



Year 8 End of Term Update

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of the academic year, we wanted to get in touch to update you after an action-packed Summer Term.

Buddens Residential

Year 8 enjoyed a multitude of adventure activities during their residential earlier this half term. The year group enjoyed activities such as raft building, archery and rock climbing. This gave the students the opportunity to display their leadership skills, teamwork, resilience and passion. School staff were told several times by instructors how impressed they were by the pupils' behaviour around the site and during activities.

Sports Evening

On Thursday 2 July, we enjoyed our annual Sports Evening. Sports Evening is an eagerly anticipated event that brings together the entire school community to celebrate athleticism, teamwork, and healthy competition. It serves as a platform for students to showcase their sporting talents and engage in friendly rivalry. Three wins for Carter Ackwany in the 100m, 200m and Long Jump and two wins for Owen Wood in the 3,000m and the High Jump were the notable performances of the day. Carter Ackwany was also part of the Westgate 4 x 400m relay team that broke the school Year 8 record.

There were many examples of camaraderie among students, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere. Congratulations to Southgate for winning overall.

We would like to congratulate and thank all pupils who put themselves forward to participate in Sports Evening.

Cricket

After the U13As incredible performances to reach the semi-final of the National David English Cup competition, against Hampton School a few weeks ago. The team have also reached the Gloucestershire U13 County Cup Final against Marling School on Tuesday 14 July. We wish them well.

Summer Concert

On Thursday 9 July it was wonderful to see so many students from across the year groups showcasing the wealth of talent we have at school. Whilst the event became virtual, we are certain the quality of music played was not lost on the audience. Huge thanks to Mr Hinton for his work creating the recordings and a huge well done to the musicians for playing so beautifully in the warm conditions.

The concert included a wide range of music from the String Group, Jazz Band, Brass Group, Wind Band, Orchestra, Choir, Chamber Choir, and two student bands.

Tommy's Award

Pupils in Year 8 have now completed their second year participating in the Tommy's Award; there were over 56 successful participants achieving the Silver Award. Pupils will be awarded with their badges and certificates in an assembly either Wednesday 15 July or Thursday 16 July. The Tommy's Award is unique to our school and recognises pupil achievements in areas which go beyond the classroom, such as leadership, service to the School, creativity and participation in extracurricular activities. Although some pupils may not have achieved Tommy's Award Silver this academic year, it does not take away from the impressive achievements of so many members of Year 8. In Year 9 all pupils restart the process for Tommy's Award Gold.

Wellbeing

Whilst we hope that your child will enjoy the long summer break, we would like to remind you that support for their wellbeing remains available should it be required during the holidays. Please find below the contact details for Talk Well (formerly TIC+) and the Young Minds Matter (YMM) team who will be available to offer confidential advice and support:

- Talk Well - [Talk Well | Free counselling and support for 9-25 year olds](https://www.ticplus.org.uk/)
<https://www.ticplus.org.uk/> - YMM chat - 07480 635723

We are pleased to share the final edition of our Mental Health and Wellbeing newsletter of the academic year. In this edition, we look at eating and the brain, how to support siblings of neurodivergent children and our safeguarding bitesize relates to domestic abuse. Please click [here https://strschool.afip.in/MHWPJuly2026](https://strschool.afip.in/MHWPJuly2026) to access the

newsletter.

Our pupils have benefitted from the many activities and support available to them throughout the year. In this edition of our Inclusion newsletter, we share some of the highlights from the past term.

Please click [here https://strschool.aflip.in/InclusionJuly26](https://strschool.aflip.in/InclusionJuly26) to read what our pupils have been involved in and the support available to your child.

Last Day of Term and Coaches

Please find below a summary of the timings for the last day of term (Friday 17 July):

- 8.30am – Registration
- 9.00am – 12.25pm - Normal lessons periods 1-3
- 12.30pm – Registration / Form Time
- 12.45pm – Pupils Depart

The information on bus departure times for Friday 17 July are also listed below:

- 12.45pm – Marchants M12,M13,M14 and Cross Street Swindon
- 1.00pm – KB Swindon x 2, KB Bristol
- 1.30pm – Bennetts 1-4 - pupils should wait in C1 room from 12.45
- Bennetts 5-8 - pupils should wait in C2 room from 12.45

September 2026

Looking ahead to September, a reminder that your child's first day of the Autumn term will be Friday 4 September.

Your child's Head of Year next year will be Mr O'Neil, supported by Mr Daniell (Assistant Headteacher i/c Key Stages 3 and 4) and Miss Tapscott (Deputy Headteacher).

The form tutors for Year 9 in 2026-2027 are also listed below:

- 9S Mr Richards – B4 – (Northgate)
- 9T Mr Dando – B1 – (Southgate)
- 9R Dr Scott – F3 – (Eastgate)
- 9B Mr Ormston – Q10 – (Westgate)
- 9C Mr Tilley – F4 – (Newgate)

Your son's timetable for next academic year will be issued on the first day in September, when it will also be available for you to view on Parent Gateway.

It just leaves us to say that we hope that you and your child have a relaxing, safe, and enjoyable summer holiday.

Best wishes

Mrs Chloe Rigby-Smith (Head of Year 8)

Mr Peter Daniell (Assistant Headteacher – Head of Key Stages 3 and 4)

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