathedralschoolstrust.org</a></p>
<b>Maths</b>	<div data-bbox="636 1592 1067 1688" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Some dates for the diaries, (more to follow in future terms for KS3 and KS4 students)</b></p> <p><b>Year 11, Y12 Y13: Mathematical Olympiad for Girls (MOG) : 25th September</b></p> <p><b>Year 11, Y12 Y13: Mathematical competition for Girls (MCG) : 25th September</b></p> <p><b>Year 11, Y12 Y13: Senior Mathematical Challenge: 9th October</b></p> <p><b>All students interested in entering should email Mrs Newton Dunn <a href="mailto:knewtondunn@bristolcathedral.org.uk">knewtondunn@bristolcathedral.org.uk</a></b></p> <p><b>More info can be found here <a href="https://ukmt.org.uk/">https://ukmt.org.uk/</a></b></p>

<b>Maths</b>	<div data-bbox="331 96 547 136" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Maths Circles are maths-loving training sessions for school years 7-11. They are extra-curricular and free of charge and run at the University of Bristol. To learn more and be invited to the Maths Circles please visit <a href="https://wesolveproblems.org.uk/maths-circles/">https://wesolveproblems.org.uk/maths-circles/</a></p>
<b>Co-curricular</b>	<p>***Updated*** Please <a href="#">click here</a> to see a list of clubs on offer at BCCS this term</p>
<b>PE Kit</b>	<p><b>Double PE sports for Term 3:</b> All students will be learning through Football or Netball this term. Details have been shared via students' google classrooms and as an announcement via classcharts. Please check these for the full details.</p> <p>As winter draws in, we encourage students to bring thermal layers, extra t shirts, hats and gloves for PE lessons at Failand. Students need to be prepared to access their learning at Failand so please support the PE department by ensuring your child has appropriate layers and the correct kit. Coats are not permitted to be worn during lessons.</p> <p>Our expectations remain that the top layer should be a BCCS PE top; plain black or BCCS bottoms (sports tracksuit bottoms (not flares), shorts, leggings or skort) and appropriate footwear for the activity (boots or trainers).</p> <p>Furthermore, the PE team would appreciate parental support in ensuring students with earrings and long hair come to lessons equipped to remove or tape up earrings and long hair (touching shoulders or longer) is tied up. These are health and safety expectations for participating in PE.</p>
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<b>Extra-curricular PE</b>	<p>The sporting calendar moves on towards football and basketball leagues in January alongside indoor girls cricket fixtures which students and staff are excited about. We will be entering football teams in all available categories in the Bristol leagues: Boys - U12, U13, U14, U15, U16 and First XI Girls - U12, U13/14 and U15/16</p> <p>There are sign up sheets for Football teams in the corridor outside of PE office; if you are interested in playing, please sign up!</p>

<b>English as an Additional Language</b>	<p>Does your family speak English as an additional language? To receive our termly BCCS EAL community newsletter, please email Mrs Chapman, our EAL Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:rchapman@bristolcathedral.org.uk">rchapman@bristolcathedral.org.uk</a></p>
<b>BCCS Community Hardship Fund</b>	<p>The school is currently welcoming donations to our community hardship fund. Over the years, we have successfully supported a significant number of families from our school community who have required financial assistance. You can find the link to donate on ParentPay.</p> <p>Anything that you donate will go directly and fully towards essential supplies for families in need. We will ask families to complete a form that outlines their circumstances and will make an award where we see the most need.</p> <p>If you are a taxpayer and would like to add gift aid to your donation please indicate this in the note section with either a yes or a no, you will then be emailed a form to complete.</p> <p>Thank you to all those who have donated in the past. Your contributions have had a significant positive impact for our students and their families.</p>
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<b>Co-Curricular Schedule</b>	<p>***Updated*** Please click link <a href="#">here</a> to see a list of clubs on offer at BCCS this term</p>
<p><b>Performing Arts</b></p> <p><b>**NEW Y7/8/9 Dance Club**</b></p> 	<p>There is a new Y7-9 Dance club running weekly on a <b>Tuesday</b> after school from <b>3.30-4.30pm</b> in the <b>Cresswell Theatre</b>.</p> <p><b>No Dance experience necessary</b> - come along if you like dancing and learning new moves! Songs will be selected depending on what the group is interested in, then routines will be choreographed accordingly.</p> <p>No need to sign up, a register will be created when you show up on Tuesday.</p> <p>Any questions please email <a href="mailto:ajessop@bristolcathedral.org.uk">ajessop@bristolcathedral.org.uk</a></p>

## Music

<b>Music 2025-26</b>	<p><a href="#">Here</a> is a link to a welcome letter sent from the music department. This includes information about all our events this coming year plus ensemble details and information on instrumental/vocal music lessons and how to sign up.</p> <p><b>Ensembles are now running weekly!</b></p> <p><b>Trailblazers</b>  See <a href="#">this letter</a> - please direct any questions to <a href="mailto:musicadmin@bristolcathedral.org.uk">musicadmin@bristolcathedral.org.uk</a></p>
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**SEND**



Please check out BPCs Events page for an extensive list of bookable inclusive activities and information events happening in Bristol to support families of children and young people with SEND. <https://www.bristolparentcarers.org.uk/events/>

**\*\*\* [Click Here](#) for the full Co-Curricular opportunities available this term \*\*\***