



PBA WEEKLY BULLETIN

A message from Mrs Linehan

It has been a real pleasure to welcome everyone back to school after the February half-term break. With the early signs of spring beginning to appear—lighter mornings, brighter afternoons and the first hints of blossom – it feels a really positive time to be in school.

I must begin with a massive thank you to all the staff and students who attended the PBA ski trip; it was a huge success and a fantastic experience for everyone involved. The teamwork, resilience and good humour shown throughout made the team incredibly proud. Planning is already underway for February 2028, with more information to follow shortly—we can't wait to build on this year's success.

Next week, our Year 6 pupils will be preparing to take their mock SATs. They have approached their revision with maturity and determination, supported by a number of focused revision sessions this week alongside engaging workshops and activities delivered by Happy Puzzle. As always, we remind them that our only expectation is that they try their very best. It is absolutely okay to make mistakes—this is how we learn and improve. We wish every one of them the very best of luck next week and know they will do themselves proud.

As many of you know, 2026 is the National Year for Reading, and Mrs Wright and Mrs Coulthard are busy planning a wide range of exciting activities for our pupils. To celebrate World Book Day, there will be quizzes and competitions, themed lessons and the much-anticipated KS2 Dress Up Day on Friday 6th March. Next Friday also sees Mrs Daplyn and I hosting the Book Breakfast from 7:30am—arriving in full costume—and we hope to see many of our book enthusiasts there to start the day with a shared love of reading. If you haven't already, we encourage everyone to trade in their book voucher and embark on a new reading adventure.

Earlier this week, we distributed the BEST survey as part of the Trust's "Big Listen" work, marking its 10-year anniversary. Your voice is incredibly important and we are grateful for the time you take to share your thoughts and experiences. The link can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/QFx7o2dEnGQChoD9A>

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement and partnership.

Social Media Safety - a Guide for Parents

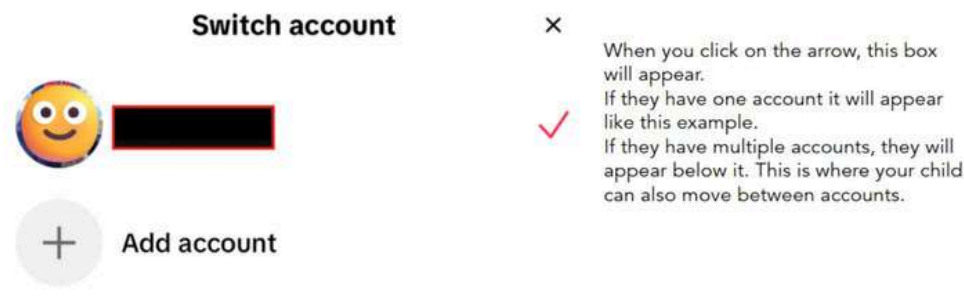
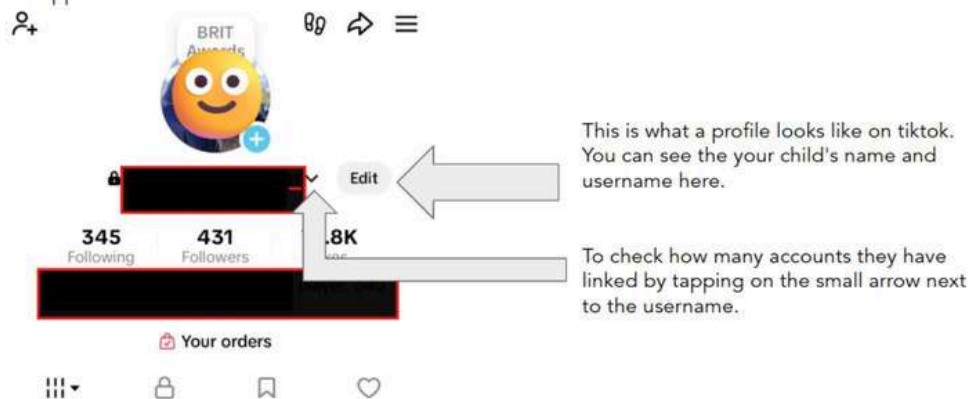
We know that monitoring children's social media use—especially platforms such as TikTok—can feel almost impossible at times, but we strongly encourage families to continue doing all they can to safeguard and guide their child's online behaviours. Below you will find a supportive poster with some practical top tips, and would also ask that you regularly check your child's accounts, as families have reported fake profiles and negative comments that do not reflect our values; it is particularly important to ensure your child is not operating multiple accounts.



Some children have more than one TikTok account and often their second account is under a pseudonym. It is important as a parent / carer, to have oversight of all online interactions.

TikTok- Checking if your child has more than one account

How to check if your child has more than one account linked on their TikTok app. Any accounts your child has created or has access to are easily found on their 'profile' area on the app.



Celebrating a Love of Reading



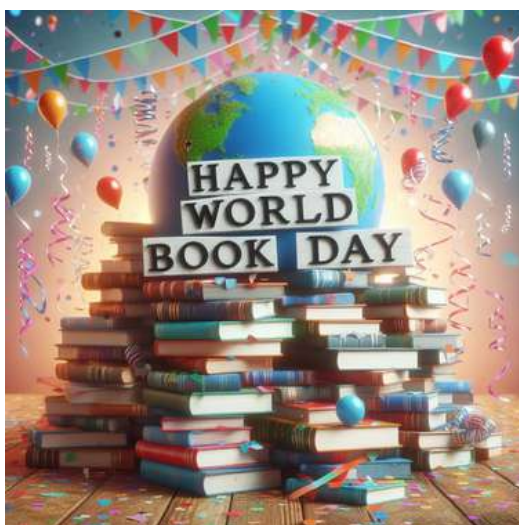
This week is World Book Day, which we are celebrating on Friday 6th March!

Themed Lessons: KS2 pupils will enjoy a day of themed lessons, focusing on books and reading.

Dressing up: Pupils in KS2 are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite fictional character. (Please note: if your child has PE on a Friday, please send them in with their PE kit so that they can change for the lesson).

KS3 and 4 students will have subject-linked reading activities in their lessons.

And we have some fun activities to get involved in throughout the week



The Book Search

Teachers around the school are wearing purple lanyards with book covers. Pick up a Search Sheet from the Library and see if you can match the quote on the sheet with the books being worn by the teachers!

The Masked Reader

Visit the Library to check out the Masked Reader board - can you identify the teachers hiding behind their favourite book?

Classroom Door Decoration

Decorate your classroom door in the theme of a book cover. The best ones will win a prize!

Book Breakfast

Join us at 7.30 on Friday morning for a Book Breakfast in the main hall: breakfast snacks and drinks will be provided, all you need to bring is your favourite book!

Read For Good - Sponsored Readathon Reminder

This week is your final chance to submit payments for our **Sponsored Readathon** - raising money for books and storytellers for children who are in hospital long term.

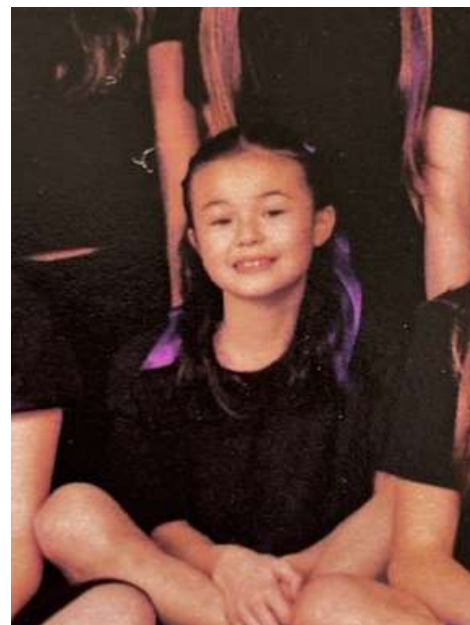
Good luck everyone, and get reading!

To read more about the Readathon, please visit <https://readforgood.org/>



All The World's a Stage...

Islagh-Belle (Year 6) spent the half-term in rehearsals for her show case with the Emil Dale Performing Arts Academy, followed by performances both Saturday and Sunday. After months of rehearsals she performed 5 different numbers. On Sunday she even managed to squeeze a netball match for her club, she played her position C for the majority of the match and as the team was winning by a major margin she was put into GA where she managed 2 goals , her team ended up winning 29-0.



And Pippa C (Year 9) also spent her half-term week in the theatre, performing in Hitchin Thespians' production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr. Pippa played one of the "Filles de la Ville."

It was a super show and the whole cast did an amazing job!

School Production



The curtain rises on our next School Production:
24th and 25th March.

Tickets for the show will be available via ParentMail shortly.

Watch this space!

EdShed Results

Well done to everyone who completed their EdShed homework this week!

Here are the top scoring classes.

Top Spelling Shed Groups[®]

#	Group	Score
1.	Blackman	26,918,464
2.	Austen	25,878,550
3.	Shakespeare	23,091,016
4.	Pankhurst	22,740,650
5.	Tolkien	21,811,383
6.	Morpurgo	17,534,681
7.	Churchill	12,194,100
8.	Zephaniah	11,909,294
9.	Nightingale	9,621,046
10.	Turing	7,608,852

Top MathShed Groups[®]

#	Group	Score
1.	Tolkien	1,229,868
2.	Pankhurst	813,957
3.	Austen	695,512
4.	Blackman	622,409
5.	Angelou	344,545
6.	Zephaniah	83,014
7.	Turing	0
8.	Nightingale	0
9.	Churchill	0
10.	Attenborough	0

Year 6 Mock SATs

We have had a lovely end of the week in Year 6 by preparing for our Mock SAT's with our revision days. Alongside some revision, pupils have been developing their resilience and teamwork skills with a range of activities. Happy Puzzle was a resounding success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



On Monday 2nd March, pupils will sit their Mock SATs during their morning lessons. The aim of the week is to replicate what SATs will look like for them in May so they will know what to expect and not be worried. Between Monday and Thursday, pupils will be provided with a breakfast before the tests. This does not mean they do not need to have breakfast at home, it's just an extra to get them prepared. After each test, pupils will be given biscuits – this is usually what they remember the most out of everything!



It is really important that all pupils are present for these tests and we expect 100% attendance.

We know they will be amazing and this is another chance for them to shine.

The Battle of the Bands

Another thrilling week of TTRS battles has taken place, with some excellent scores:

- Morpurgo 1981 vs 279 Austen
- Blackman 706 vs 1087 Zephaniah
- Tolkien 2394 vs 2223 Angelou
- Nightingale 87 vs 1056 Churchill
- Shakespeare 656 vs 260 Pankhurst
- Attenborough 875 vs 906 Turing



The overall scoreboard currently looks like this:

Class	Wins	Defeats
Turing	4	
Attenborough	1	3
Pankhurst	1	3
Nightingale		4
Churchill	2	2
Shakespeare	4	
Angelou	1	3
Austen	1	3
Morpurgo	3	1
Blackman		4
Zephaniah	4	
Tolkien	4	

And the next round of battles have been announced:

- Turing vs Shakespeare**
- Churchill vs Pankhurst**
- Nightingale vs Attenborough**
- Tolkien vs Morpurgo**
- Zephaniah vs Angelou**
- Blackman vs Austen**

Good luck everyone!

We Are Sailing...

Attenborough Class made clay boats with decorated sails to link with our book 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. The class loved adding the sails to their boats and were really proud of how fantastic they look!



Homework - Years 7 & 8

Year 7 Homework Timetable

Subject	Teachers	Set	Due	Homework Tasks	Duration
English	MCL, CCN, SCS, HHE, LMN, NLE	Monday	Monday	Various - pre reading and research on topics which we are studying. Some SENeca tasks.	1 hour PW
Maths	SPL, CSN, OCE, DMN, JMN, NRA, RJN	Friday	Friday	Sparx maths	30 mins - 1hour
Science	EAS, JHL, FCK, SHS, HCK, CAY, JSK	Monday	Monday	Various tasks - Knowledge organiser, creative task or google form revision quiz for each topic	30 minutes - 1hour
History	EBE, CBN, SBS	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom	30 mins
Geography	IPE, EIP, SBS	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Various tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom	30 mins
French	DSD, IPS	Once per week	1 week to complete	Various tasks: eg. Quizlet, learning vocabulary, answering questions, worksheets, quizzes	30-40 mins
DT/Food Rotation	Miss Kinnear	Any lesson on the rotation	1 week to complete	Food- Sensory evaluation	20 minutes
Art	Mrs Poxson Mrs Young Mrs White	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Practical art tasks connected to the current project.	30 minutes
Computing	Mrs Brant & Miss McGuigan	All	1 week to complete	Two mandatory homeworks per unit in Computing (6 units per year) Optional homeworks for challenge.	20 minutes
Drama	Mrs Jones	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Key term quizzes	10 minutes

Year 8 Homework Timetable

Subject	Teachers	Set	Due	Homework Tasks	Duration
English	SRS, MCL, RSN, CCN, LMN, SCS, HHE	Monday	Monday	Pre- reading & research into topics which we will be studying. Some SENeca tasks. Consolidation of learning.	1 hour
Maths	SPL, CSN, OCE, DMN, JMN, NRA	Friday	Friday	Sparx maths	30 mins - 1hour
Science	EAS, JHL, FCK, SHS, HCK, CAY, JSK	Monday	Monday	Various tasks - Knowledge organiser, creative task or google form revision quiz for each topic.	30 minutes - 1hour
History	EBE, CBN, SBS	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins
Geography	IPE, EIP	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Various tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins to an hour
French	DSD, IPS	Once per week	1 week to complete	Various tasks eg: Quizlet, learning vocabulary, answering questions, worksheets, quizzes.	30-40 mins
DT/Food Rotation	Miss Kinnear	Food rotation	1 week to complete	Food- Sensory evaluation.	20 minutes
Art	Mrs Poxson Mrs Young Mrs White	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Practical art tasks connected to the current project.	30 minutes
Computing	Mrs Brant	All	1 week to complete	Two mandatory homeworks per unit in Computing (6 units per year) Optional homeworks for challenge.	20 minutes
Drama	Mrs Jones	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Key term quizzes	10 minutes

Homework - Years 9 & 10

Year 9 Homework Timetable

Subject	Teachers	Set	Due	Homework Tasks	Duration
English	SRS, MCL, SCS, RSN, CCN, HHE	Monday	Monday	Pre-reading & research into topics which we will be studying. Some SENeca tasks. Consolidation of learning.	1 hour
Maths	SPL, CSN, OCE, DMN, JMN, NRA	Friday	Friday	Sparx maths	30 mins - 1 hour
Science	EAS, JHL, FCK, SHS, HCK, CAY	Monday	Monday	Various tasks - Knowledge organiser, h/w sheet, exam questions, revision cards, Seneca.	30 minutes - 1 hour
History	EBE, CBN, SBS	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins
Geography	IPE, EIP	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Various tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins to an hour
French	DSD, IPS	Once per week	1 week to complete	Various tasks: Quizlet, learning vocabulary, answering questions, worksheets, quizzes.	45 mins
DT/Food Rotation	Miss Kinnear	Food Rotation	1 week to complete	Food- Sensory evaluation.	20 minutes
Art	Mrs Poxson Mrs Young	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Practical art tasks connected to the current project.	30 minutes
Computing	Mrs Brant	All	1 week to complete	Two mandatory homeworks per unit in Computing (6 units per year) Optional homeworks for challenge.	20 minutes
Drama	Mrs Jones	Once per half term	1 week to complete	Key term quizzes.	10 minutes

Year 10 Homework Timetable

Subject	Teachers	Set	Due	Homework Tasks	Duration
English	SRS, MCL, RSN, SCS, CCN, EDN	Monday	Monday	Researching topics which we will be learning about. Revision tasks to prepare for mock exams and consolidate learning.	1 hour
Maths	SPL, CSN, OCE, DMN, JMN, NRA	Friday	Friday	Sparx maths	30 mins - 1 hour
Science	EAS, JHL, FCK, SHS, HCK, CAY	Monday	Monday	Various tasks - Knowledge organiser, h/w sheet, exam questions, revision cards Seneca.	30 minutes - 1 hour
History	EBE, CBN, SBS	Weekly	1 week to complete	Tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins - 1hr
Geography	IPE, EIP	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Various tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom. Including revision and practice exam questions.	1-2 hours
French	DSD, IPS, VLS	Once per week	1 week to complete	Various tasks: Quizlet, learning vocabulary, answering questions, worksheets, quizzes, revision, exam practice.	1 hour
DT	Mr Fleckney	When required	1 week after setting	Tasks to support the learning in class. Exam question practice. Research and design tasks for practical lessons.	30-60 mins
Art	Mrs Poxson Mrs Young	Every week	1 week to complete	Tasks to support the development of the students' coursework portfolios, for example preparing for lessons e.g. taking photos, artist research etc., working on artworks that have been started in class and presenting work into sketchbooks.	1-2 hours
Business	Miss McGuigan	10B- Thurs 10C- Tues	10B- Thurs 10C- Tues	Business context research task building a bank of mini case studies of businesses of their choice).	20mins
Philosophy	Mr Collins	Monday	Monday	Propello task + similar revision activity.	30 Mins
BTEC IT	Mrs Brant	10A/IT	1 week to complete	Weekly Know It All Ninja learning and quiz.	20 mins
Food	Miss Kinnear	10A Mon/Thurs 10B Weds/Thurs	1 week to complete	Food- Sensory evaluation for practical. Theory based exam style questions.	20 minutes 30 minutes
GCSE PE	Mr Dawson	Friday	1 week to complete	AQ1 content - recap of learning within class, 6-9 mark exam style questions, case studies linked to current issues in sport.	30 minutes - 1 hour
Drama	Mrs Jones	When required	1 week to complete	Learning lines, key term quizzes, set text knowledge tasks, group rehearsals.	10 minutes to 1 hour
Music	Tim Weed	Monday	Monday	Practice Journal, Listening questions.	

Homework - Year 11

Year 11 Homework

Subject	Teachers	Set	Due	Homework Tasks	Duration
English	SRS, MCL, RSN, EDN, CCN	Monday	Monday	Revision and consolidation tasks to prepare for mocks and GCSEs.	2 Hours
Maths	SPL, CSN, DMN, JMN	Friday	Friday	Sparx Maths	1hour
Science	EAS, JHL, FCK, SHS, HCK, CAY	Monday	Monday	Various tasks - Knowledge organiser, h/w sheet, exam questions, revision cards, seneca.	30 minutes - 1hour
History	EBE CBN, SBS	weekly	1 week to complete	Tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom.	30 mins -1hr
Geography	IPE, EIP	Once a fortnight	1 week to complete	Various tasks set on google classroom based on the topic they have been learning in the classroom. Including revision and practice exam questions.	1-2 hours
French	IPS, VLS	Once per week	1 week to complete	Various tasks eg: Quizlet, learning vocabulary, answering questions, worksheets, quizzes, revision, exam practice	1 hour
DT	Mr Fleckney	Every Week	1 week after setting	To continue with the NEA design folder. Completing pages from the lessons and acting on teacher feedback to support the work. GCSE Mock paper practice prior to scheduled mock exams.	1-2 hours
Art	Mrs Poxson	Every week	1 week to complete	Tasks to support the development of the students' coursework/exam portfolios, for example preparing for lessons e.g. taking photos, artist research etc., working on artworks that have been started in class and presenting work into sketchbooks.	1-2 hours
Drama	Mrs Jones	When required	1 week	Learning lines, key term quizzes, set text knowledge tasks, group rehearsals.	10 minutes to 1 hour
Business	Miss McGuigan	11A / 11D Weds	11A / 11D Weds	Business context research task (building a bank of mini case studies of businesses of their choice).	20mins
BTEC IT	Mrs Brant	11B/IT	1 week to complete	Weekly Know it All Ninja learning and quiz. Revision tasks.	20-40 mins
Food	Miss Kinnear	11C Mon/ Thurs 11D Tues/ Weds	1 week to complete	Food- Sensory evaluation for practicals Theory based exam style questions COURSEWORK also will have homework attached to it.	20 minutes 30 minutes Time limit will be set in lesson
GCSE PE	Mr Nicholl	Friday	1 week to complete	AO1 content - recap of learning within class, 6-9 mark exam style questions, case studies linked to current issues in sport.	30 minutes - 1 hour



Year 11 GCSE Subject Interventions

To support our Year 11 pupils with their ongoing examination preparation, subject interventions will be running as per the timetable below.

We greatly value your support and encourage you to speak with your child about the importance of attending their intervention sessions and positively engaging with the reward card initiatives.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Prep (8.00-8.40)	English (SRS) 216 Geography (IPE) 231 Science (FCK) 251	English (SRS) 216 Maths (SPL) 233	English (SRS) 216 Geography (IPE) 231	Science (EAS) 250 Science (JHL) 201 Science (SHS) 224	Year 11 Assembly
Lunch (1.30-2.00)	Business Studies (NMN) 141 Maths (CSN) 239	French (VLS) 157 French (IPS) 039	History (CBN) 106	BTEC DIT (EBT) 140 Maths FSMQ (SPL) 233 Maths (DMN) 238	
Period 7 (3.05-4.00)	Art, Craft and Design (KPN) 126 PE (RNL) 204	Geography (EIP) 230	Compulsory triple science lesson (SHS) DT (WFY) 052 Food (HKR) 204	Staff Training	Drama (LJS) Drama Studio

Year 10 Work Experience

Work experience week commences 29th June.

Emma, our careers adviser, has contacted a few local companies with some potential opportunities for the work placement.

Ashe Group are a construction company based in Hitchin. They can offer one student a rotational week, spending half a day with different departments, including estimating, planning, design, procurement, surveying, roofing, business support and marketing, to gain a full overview of the business. The student will need to be able to get to offices in Hitchin, which are just round the corner from the train station.

There are also potential placements at a children's nursery in Letchworth working with babies to 3 year olds.

Please do email me at efuller@bestacademies.org.uk with the student's details and why they are interested in the placement.

If your company is able to offer a student a placement, we would be delighted to discuss this with you! Please contact Emma if you're able to help!

Food and Nutrition Update

Year 10 made cheesecakes this week and had free reign on what flavours they would like to create for their dish! We saw a lot of the popular biscuits we all know and love (Biscoff and Oreo) and seeing different styles of presentation showed they were really thinking about how it would look and taste as a finished dish.

Star Bakers:

Brodie R - for really thinking about his flavours within his Chocolate Orange Cheesecake. Adding zest to his biscuit layer was a great idea.

Jamie M - A molten mouth-watering topping to his Biscoff Cheesecake that invites you in for a swim... I mean slice 😊



Please note: all long hair should be tied back for PE lessons, and piercings should be covered or removed



Winter Sport

A quick reminder that when lessons are timetabled to be outside, we will head outdoors unless the weather is unsafe or extremely poor. With this in mind, please ensure students are fully prepared with the correct PE kit, even if they are injured but able to change — this helps avoid students getting wet in their uniform before returning to class.

As the weather continues to change, students should have a **Pix Brook PE jumper** and **bring both football boots and trainers** so we can adapt to indoor or outdoor sessions as needed. Shin pads are essential for anyone taking part in football or hockey.

You can find the full PE kit list here: [Pix Brook Academy PE Kit List \(page 5\)](#).

PE & Sports Update: A Fantastic Start to the Half Term!

What an amazing start to the second half of the spring term! It has been fantastic to see our students engaging with new sports during their PE lessons and representing the school so brilliantly in our recent fixtures. Here is a roundup of our latest sporting news:

Y7 Boys Reach the County Cup Final! A huge congratulations to our Y7 boys football team who have reached the County Cup Final! This is an amazing achievement and a true testament to the hard work, perseverance, and excellent attitude they have shown in every game up to this point. They secured their spot by beating a strong Manshead team in a hard-fought semi-final. The game was scrappy at times, but our work rate and endeavour were outstanding. The match went down to penalties, with all 5 of our takers scoring! A special mention goes to Joseph S for scoring the winning penalty and Jamie M for making an outstanding save with his feet. Further special mentions go to Chris F, Henry M-P, and Eoin H, who were excellent throughout the game.

We look forward to facing either Etonbury or Alameda in the final. A big thank you also goes to our Y10 GCSE PE students, Mylo G and Zac J, who helped officiate the game.

Please note: all long hair should be tied back for PE lessons, and piercings should be covered or removed

KS2 Girls Football Well done to our KS2 girls football team who played their first game of the season against RBA last night. Miss Jack was incredibly impressed with their attitude, and the team is already looking forward to their next game!

Strong Start to the Rugby Season: The rugby season is officially underway, and it has been wonderful to see some new faces joining the Y7 and Y8 boys teams. Both year groups have had an excellent start, with the Y7 team beating Arnold and the Y8 team securing a win against Marston Vale. We hope to keep this positive momentum going as the boys continue to develop their rugby skills in both lessons and competitive games.

Y4 Football Festival & Sports Leaders: We recently hosted a Y4 football festival, welcoming our feeder schools to Pix Brook to play games against one another. There was a wonderfully positive atmosphere throughout the event. We are incredibly proud of our Y8 sports leaders who ran the event and officiated to a very high standard. Thank you to Miss Jack for organizing such a successful festival!

Upcoming Opportunities

We have a busy and exciting week ahead for our students:

- **Badminton Trip:** Students will be heading to Birmingham for the All England Open (invite only).
- **Cross Country:** An upcoming competition at Chicksands for our Y5–Y8 students (invite only).
- **Bedfordshire Darts Academy (Thursday, 5th March, 3pm):** The academy is coming into school! This opportunity to play darts and work with the academy is open to all students. Action Required: Anyone interested in taking part needs to come to the PE office to sign up.

A reminder that **our clubs are open to all students**. We want everyone to have the opportunity to give sports a go, regardless of experience.

Please note the following kit requirements to ensure student safety and facility protection:

- **After-School Clubs:** Full PE kit must be worn.
- **Before-School & Lunchtime Clubs:** Students do not need to change into PE kit, but trainers are mandatory.
- **Please note: Students without trainers will not be allowed in the sports hall.**

Year 7 Rugby Match Report

Pix Brook Academy vs Arnold Academy (Away)

Pix Brook Academy's Year 7 rugby team kicked off their season in fantastic style with an impressive away victory against Arnold Academy in the very first match of the year.

What makes this win even more special is that 10 out of the 14 players had never played a competitive game of rugby before. Despite this, the team showed outstanding determination, teamwork, and resilience throughout the match. From the first whistle to the last, every player gave 100%, demonstrating great tackling, strong running, and excellent support play.

Pix Brook worked tirelessly in both attack and defence. Communication improved as the game went on, and confidence grew with every phase of play. For many players, this was their first experience of match-day nerves — but they rose to the challenge brilliantly.

Player of the Game Awards

3rd Place: Henry – for his consistent effort and determination all over the pitch.

2nd Place: Cooper – for strong carries and excellent defensive work.

1st Place: Chris – for an outstanding all-round performance and leadership during the game.

Honourable Mention: Lucien – for fantastic effort and commitment.

Please note: all long hair should be tied back for PE lessons, and piercings should be covered or removed

Every single player should be extremely proud of their performance. The teamwork, positive attitude, and sportsmanship on display were brilliant to see, especially so early in the season.

The celebrations continued long after the final whistle, with a loud and joyful sing-along on the minibus journey home — the perfect ending to a memorable first game!

A huge well done to the entire squad. What a way to start the season!

Year 8 Rugby Match Report

Pix Brook Academy vs Marsten Vale Middle School (Away)

A fantastic performance from the Year 8 boys saw Pix Brook Academy secure a dominant 75–10 victory over Marston Vale Middle School in an outstanding display of school rugby.

From the first whistle, Pix Brook set the tone with relentless energy and physicality. Raw athleticism across the pitch allowed the team to break the gain line time and time again, while excellent support play ensured that every line break turned into points. The offloading game was particularly impressive, with players constantly backing each other up and keeping the ball alive.

Defensively, the boys showed great determination, working hard to close down space and making strong, confident tackles. Even when Marston Vale managed to score, the response from Pix Brook was immediate, with the team maintaining focus and intensity throughout.

Player of the Game Awards:

3rd – Thomas

2nd – Jaiden

1st – Ben

All three made huge contributions, but every single player played their part in what was a true team performance.

Most importantly, the game was played in exactly the right spirit, with respect shown by both sides throughout. Mr Dawson was extremely proud of the effort, teamwork and attitude displayed by the boys.

There will undoubtedly be tougher challenges ahead, but this was a brilliant start to the season and a performance the team can build on with confidence.

Year 8 Rugby Match Report

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Clubs and Societies

Our sports clubs and societies aim to give the pupils a range of activities and interests to enjoy.

Please note: the Sports Clubs are likely to change termly, and are usually linked to the current competition schedule.



PBA Extra-Curricular Sports (Jan - Feb) 2026

	Before school 7.45-8:15	Lunch 1 – 12:40 – 13:10 (KS2) No need to get changed	Lunch 2 – 13:30 – 14:00 (KS3) No need to get changed	After School: 15:05 – 16:00 Other fixtures will take place during the term - this may affect the club timetable
Monday				Y5/6/10 - NETBALL TRAINING (PSU) Y5/6 - GIRLS FOOTBALL TRAINING (AJK) Y5/6 - BOYS FOOTBALL TRAINING (SPE/SLY) Y11 - GCSE PE INTERVENTION (RNL) Y9/10 - RUGBY TRAINING (MDN) <u>Y5 - FOOTBALL FIXTURES</u>
Tuesday	KS2 - BASKETBALL SPORTSHALL (RNL)	Y5/6 -TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL (SLY)	Y7 - INTER-FORM BASKETBALL SPORTSHALL (RNL) Y8 - TABLE TENNIS DANCE STUDIO (JSK)	Y7/8 - RUGBY TRAINING (MDN) Y7/8 - GIRLS FOOTBALL TRAINING (AJK) Y9/10/11 - HANDBALL (RNL) <u>Y10 NETBALL FIXTURES</u>
Wednesday	KS3/4 - BADMINTON SPORTSHALL (RNL) INVITE ONLY		Y8/9 - BADMINTON Sports hall (JSK) GCSE PE WORKSHOPS INVITE ONLY (ROOM 206) (RNL)	Y5/6 - RUGBY TRAINING (OCL) <u>Y5/6 NETBALL FIXTURES</u>
Thursday			Y10/11 - GCSE PE TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL (MDN) Y8 - INTER-FORM BASKETBALL SPORTSHALL (RNL)	GCSE PE MODERATION SESSIONS (RNL/MDN/PSU) <u>STAFF MEETINGS</u>
Friday	GCSE PE TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL (AJK) GCSE ACRO-GYMNASTICS / DANCE DANCE STUDIO (PSU)		Y9 - TABLE TENNIS MAIN HALL MDN) Y8 - FUTSAL SPORTSHALL(WRB) INVITE ONLY	



PBA Extra-Curricular Clubs (Jan - Feb) 2026

	Lunch 1 – 12:40 – 13:10 (KS2)	Lunch 2 – 13:30 – 14:00 (KS3)	After School: 15:05 – 16:00
Monday		KS3 Code Club 140 (EBT)	KS3 and KS4 Prop, Set and Costume Design 126 KPN Dance Club Dance Studio (JS)
Tuesday	KS2 Top Trumps 107 (EMY) KS2 Coding Club 140 (EBT)		KS3/4 Drama Club (Pix Brook Players) Main Hall (JS) Year 5 Homework Club Year 5 classrooms
Wednesday	KS2 Mindfulness 110 (CBS)	KS3 eSports 140 (EBT)	Year 6 Homework Club Year 6 classrooms Year 7 Homework Club Room 206
Thursday	Top Trumps (JRW) KS2 EdShed 016 (OCL) Drawing Club 127 (MYG)		Whole school choir Music Room (TWD)
Friday	Games Club 015 (SPE)	Y10 & 11 GCSE Art Club 127 (MYG)	

Drum Lessons

Drum Lessons are available every Monday and Tuesday to students of all ages and abilities! Whether you would like to pursue grades or achieve your own personal goals.

Becca Robinson – beccadrums@gmail.com



Singing Lessons



I have more than 15 years experience teaching children of all ages in a wide range of musical styles.

My style is fun and friendly with many of my pupils taking public exams and successfully auditioning for singing courses at a range of reputable post-school institutions.

For further details, please speak to Mr Weed via school or contact me direct on 07905 225825 or eleanorpugsley@gmail.com

Piano Lessons

Piano Lessons

Boris Peck is a classically-trained conductor, violinist and pianist offering in-school piano lessons.

Spaces are currently available for new students. Weekly lessons (20 or 30 minute sessions) will be taught on one of the keyboards in school.

Please contact Boris via email at boris_peck@hotmail.com, or phone 07884 057278 for more information.



Brass and Wind Lessons

BRASS & WIND LESSONS

Learning to play an instrument opens up a world of musical expression and creativity. It offers a unique way to develop musical skills while improving focus, discipline, and teamwork.

At Pix Brook, we currently offer lessons on Drums, guitar, piano, violin, and voice. In our efforts to expand this provision, we would like to start offering brass and woodwind lessons. At this point we are looking to see if there is enough interest within the school to facilitate a teacher coming in.

The instruments to choose from would be:

- Brass:**
- horn,
 - trombone,
 - trumpet,
 - tuba.

- Woodwind:**
- bassoon,
 - clarinet,
 - flute,
 - oboe,
 - saxophone.

The cost of the lessons ranges from **£11 per lesson to £24** depending on the length of lesson and whether it is taught individually or as part of a group.

If your child is interested in starting lessons, please let me know by email (tweed@bestacademies.org.uk)

If there is enough interest, we will look to set this up in the near future.

Thank you for considering this exciting opportunity.



We are excited to be looking at offering lessons in brass and wind instruments in school.

If you would be interested in signing your child up for lessons, please contact Mr Weed:

tweed@bestacademies.org.uk

SAFGUARDING, WELLBEING AND SEN



Pix Brook Academy Safeguarding Team

We are here to keep you safe

Who can you speak to if you feel worried?
Any Adult

Our Dedicated Safeguarding Lead or Any Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Their special job is to listen, support and help you at any time of the school day.

If you feel unsafe or you have any worries/concerns that you feel you cannot speak to a member of staff about, you can send an email to: pba-safe@bestacademies.org.uk



Mrs Smith
Designated Safeguarding Lead

You can speak to us:

- if you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it's not important)
- if someone has hurt you physically, emotionally or mentally
- if you are being threatened or forced to do things
- if someone has done something to you without your permission
- if you feel unsafe in school, at home or when you are out and about
- if you feel uncomfortable in any way
- if you know of another pupil who is worried, upset or being hurt (even if they have told you to keep it secret)
- if you are scared or worried about going home



Mrs Dapin
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (SLT)



Mrs Hapworth
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (SLT)



Mr Crisswell
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 5



Mrs Murphy
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 6



Mrs Stevenson
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 7



Miss Kinear
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 8



Mr Cook
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 9



Mrs Mannion
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 10



Mr Flecknoy
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 11



Mrs Jackson
PP Coordinator & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

School Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns, please contact our Safeguarding Team.

Online Safeguarding



Mental Health Information



BEST Parents Mindfulness Course

FREE Mindfulness Course for Parents & Carers

INTRODUCING MINDFULNESS IN 5 ONLINE SESSIONS

Open to **ALL Parents & Carers** of BEST students, this course provides a taste of mindfulness, exploring key themes and practices to support you in your everyday life.

- ♥ Improve your sense of wellbeing • cultivate calm and self-compassion
- 🧘 Reduce stress and anxiety • learn to manage thoughts and emotions skilfully
- 🕒 Be more present and effective • live life more intentionally, less reactively

SPRING TERM 2026 DATES

Thursdays: Feb 26th • Mar 5th • 12th • 19th • 26th

Choose your preferred time:

12.15pm-1.30pm or **6.30pm-7.45pm**

with **Wii George**
BEST Mindfulness Coach

TO REGISTER

and view the course introduction video

visit bestacademies.org.uk/mindfulness

(places are limited and offered on a first come, first serve basis)

Ivel Valley Family Bulletin

Click [here](#) to access the bulletin online



2026

March

Monday 2 nd to Thursday 5 th	Mock SATs for Year 6
Thursday 5 th	Vaccinations for Year 8
Friday 6 th	Celebrating World Book Day - Whole School
Tuesday 10 th & Wednesday 11 th	FAB Science Workshop for Years 5 & 6
Monday 16 th	Planetarium Visit for Year 5
Thursday 19 th	Year 7 Progress Event (early finish years 7-11)
Friday 20 th	DofE Silver Award
Wednesday 25 th and Thursday 26 th	Progress Evening Year 6
Friday 27 th	End of Term
	NB: No PBA Extra. School closes early.

May

Monday 11 th - Thursday 14 th	Year 6 SATs
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COMMUNITY

COACHED BY MISS DARNELL & TEAM

NETBALL DEVELOPMENT CAMP

31ST MARCH - 2ND APRIL

10am-3pm
7-14 Years Only

Developing Core Skills

- Passing
- Footwork
- Shooting
- Match Play

PENDLETON SPORTS CENTRE

STOTFOLD

28 PLACES AVAILABLE

Book Now
www.midbedsfutsal.co.uk

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY UK

SWIFT TRAINING ACADEMY

RLSS National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ)

Gain the essential skills and knowledge needed to work as a pool lifeguard. This internationally recognized qualification is a must-have for anyone looking to work in leisure centres, swimming pools, and aquatic venues. The NPLQ course is also worth 8 UCAS points!

-29th March - 2nd April 2026
-7th - 11th April 2026
-26th - 30th May 2026

Each course is at Bedford School and costs £299

Enquire today - training@swiftswimmers.co.uk

ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY UK

SWIFT TRAINING ACADEMY

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Gain the essential skills and knowledge needed to work as a pool lifeguard. This internationally recognized qualification is a must-have for anyone looking to work in leisure centres, swimming pools, and aquatic venues. The NPLQ course is also worth 8 UCAS points!

Tuesday 7th - Saturday 11th April 2026
Beechwood Park School, St Albans, AL3 8AW
9-6pm each day and costs £299

Enquire today - training@swiftswimmers.co.uk

BARRACUDAS
ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!!!

AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2025!

EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT

USE CODE SCHOOL20 FOR AN EXTRA £20 OFF YOUR BOOKING!

*Minimum 2 days. Not to be used in conjunction with other codes

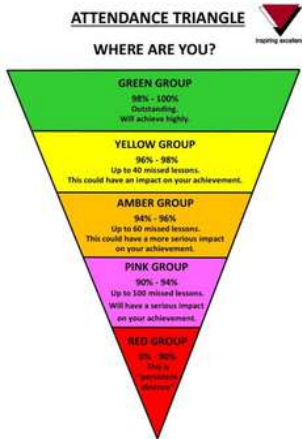
- 4 to 14 year olds!
- 80+ Activities!
- Choice each session!
- Specialist courses!
- Flexible bookings!

OFSTED REGISTERED

barracudas.co.uk
01480 467 567

Trustpilot

Reporting an Absence



Absences need to be reported daily by **8am** either by phone or email. If you have an appointment booked, please send supporting evidence to PBA-Absence@bestacademies.org.uk and confirm the time of collection. On the day of the appointment you will need to provide your child with a signed letter in order for them to leave the class to meet you in reception. **We will no longer be issuing collection passes.** Children need to be collected by a nominated adult from reception.

Contacting School



A reminder that **all queries** with regard to Pix Brook Academy students should be emailed to pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk or call the office on **01462 416243**.

Please do not use our Social Media platforms to request information about or contribute to conversations with regard to our students.

If you need to get a message to your child/children during the school day, please contact Reception. Teachers are unable to pass on messages during the school day. Our Reception team will take the message and deliver it to the pupil(s) involved. **Please call or email the office on 01462 416243 or pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk**

NHS Guide to childhood illness



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrca.de/minfoc>.

Medication in School



If your child needs to have medication in school please ensure that you bring it to the main office and fill out the required forms. **Children are not permitted to carry medication around the school.**

Medication may include: Calpol, Paracetamol, Antihistamine

Menus



Our lunchtime menus are available to view on our website:

<https://www.pixbrookacademy.co.uk/page/?title=Our+Food+Provision&pid=40>

Drop Off and Collection Time Parking

We ask parents to avoid **parking next to the carpark entrance or on the road junction near the football club** during morning drop off and afternoon collection time.

This junction is particularly busy during school pick-up, and parked cars create hazards for both children and drivers. We would also remind you **not to use the Staff Car Park** when dropping off or collecting children.

Thank you for your understanding.



No Nuts, Please

Please be reminded that we are a **nut aware school**: please **do not** include nut products in your child/children's snack or packed lunch. This includes Nutella.
Thank you.

Body Sprays and Perfumes

We would like to remind you that **body sprays and perfumes are not permitted** in school, as the use of the sprays can affect people suffering with asthma. Please send your child/children in with roll on deodorant **only**.



Use of the Cycle Paths

The foot- and cycle-paths near the school get very busy before and after school. Please remind your children that the paths are shared with members of the public, and that the children should be courteous towards others when travelling to and from school.



Road Safety

Please be aware that the new bus stop, Etonbury and Pix Brook, is on a narrow stretch of pavement which is often busy during the school run. Please remind your children **not to sit with their feet in the road**, when waiting at the bus stop, as this is a safety issue.



BEST Academic Calendar 2025/2026



School Holiday ■

Bank Holiday ■

Pupil Day ■

Training Day ■

September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29		Mon	6	13	20	27		Mon	3	10	17	24		Mon	1	8	15	22	29			
Tue	2	9	16	23	30		Tue	7	14	21	28		Tue	4	11	18	25		Tue	2	9	16	23	30			
Wed	3	10	17	24			Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed	5	12	19	26		Wed	3	10	17	24	31		
Thu	4	11	18	25			Thu	2	9	16	23	30		Thu	6	13	20	27		Thu	4	11	18	25			
Fri	5	12	19	26			Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri	7	14	21	28		Fri	5	12	19	26			
Sat	6	13	20	27			Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	6	13	20	27			
Sun	7	14	21	28			Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	7	14	21	28			

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon	2	9	16	23		Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27				
Tue		6	13	20	27		Tue	3	10	17	24		Tue	3	10	17	24	31	Tue	7	14	21	28				
Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29			
Thu	1	8	15	22	29		Thu	5	12	19	26		Thu	5	12	19	26		Thu	2	9	16	23	30			
Fri	2	9	16	23	30		Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24				
Sat	3	10	17	24	31		Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25				
Sun	4	11	18	25			Sun	1	8	15	22		Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26			

May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	31				
Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	4	11	18	25					
Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26				
Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu	4	11	18	25		Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	6	13	20	27				
Fri	1	8	15	22	29		Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28				
Sat	2	9	16	23	30		Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29			
Sun	3	10	17	24	31		Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30			

Term 1 – 75 days. Term 2 – 55 days. Term 3 – 65 days. = 195.

Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on 5 of the 195 days. In accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service, five days will be used to enable teacher training to take place.

Training days set are as follows: 1st September 2025, 2nd September 2025, 5th January 2026 and 13th April 2026. Training day 5 will be made up of several twilight sessions determined by individual schools.

BEST Academic Calendar 2026/2027

School Holiday ■

Bank Holiday ■

Pupil Day ■

Training Day ■



September 2026							October 2026							November 2026							December 2026						
Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon	5	12	19	26		Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	7	14	21	28				
Tue	1	8	15	22	29		Tue	6	13	20	27		Tue	3	10	17	24		Tue	1	8	15	22	29			
Wed	2	9	16	23	30		Wed	7	14	21	28		Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30			
Thu	3	10	17	24			Thu	1	8	15	22	29		Thu	5	12	19	26		Thu	3	10	17	24	31		
Fri	4	11	18	25			Fri	2	9	16	23	30		Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25			
Sat	5	12	19	26			Sat	3	10	17	24	31		Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26			
Sun	6	13	20	27			Sun	4	11	18	25		Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27			

January 2027							February 2027							March 2027							April 2027						
Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon	1	8	15	22		Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	5	12	19	26				
Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue	2	9	16	23		Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	6	13	20	27				
Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed	7	14	21	28				
Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu	4	11	18	25		Thu	4	11	18	25		Thu	1	8	15	22	29			
Fri	1	8	15	22	29		Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	2	9	16	23	30			
Sat	2	9	16	23	30		Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	3	10	17	24				
Sun	3	10	17	24	31		Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	4	11	18	25				

May 2027							June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
Mon		3	10	17	24	31	Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	30					
Tue		4	11	18	25		Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue	6	13	20	27	Tue	3	10	17	24	31				
Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25					
Thu		6	13	20	27		Thu	3	10	17	24		Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu	5	12	19	26				
Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27				
Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28				
Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	4	11	18	25		Sun	1	8	15	22	29			

Pupil Contact Days: Term 1 – 70 days. Term 2 – 53 days. Term 3 – 67 days. = 190.

In accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service, five days will be used in addition to the 190 pupil contact days to enable teacher training to take place.

Training days set are as follows: 3 September 2026, 4 September 2026, 4 January 2027 and 9 April 2027. Training day 5 will be made up of several twilight sessions determined by individual schools.