

Termly Communication to Parents/Carers Lent Term 2 2026

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to our Lent Term 2 half termly newsletter. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

Staffing News

We are delighted to welcome Miss Waters, who is joining us as Teacher of Drama.

Upcoming dates

Monday 2nd March	National Careers Week
Thursday 5th March	Y12 Parents Evening
Thursday 12th March	Jazz Concert
Tuesday 17th March	Y7 Parents Evening
Tuesday 24th March	Y7 Music Specialists and Choristers Comp.
Wednesday 25th March	Spring Concert at Bristol Cathedral
26th March - 29th March	DofE Gold Training
Monday 30th March	Y9 MenACWY/ DtP Vaccinations
Wednesday 1st April	End of Term 4
Monday 20th April	Start of Term 5

Helpful Links

[School Website](#)

[Parent/ Carers Calendar](#)

[Timings of the School Day](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Our Curriculum](#)

[Futures careers bulletin](#)

[Co-Curricular](#)


[Homework Timetables](#)


[Contacting Us](#)

Whole School Messages

Whole School Messages

<p>Attendance</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Thank you. Attendance Team</p>
<p>Equipment</p>	<p>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 stationery which is why bringing the correct equipment for learning is one of our new school rules.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We ask all students to bring the following equipment to school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A pencil case ● At least 2 black or blue pens ● A pencil ● A sharpener ● A rubber ● A ruler ● A scientific calculator ● A reading book
<p>Science</p>	<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>Year 9 Science Year 10 Science Year 11 Science</p>
<p>Science Educake Homework</p>	<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>Educake for children with SEND Improving the display: You can find some additional information for supporting your child here. The article is directed at teachers, but really useful for parents and carers supporting their child too.</p>

	<p>Spelling: 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.</p> <p>Duration: 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>									
<p style="text-align: center;">Music</p>	<p>Don't forget you can still buy tickets for the Jazz concert and Spring concert from parent pay.</p> <p><u>Jazz Concert: 12th March, Cresswell Theatre</u> This concert will feature: Jazz Jammers, Jazz Improv, Senior Jazz, Big Band and Steel Pans (exact bands to be confirmed) We'll also have some small duet and solo items and students involved will be aware.</p> <p><u>Spring Concert: 25th March, Bristol Cathedral</u></p> <p>This concert will feature: Symphony, Orchestra, Big Band, Contemporary Voices, Concert Band, GX Choir, BX Choir, Chamber Choir, Lower School Voices, String Orchestra, Flute Ensemble, Brass Ensemble.</p>									
	<p>Y10 DofE Bronze: Expedition Training for those allocated a place will be on Wednesday 11th and 18th March, and 22nd April, 3:30-5pm venue tbc</p> <p>Y12 DofE Gold: Term 4 Meeting - this will be to confirm Expedition groups for June and July: All to attend Friday 6th March, 3:30-4:30pm venue tbc via Google Classroom. Expedition Training is Thursday 26th - Sunday 29th March.</p> <p>Year 9: Interested in DofE? sign up will be after Easter - Students can start planning activities to fulfil the Physical, Skill and Volunteering section of the award - all advice needed on the BCCS DofE Website. Letter with details to be sent in Term 5. https://sites.google.com/bristolcathedral.org.uk/dofebccs/</p>									
<p style="text-align: center;">Sixth Form</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%;">Year Group</th> <th style="width: 33%;">Head of Year</th> <th style="width: 33%;">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> <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
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<p>Y11 Art, Textiles, Graphics and 3D Design GCSE</p>	<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</p>									

	<p>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>We are an ‘Operation Encompass’ school</p>	<p>Through Operation Encompass the police will share information with our school about all 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>
<p>BCCS Class Charts Reward Store</p> <p><i>We need your help.</i></p>	<p>We’re excited to be restocking and relaunching the BCCS Reward Store - and we’d love support from our parent and carer community.</p> <p>The store allows students to exchange their hard-earned rewards for meaningful treats and experiences, and we’re looking for donations or offers to help us stock the shelves. Suggested ideas include tickets to events or activities, money-off vouchers for local eateries or shops, sports equipment, books, stationery, or other useful resources.</p> <p>If you, your business, or someone you know would be willing to contribute, please get in touch at info@bristolcathedral.org.uk. Your generosity helps us celebrate effort, kindness, and commitment - and makes a real difference to our students.</p> <p>Thank you for supporting our community!</p>

<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>E-safety</p>	<p>Has your child worked with CAMHS?</p> <p>Police in Essex have released some disturbing details of harmful social media accounts targeting children that have been involved with CAMHS and CAMHS inpatient wards. Two young adults have been found to be involved in running TikTok accounts with thousands of followers that encourage self harm.</p> <p>I would advise all parents/carers to closely monitor their child's social media (followers and following) and consider any contact that vulnerable children may have with digital communities as they are often unregulated and can be problematic or even dangerous.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Educake homework</p>	<p>Many thanks to parents and carers for your continued support in helping students establish a consistent routine of revisiting prior learning in Science.</p> <p>Students in Years 7–11 are set a weekly Educake quiz, which must be completed by 9:00am each Monday. Unless otherwise stated in a student's SEN passport, a detention will be issued if this deadline is missed.</p> <p>Students who miss the deadline might not see their Science teacher on a Monday to be informed of the detention. Therefore, resulting detentions will be scheduled for the following day. This slight adjustment to the usual same-day detention policy ensures students can continue to follow the school's no-phones policy and have the opportunity to check ClassCharts notifications after school on Monday evenings, reducing the risk of missing detentions.</p> <p>We appreciate your ongoing support in reinforcing these expectations at home.</p>
<p>Year 11 2027</p> <p>Morocco Expedition Information Evening</p> <p>Monday 23rd February 6-7pm</p> <p>Cresswell Theatre</p>	<p>Bristol Cathedral Choir School Expedition to Morocco July 2027</p> <p>Information evening for students and parents/carers</p> <p>This information evening is for year 11 students planning to stay at BCCS for sixth form. It will be presented by True Adventure and is a chance to find out about our planned Morocco expedition in July 2027. There will be lots of information on the trip itinerary, how to raise funds, the safety and back-up during the adventure, and the benefits students will derive from taking part. If you would like to know more about the expedition prior to the information evening, please follow this link: https://true-adventure.co.uk/trip/bristol-cathedral-choir-school-morocco-expedition-2027/</p> <p>Any further questions please email Katie Newton Dunn.</p>
<p>Maths</p>	<p>Intermediate Maths Challenge</p> <p>Congratulations to everyone who took part in the UKMT intermediate maths Challenge. Certificates will be handed out in maths lessons later next week.</p> <p>Well done to Tali, Ted, Emily, Tom, Ernest and Isaac who have been invited to the next round of the competition, the Pink Kangaroo which will take place on March 19th.</p>

Catering and Sustainability

From next term we will be trialling meat-free Mondays in the canteen for students and staff. This initiative forms part of our school sustainability plan, combined with a desire to support students in making healthier food choices.

As part of Environmental Action Week in March we are going to be focusing on the environmental impact of our food choices. BCCS's carbon footprint for 2024/25 estimated that roughly 30% of our carbon emissions are linked to food. Food production accounts for over a quarter (26%) of global greenhouse gas emissions, with half of the world's habitable land being used for agriculture.

During the week we will be learning about the impacts of our food choices, and how some simple changes can lead to big outcomes. The aim is to empower pupils with the knowledge and confidence to make their own choices, both around food and other aspects of our lives that have an impact on the environment both locally and globally.

During that week we are planning a vegetarian-only menu for the whole week, along with measuring and reporting our food waste from the kitchen as we look as a school to address our environmental impact.

If you'd like to read more about the impact of our food choices there is this [BBC article](#), or [this article](#) on Our World in Data which has some fantastic infographics.

Research Participation Opportunity (13-15 year old)



JOIN OUR
RESEARCH PROJECT

ARE YOU

- A healthy 13-15 year old?
- Go to bed late or consider yourself a 'night owl'?
- Fond of a lie in?

We are looking for participants like you for a study trying to understand the effect of **sleep patterns** on the release of the hormone cortisol.

The study involves questions about your sleep, wearing a watch to measure your activity for a week, and then a further device called U-RHYTHM overnight (for 24-hours) on a weekday.

U-RHYTHM is worn in a belt around the waist, and has a thin probe that measures hormones from just under the skin.

Interested? Scan the QR code for questions to check your eligibility


To thank you for completing the study, we will give you a **£60 voucher**




Futures

<p>All Years - Futures Careers Bulletin</p>	<p>The weekly Futures careers 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) , careersadvisor@bristolcathedral.org.uk</p> <p>National Careers Week events- Monday 2nd March Year 11 mock interview day, Tuesday 3rd March Year 7 Green employer day, Wednesday 4th March, Year * assembly - UK parliament, Year 10 employability skills form DWP, Thursday 5th March - Year 9 Employer day - Dragon's den.</p>
<p>Post-16 Careers Personal Guidance</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 Careerpilot and complete the Pathway Planner quiz - please encourage your son/daughter to complete these tasks.</p>
<p>Yr 10 & 12 Work Experience</p> <p>Mrs A Fey Work Experience Coordinator</p>	<p>Year 10 and 12 have the amazing opportunity of Work Experience this year.</p> <p>WEX dates: Yr 10 - 22nd - 26th June (deadline to add to Unifrog 24th February 2026) Yr 12 - 4th - 8th May (deadline to add to Unifrog 30th Jan 2026) <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>Work experience is really important not only to learn key transferable skills but for CV's and job/university/college/apprenticeship applications. Without it students could miss out on future opportunities.</p> <p>Once a place has been secured all your child will need to do is add this to their Unifrog '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 WEX Google Classroom.</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 here , take a look at our WEX FAQ or drop me an email, bccsworkexperience@bristolcathedral.org.uk, and I will be more than happy to help.</p>
<p>Careers</p>	<p>Here is the careers bulletin for this week. Packed full of opportunities.</p> <p>Year 8 - Employer encounter - Medical mavericks 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 - 22nd - 26th June 2026 (deadline to secure placement 24th Feb 2026)</p> <p>Yr 12 WEX week - 4th - 8th May 2026 (deadline to secure placement 30th Jan 2026)</p> <p>Students should be reaching out to employers 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 WEX Google Classrooms under 'Classwork'. If you have any queries or concerns please contact Mrs Fey, WEX Coordinator, afey@cathedralschoolstrust.org</p>
Co-curricular	<p>***Updated*** Please click here to see a list of clubs on offer at BCCS this term</p>
PE Kit	<p>Double PE sports for Term 3: 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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Extra-curricular PE	<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>
<p>Facilities Upgrade at Failand!</p>	<p>Our new courts have been finished this week at Failand and are ready to use for Netball, Handball, Short Tennis and various other sports in the future.</p>  <p>KS3 students will move onto their next sport to learn about and through starting on Wednesday 4th March. Information about kit and sports will be shared with students via their tutors this week.</p> <p>At the start of the new term, it is a good time to remind parents and students about our kit expectations. 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 skirt) 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>
<p>English as an Additional Language</p>	<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 rchapman@bristolcathedral.org.uk</p>
<p>BCCS Community Hardship Fund</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>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. Thank you to all those who have donated in the past. Your contributions have had a</p>

	significant positive impact for our students and their families.
Science Curriculum	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. Year 9 Science Year 10 Science Year 11 Science
Science Homework	A reminder that Science Educake Homework quizzes need to be completed by 9am on Monday for year groups 7-11. The purpose of these revision quizzes is to revisit previous content so that students have the opportunity to practise their retrieval skills to aid retention of knowledge in the longer term. Students who miss this deadline will automatically be issued a detention for Tuesday, so please take a minute to email your child's Science teacher if they have been unable to complete the homework for legitimate reasons. For students with SEND: Duration: Students in years 7 and 8 should spend no more than 30min on the task, even if that means they haven't tried all questions. Their teachers can see how long they have spent actively engaging with the quiz - 30min is enough. Improving the display: You can find additional support here . Although written for teachers, it is also useful for parents and carers. Spelling: Please note that Educake allows up to two incorrect characters in typed answers. If a student believes their answer is correct, they can click the purple question mark for teacher review. Many thanks for your support.
SEND  Bristol Parent Carer Forum Shaping the Future Together	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/

Music

Music 2025-26	Here 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. Ensembles are now running weekly! Trailblazers See this letter - please direct any questions to musicadmin@bristolcathedral.org.uk
Music	A reminder that students need to check their music lesson timetables at home before coming to school. It is their responsibility to know when they have a lesson. We have had an increasing number of students coming to the office to ask, some more frequently than others. All instruments must be kept in the music cupboard on the top floor of the rectory. There have been an increasing number of instruments being left in the Cresswell lobby. This looks very unsightly, can be a trip hazard and it is not a secure location. School is not responsible for instruments that are left here. If the instrument cupboard is full there are shelves on the upper floors of the Cresswell by the theatre.

