

Termly Communication to Parents/Carers

Michaelmas Term 1 2026

Headteacher's Welcome

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

Staffing News

At the end of last term, we said goodbye to Ms Hudson (Year 9 PSL), Mr Machell (Behaviour Support Lead) and Mrs Hicks-Beresford (Head of Year 8). We are delighted to confirm that Miss Brewer has stepped up to Head of Year 8.

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 8th September	Start of Term 1
Friday 11th September	School Photographs Y7,Y10 & Y12
Tuesday 15th September	UCAS Evening (Y13) for Early Entries
Tuesday 15th September	Sister Act Auditions (Y9 - 13)
Thursday 17th September	Y7 Open Event 1
Friday 18th September	Sister Act Auditions (Y9 - 13)
Tuesday 22nd September	Y9 Battlefields Trip Parent/Carer Information Evening
Wednesday 23rd September	Y12 Information Evening
Thursday 24th September	Y7 Open Event 2
Tuesday 29th September	Y12 Induction Trip to Ashton Court (Whole Year Group)
Wednesday 30th September	Y11 Information Evening
Thursday 1st October	SEND Y7 Parent Workshop supporting transition and Understanding SEND support
Wednesday 7th October	Y12 Open Evening
Tuesday 13th October	Interhouse Music Competition OPEN Category
Thursday 15th October	EAA Parent Information Evening
Monday 19th October	Y7 Meet the Tutor / Evensong

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](#)

Tuesday 20th October	Interhouse Music Competition - Winners Concert
Wednesday 21st October	End of Term 1
Tuesday 3rd November	Start of Term2

Whole School Messages

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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 stationery 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: • A pencil case • At least 2 black or blue pens • A pencil • A sharpener • A rubber • A ruler • A scientific calculator • A reading book																		
	<table> <tr> <th>Year Group</th><th>Head of Year</th><th>Pastoral Support Leader</th></tr> <tr> <td>11</td><td>Mr Welch ewelch@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td><td>Mr Donoghue jdonoghue@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td></tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>Mr Frost jfrost@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td><td>Ms Walker kwalker@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>Mr Murphy kmurphy@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td><td>Mr Darlington zdarlington@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>Mrs Saunders msaunders@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td><td>Mr Gibson sgibson@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>Ms Brewer abrewer@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td><td>Ms Louise llouise@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td></tr> </table>		Year Group	Head of Year	Pastoral Support Leader	11	Mr Welch ewelch@bristolcathedral.org.uk	Mr Donoghue jdonoghue@bristolcathedral.org.uk	10	Mr Frost jfrost@bristolcathedral.org.uk	Ms Walker kwalker@bristolcathedral.org.uk	9	Mr Murphy kmurphy@bristolcathedral.org.uk	Mr Darlington zdarlington@bristolcathedral.org.uk	8	Mrs Saunders msaunders@bristolcathedral.org.uk	Mr Gibson sgibson@bristolcathedral.org.uk	7	Ms Brewer abrewer@bristolcathedral.org.uk
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Arbor Pay 	From September we will no longer be using ParentPay*. Instead, all school payments will be set up and paid for via Arbor. New year 7 students have been sent login details at the start of September. All existing families should already be able to access Arbor, but please contact the data team if you need help logging in. *Y11 and Y13 leavers will be able to make payments for GCSE re-takes, if required, via ParentPay.
Lanyards	Lanyards <u>must</u> be worn by students on site as part of their uniform. Replacement lanyards are available and can be ordered via Arbor - if you add the lanyard card and strap to your basket and pay for this then our reception team will print a new lanyard ready for your child to collect at break or lunchtime. Please remember to add funds to the card via Arbor Pay. Please contact your child's tutor in the first instance if you have any queries.
Important Medical information requested	In the final week of last academic year all parents and carers were sent an email asking for updated medical information in relation to severe allergic reactions/anaphylaxis - in line with Benedict's Law. This is a reminder to submit an allergy plan to school if your child suffers from a life threatening allergy and/or they carry an auto injector such as an EpiPen. The letter is linked here for your convenience and has been emailed to all new starters in Years 7 and 8. Please return allergy forms at your earliest convenience. Additionally, we remind you, it is safest not to allow your child to bring nut products to school.
 School Musical!	We're so excited to launch the 2027 school production "Sister Act"! All information can be found in the Sister Act google classroom - class code kyz37stv. Students will need to complete this form (from their school email address) to register their interest in the show in being involved in the show in whatever capacity: as a performer, musician, set design, costume design, stage management and more - there are lots of ways to take part.
Science	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 Educake Homework	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. 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. 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. 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.
	Year 9: Interested in DofE? sign up has been sent out to all parents - 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 HERE. https://sites.google.com/bristolcathedral.org.uk/dofebccs/
BCCS Class Charts Reward Store <i>We need your help.</i>	We're excited to be restocking and relaunching the BCCS Reward Store - and we'd love support from our parent and carer community. 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. 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. Thank you for supporting our community!
Supporting a Healthy Learning Environment	We want our students to have the best possible environment for learning. To help with this, please remember that chewing gum and fizzy/energy drinks are not permitted on site. Gum causes lasting damage to our school carpets, and high-sugar drinks can make it difficult for students to stay focused in class. We appreciate your support in encouraging water or healthy alternatives to keep our school clean and our students ready to learn.

BAT New Parent/carers support phone line	Bristol Autism Team Family Support Phone Line A dedicated phone line for parents/carers to access immediate support from Bristol Autism Team  Advice, guidance and someone to listen  Help identifying pathways and different routes to access support  Signposting and information on local services, support groups and resources The phone line will be open to call on Thursday mornings between 8:30 and 12. Phone number: 07387242320 Please be aware that the mailbox is not monitored so voicemails will not be returned You can also access support from Bristol Autism Team using the QR code or by emailing Bristol.Autism.HotLine@bristol.gov.uk 
Maths Year 7-11	‘We Solve Problems’ - External Maths Circles run by the University of Bristol. Circles are on Saturdays at the Bristol University Fry Building, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm, (this is an externally run event, not affiliated to BCCS) The maths circles are weekly extracurricular maths sessions for students in school years 7–11. The sessions are led by students of Mathematics and delve into topics that promote the art of problem-solving, nurture structured thinking, and cultivate a passion for mathematics. Participation is free of charge. More information and a link to sign up to the programme is available here: https://wesolveproblems.org.uk/maths-circles-at-university-of-bristol/
Y7 homework	Year seven students will start to receive homework this week. They will get weekly homeworks lasting around half an hour in maths, science and english and fortnightly homework in languages. Their maths homework will be set online using a platform called Sparx. Your child’s maths teacher will show them how to complete this. Students will complete their science and english homework in a booklet which they have been given this week. Your child will make a note on their booklet when each of their homeworks is due. Providing them with reminders to complete their homework and supporting them with a space to work at will really help your child develop effective independent learning habits and thrive at school. Thank you for your support with this. Mr Davies - Assistant Headteacher

Y8, 9, 10 and 11 Maths and Science Homework	Regular Maths and Science homework provides students with valuable opportunities to reinforce their learning, practise key skills and develop confidence in applying their knowledge independently. Students will receive weekly Maths and Science homework through Sparx*. Students can log in using their school login details and should already be familiar with the process, as the Maths department has been using Sparx for homework for a number of years. New homework tasks will be set each Friday and should be completed by the following Friday. <i>*The Science department has now moved away from using Educake and will use Sparx for Science homework.</i>
Maths Year 12 and 13	Dates for sixth form maths students September 22nd: UKMT Maths Olympiad and Maths Competition for Girls October 7th: UKMT Senior Maths Challenge More information about the above competitions have been posted in the maths Google classrooms, please direct students to use the sign up forms to register their interest.

Futures

All Years - Futures Careers Bulletin	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
Post-16 Careers Personal Guidance	All Year 12 students will see one of our L7 Qualified Careers Advisers, Ms Keir or Mr Phelps for a 1:1 guidance appointment. 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. All students have been allocated an appointment but if they want to bring this forward please let Ms Keir know ASAP.
Y10 & Y12 Work Experience	Alex Fey (WEX Coordinator) will be launching work experience (WEX) to both year 10 and 12 this term. WEX dates: Year 12 - 26th - 30th April 2027 Year 10 - 21st - 25th June 2027. A WEX Google Classroom will be set up and all students will be expected to join this so they can access important resources and WEX opportunities. Please encourage your child to start reaching out to employers as soon as possible, it's so important to secure a placement early on as they book up fast. If you have any questions about WEX please contact Mrs Fey - afey@cathedralschoolstrust.org
Co-curricular	***Updated*** Please click here to see a list of clubs on offer at BCCS this term

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
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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 instrument storage by the practice rooms 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.
PE Curriculum Update	There has been a significant amount of change in our PE curriculum offer for this year. • Students in KS3 will be departing during tutor time for Failand PE lessons directly from their morning line up (7s + 8s). This will allow us an extended PE lesson per week. • Students will be learning about and through a range of sports. Each student will learn through the same types of sports (such as Invasion games) but not necessarily the exact same sport. This is due to logistics of space at Failand and factoring in extra-curricular activities within Bristol available to our students. • For all students, our aim is to ensure students have the confidence, motivation, knowledge and skills to be physically active beyond school. We have designed our curriculum offer around this aim. • In KS3, we are focusing on the holistic development of students within PE and physical activity by developing their physical skills within a sport, their knowledge and understanding within a sport/activity and developing opportunities to develop their character and social skills. This is in line with the 'Physical Literacy' model of PE delivery and is a renewed focus within lessons. • In KS4, students have selected a pathway to follow based on how they value, enjoy and are motivated to engage in physical activity. These pathways will allow students to learn and engage in PE and physical activity with students who have a similar mindset to themselves enabling greater participation and progress. • In KS4, we continue to use Kingsdown Leisure Centre as an additional provision to widen the curriculum offer. Students will have at least one term in the year where they will access Kingsdown. This involves students walking to the Leisure Centre with staff supervision.
PE Kit to be worn on PE days	Students will wear their PE kit + lanyards to school on their PE day. They will remain in their kit after their PE lessons. Mondays = Year 10; Tuesdays = Year 7; Wednesdays = Year 8; Thursdays = Year 9; Fridays = Year 11 and Sixth Form This means students can come to school in kit and stay in PE kit all day if they want to. If

they would prefer to wear your uniform and change at Failand, that is fine.

The PE kit expectations:

- BCCS PE top (Polo or Rugby) and BCCS all weather top as required.
- Plain black joggers, leggings, skort or shorts.
- Sports trainers/school shoes.
- Lanyard
- Sport specific equipment as required (boots, gum shield, shin pads etc.)
- Long hair is tied back and all jewellery is removed/taped.

The PE team needs your support to make this work and to maximise lesson time.

- Students must wear the **correct PE kit for the full day.**
- Students must also wear their lanyards throughout the day.
- If it is a rainy day, students must either bring an extra pair of black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms or their uniform to change into after the lesson and wear their all weather tops!
- If it is a cold day, we encourage students to wear additional layers underneath their BCCS PE top, bring gloves, hat etc as appropriate for participating in PE.
- We will give students time to change after the lesson before we head back to school on cold/wet days.