



Dear Parents/Guardians

We have had a very positive first week back, with great attendance from the majority of pupils, who are following Mr Edwards' motto of ensuring they 'Spring Back'.

I don't usually like to write about myself, but I couldn't miss the opportunity to say a massive 'Thank You' to our young people and the colleagues who made my 50th Birthday so amazing. I never dreamt of the effort everyone would go to make my day so special. From a film Ms Brown made featuring so many of our pupils wishing me Happy Birthday, to some of our amazing singers performing The Killers and The Zutons (my favourite bands) to me in the LRC, which was a total surprise! To the impromptu signing of Happy Birthday to me by all 5 years groups at separate times over lunch! It really was the most amazing day and I couldn't have celebrated it anywhere better.

Amanda Ryan, Principal



Friday 28th February 2025

The Inclusive Hub

Pupils in Year 8 have had a fantastic and enriching experience on the Empowering Girls Project which has been ran by Mrs Daly from The Inclusive Hub. During the course, the girls worked on building resilience, self-esteem, and emotional regulation, helping each other develop stronger coping mechanisms and a more positive mindset. Through engaging activities, they explored different ways to manage emotions effectively, fostering a sense of inner strength. Additionally, a creative session was led where the girls made candles, perfumes, and other artistic pieces, offering an outlet for self-expression and relaxation. The girls not only enjoyed the process of creating these unique items but also formed new friendships, bonding over shared experiences and gaining confidence throughout the course. Thank you to The Inclusive Hub for providing this brilliant experience.



Attendance

Fantastic to see you all back, we are going to have an amazing half term. We made a very strong start on the first days back so let's keep it up, lots of exciting things will be happening so 'Be in to Win'!

Mr Edwards



Key Dates 2024-2025

6th March—World Book Day

7th March—Year 9 One to One Options Conversations with the Governors

12th March—Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

17th March—Year 10 Core Progress Evening—Invited Pupils.

**20th March—Year 9 Options Evening—
6.00pm-7.30pm. All year 9 to attend in Full School Uniform**

4th April—Last Day of Term

22nd April—Back to School—Pupils Return

Thursday 21st August 2025 - GCSE Results Day



GCSE History Battlefields Trip

Over the first weekend of the February half-term, 33 excited Year 10 and 11 GCSE History pupils, accompanied by 4 staff, enjoyed an amazing and poignant trip to the Battlefields of the First World War to support their studies.



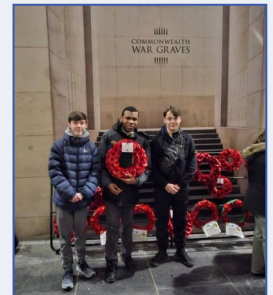
The first day was a challenge as we travelled down to Dover after midnight on Friday night/Saturday and took the ferry across to France. We arrived at our first destinations, Croonaert and Sanctuary Woods, early Saturday afternoon. Pupils were able to walk through reconstructed WW1 trenches, learning about their structure and what life must have been like for the German soldiers who were stationed there. Pupils were even able to crawl into the real concrete bunkers used during the war – still there over a century later!

Later on during the day we visited Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest British military cemetery in the world. Pupils were respectful as they were told the story of how the soldiers buried here died capturing the ridge where they stood. Pupils studied the inscriptions on each grave – either 'Known Unto God' if their identity was unknown or with a personal message from the soldier's family.



Pupils were also able to compare the tone and style of the British war cemetery to the German one at Langemark. Where pupils were shocked to learn of the mass grave of tens of thousands of German teenage soldiers killed in fighting in 1916.

Saturday Evening was incredibly special as pupils observed the Menin Gate Ceremony. They heard the Last Post sounding at the memorial to the missing and three of our own pupils: William, Jenson and Jack lay a wreath on behalf of the school in memory of the dead.



The second day was spent at the Somme battlefields where pupils visited the Thiepval Memorial to the missing and Newfoundland Park. It was here where pupils learned about the experiences of fighting at the Somme as well as a detailed appreciation of the trench system that developed over the war.



On Monday we visited one final cemetery to pay our respects to some of the young men from Bootle who fought and died in France and Belgium when we visited Lijssenthoek British Cemetery before a visit to Ypres' famous chocolate shops for some gifts to take back home with us. The pupils were fantastic throughout and were extremely respectful in all sites. I know that they were very appreciative to staff who took time out of their half term to accompany them. One Year 11 pupil commented: *"The battlefields trip was both fun and super eye opening. I learned a lot about the key battles I've been studying, and being at the actual sites made history feel so real. All of us made amazing memories that'll stick with us forever. The mix of learning and laughs we had together made it a trip we'll always remember"*.

Mr Rayson

Homework

Evidence from the Education Endowment Fund (EEF) shows that, on average, home learning adds five months' additional progress over five years of secondary school. Therefore, to ensure that our pupils make as much progress as possible, we set homework that is well planned and purposeful.

Please find below a homework timetable for KS3 and KS4 Pupils with example tasks outlined. Pupils can get support with their homework at homework clubs on Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:45pm-3:45pm for all Pupils, Room 36.

All homework tasks are set on ClassCharts and can be viewed by Pupils and parents. Pupils are expected to submit work on time and will be given a '3' on class charts if they fail to do so.

Homework Timetables

Key Stage 3 – Year 7 / 8 / 9

Homework for pupils in Key Stage 3 is set by the following subjects English, Maths, Science, Spanish, History and Geography. Pupils should complete homework according to the homework timetable which sets out which night pupils should complete homework. These are the same for all year groups and should be set on Class Charts.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday / Weekend
Subject 1	Science – RCWC Read Cover Write Check	Geography - Seneca	English - Bedrock	History - Seneca	English - Bedrock
Subject 2	Maths - Sparx	Reading - Reading (School or other reading book)	Spanish – Language Gym / RCWC	Reading – Reading (School or other reading book)	Maths - Sparx
Reading	Bedtime Reading (at least 10 mins)	Bedtime Reading (at least 10 mins)	Bedtime Reading (at least 10 mins)	Bedtime Reading (at least 10 mins)	Bedtime Reading (at least 10 mins)
Year 7 (Time)	20 mins (each subject)	20 mins (each subject)	20 mins (each subject)	20 mins (each subject)	20 mins (each subject)
Year 8 (Time)	25 mins (each subject)	25 mins (each subject)	25 mins (each subject)	25 mins (each subject)	25 mins (each subject)
Year 9 (Time)	30 mins (each subject)	30 mins (each subject)	30 mins (each subject)	30 mins (each subject)	30 mins (each subject)

Key Stage 4 – Year 10 / 11

Core homework for pupils in Key Stage 4 is set mostly using GCSE POD, Seneca Learning and Sparxmaths.

Links to the pods pupils need to watch and any other links that they need will be posted on Class Charts.

Class teachers may set additional homework where appropriate. This may not always be in the form of a written piece of work or a worksheet but may be more research based.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday / Weekend
Subject	English	Maths	Science	Option H & A	Option B & C
ExampleTasks	Complete Tasks set on GCSE POD	Complete Tasks set on Sparx	Complete Tasks set on GCSE POD	Complete Tasks set on GCSE POD	Complete Tasks set on GCSE POD

Safeguarding, Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

Ramadan

This evening marks the start of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic Lunar calendar. Ramadan is a time of fasting, reflection, prayer and community for Muslims around the world. In 2025 Ramadan will begin on Friday 28th February (tonight) and will conclude on the evening of Sunday 30th March 2025, with the exact dates depending upon the sighting of the moon. In our assembly I wanted us to think about why Ramadan is a special time for Muslims and to think about what is important to us in our life! Within our School Community we have 26 Muslim pupils, 16 of whom will be fasting. As an Inclusive School where we look after each other, it's important we know this and that we are there to support our pupils.

Ramadan is the Fourth of the 'Five Pillars' of Islam, the five requirements of being a Muslim. They are called 'pillars' because they support the Muslim way of life.

Ramadan is marked by a fast which lasts for the ninth month of the Lunar Year. It marks the time when Muslims believe their Holy Book the Quran, was revealed to them by the prophet Muhammad.

For our Muslim Pupils their special month is just about to start.

During Ramadan they will get up very early, before the sun rises to eat breakfast. They do not eat or drink again until the sun has set and it is dark. It is a long time to go without food or drink, from dusk until sunset. This is known as fasting.

So why...

By going without food and drink Muslims remember that there are more important things in life than the needs of their bodies.

- Being faithful to Allah.
- Obeying Allah's words.

During Ramadan Muslims spend more time reading their Holy Book, the Quran and speaking to God in prayer.

Going without food and drink during daylight hours is **NOT EASY**, it's a hard thing to do and so it helps Muslims to be able to cope with the times in their lives when hard or difficult things happen.

Feeling hungry and thirsty also helps them to understand what it is like for people in the world who do not have enough to eat or drink all the time. So Muslims set aside money to give to the poor. Will give the cost of a meal for each person in a family. So 5 people in family would give the cost of 5 meals. This is called Zakat, Almsgiving.

One of the things that makes fasting easier is that it's a time when Muslims feel closer to one another because they know that Muslims all over the world are going through the same experiences.

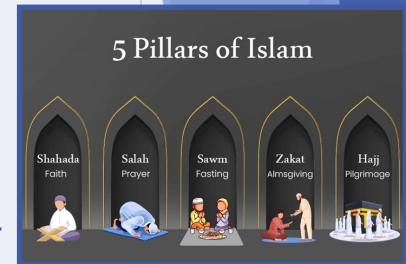
At the end of the month Muslims will have a party to celebrate. It's called the Festival of Breaking the Fast (Eid-ul-Fitr) and it's a time of great happiness and thanksgiving to God.

To reflect on...

Muslims at this time of year think about what is important to them.

- What is important to you?
- What gives your life meaning?
- What is worthwhile in your life?
- Think about those in the world who do not have enough to eat or drink.
- Reflect on the fact we do!

Mrs Ryan



Thought for the Week

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*Success is like a tree;
its roots are in dedication,
its branches in vision.*

#MOTIVATION

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