

# Newsletter

♦  
25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy few weeks here at Coombe Wood School, filled with open evening events, and I am delighted to share some wonderful news with you.

We welcomed over 2,000 visitors last week to our Open Evening, and our Open Mornings this week are fully booked. This level of interest doesn't happen by chance, we continue to be a popular choice for families because of our unwavering commitment to our pillars of Ambition, Community and Culture, which together ensure a genuine sense of belonging and set our students up for success over their seven years at Coombe Wood School.

Over 250 of our students volunteered their time to support these events, acting as tour guides, ambassadors and hosts for our visiting families. Our students were excellent ambassadors, representing our school and their families with great pride. We have received some wonderful feedback from visitors, including this lovely message about one of our Year 8 students:

*"I just wanted to give some feedback about one of your students who was the 'Tour Guide' for our visit to CWS yesterday evening. We were shown around your school by a Y8 student. He was polite, engaging and confident — it was refreshing to see a young person who could communicate effectively with adults and children alike. Please do pass on my thanks and best wishes to him and his Head of Year. He represented your school admirably and should be commended."*

We are excited that our Sixth Form mentoring programme begins next week, with over 50 KS5 students supporting students across Years 7 to 11. This is a fantastic opportunity for our older students to develop their leadership skills while providing valuable guidance and support to younger members of our school community.

Our students have also fully embraced the changes to our behaviour expectations, and the results speak for themselves. Last week, across KS3 and KS4:

444 students achieved 5+ achievement points and 0 behaviour points

744 students received no behaviour points at all

Please join me in congratulating all of these students on their fantastic start to the term. It is a real credit to them and reflects the high standards we continue to strive for as a school community.

May I take this opportunity to remind all students that they are ambassadors for Coombe Wood School at all times, including on their journey to and from school, and that their conduct reflects not only on themselves but on our whole school community and their families.

Thank you, as always, for working in partnership with us and your ongoing support

*Ms Williams*

Headteacher

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# UCAS Evening – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2026

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Dear Sixth Form Parents / Carers

Thank you to everyone who attended the evening on Thursday, 24 September 2026.

Please see the link below to the presentation that was shared during the evening.



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## Changes to Free School Meals

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Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Re: Important Changes to Free School Meals & How to Apply**

From the 1st September 2026 important national changes were made to **Free School Meal (FSM)** eligibility.

#### **What changed?**

Following new guidance from the Department for Education, FSM protections that have been in place since April 2018 ended in August 2026, and eligibility criteria was expanded. From September 2026, **every child whose household receives Universal Credit** is entitled to free school meals. We strongly encourage **all** of our families to complete an online application, even if you don't believe you meet the criteria.

#### **What do I need to do if my child already receives Free School Meals?**

If your child previously received free school meals you will still need to reapply, as your protections ended on 31st August 2026. If you don't reapply, it will mean your child will not receive free school meals in September 2026.

Please note: under the new national guidance, a child's eligibility will now be subject to an annual review to confirm their ongoing entitlement.

#### **How do I apply?**

Please apply as soon as possible via our secure online portal:

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-greenshawlearningtrust>

If you have already applied, please be patient with us. As I am sure you can imagine, this change has created a lot of extra work for the team whilst we upload the new approvals to our system. Please rest assured that any anomalies that occur to student parent pay accounts will be rectified in due course.

Kind regards,

*Coombe Wood School Reception Team*

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# Headteachers Recognition Awards

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Each week we like to reward those students who achieve the highest positive achievement points in their year group with no Negative behaviour points. For the Week Ending 14<sup>th</sup> September those students were:

Year 7 - B Scollan  
Year 8 - A Arulkumar  
Year 9 - A Falana-Ayoade  
Year 10 - V. Chaturvedi  
Year 11 - T. Kyrese and T Ramalingam Manikandan

Congratulations to them all.

Ms Williams



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## New Year 7 Admissions for September 2027 Entry – Sibling Criteria

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This is a reminder that if you have a younger child in year 6, the deadline to apply for Year 7 is **31 October 2026**, and you must also make sure you tick the sibling criteria on the Croydon Council CAF form. The name will then be checked and verified by Croydon Council and Coombe Wood School.

### **Coombe Wood Admissions Arrangements information concerning Siblings -**

- Priority for students who will have a sibling at the school at the time of admission.
- Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, foster brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent's partner, as well as children who are brought together as a family by a same-sex civil partnership.
- In every case, the child must be living in the same family unit at the same address, Monday to Friday, at the time of the application.
- Your current child would therefore be already in Year 7-11 or Year 12 in the Sixth Form
- Cousins or children of friends living with their parents in the same household are not included.

Make sure you apply through Croydon Council Admissions by **31st October 2026**

Any applications submitted after this date will be treated as a late application and will not be considered until after all those applications that were received on time.

Many Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ms Marks".

Admissions Manager

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# Year 10 Textiles Trip - Weds 9<sup>th</sup> September 2026

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Our Year 10 Textiles students enjoyed an inspiring trip to London on Wednesday 9th September.

The day began at the Fashion & Textile Museum to explore the Paint! Pattern! Print! exhibition during its final week.

Afterward, the students headed to Kew Gardens to take primary source photos to support their 'Botanicals' project. It was a wonderful experience, and everyone returned full of creative ideas.

Many thanks

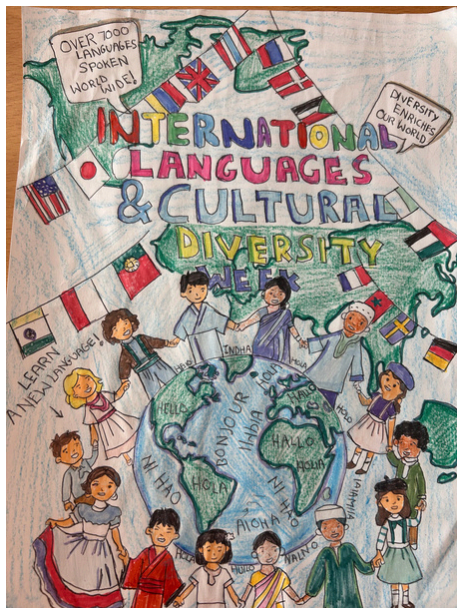
*Ms Baldock*

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## Cultural Diversity and Languages Week

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At the end of the summer term we enjoyed a Cultural Diversity and Languages Week with our Students. As part of the Great Coombe Wood Bake Off, they were challenged to bake a cake that represented the heritage.



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# Parent and Student Guide - Academic Year 26/27

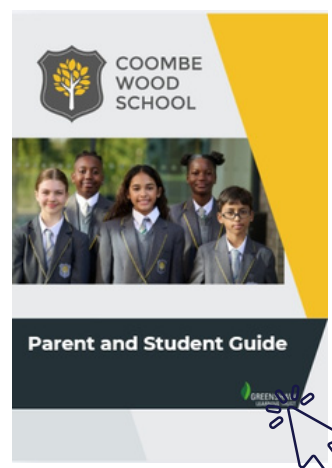
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Please take a moment to read the Parent and Student Guide which has been updated for the new academic year.

Many thanks

*Mr Vass*

Deputy Headteacher



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## A New Look School Canteen - The Food Hub

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We hope that the students are enjoying the new look canteen area known as The Food Hub. This will continue to evolve as we continue through the term. Our new look menu is linked below.

[Autumn Term Menu](#)



Best wishes

*Chris Young*

Regional Catering and Development Catering Projects Manager  
Greenshaw Learning Trust

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## Help Us Be Good Neighbours !!!

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We would like to gently remind everyone to be considerate of our neighbours on Melville Avenue and the surrounding streets.

- **Parking:** Please be considerate during pick up and drop off and ensure you aren't blocking any driveways.
- **Environment:** Please turn off your engine rather than idling while you wait. and avoid dropping litter.
- **Behaviour:** Take a moment to chat with your children about staying on their best behaviour during their daily commutes especially whilst in school uniform and representing the school.

We truly appreciate your help in keeping our local community a pleasant place for everyone.

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# School Carpark

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Our school carpark is operated by Creative Car Parks.

You will have a 20 minute grace period when dropping off or collecting your child.

Should you need to stay longer than this you will need to enter you registration number into the i-pads which can be found in the main school reception or for out of hours in the HRF reception.

Should you incur a PCN, you will need to deal directly with Creative Car Parks, unfortunately the school is not able to intervene on your behalf.



**ADVICE FOR WHEN YOUR CAR PARK USERS RECEIVE A PCN**

If one of your car park users receives a PCN they may ask you for guidance on what to do next, or ask you to cancel the PCN. Please explain that you're not able to deal with PCN enquiries on site as the car park is managed by Civil Enforcement Ltd. They have one of two options available:

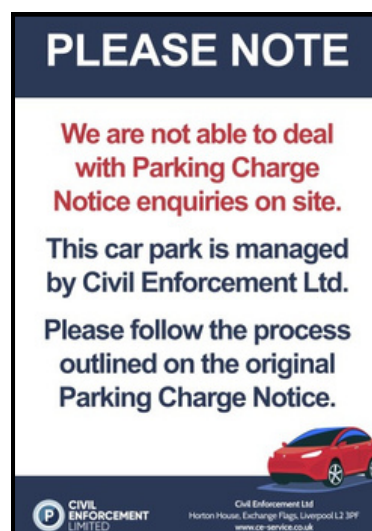
**OPTION 1**  
**Pay the PCN**  
They visit the website address shown below and make the payment. Note a discounted rate is available if paid within 14 days of the ticket being issued.  
[payments.ce-service.co.uk](http://payments.ce-service.co.uk)

**OPTION 2**  
**Submit an appeal**  
They visit the website address shown below and submit an appeal within 28 days of the ticket being issued. Note: drivers must attach relevant supporting evidence.  
[appeals.ce-service.co.uk](http://appeals.ce-service.co.uk)

OR

Thank you for your help in supporting our PCN process, designed to deter misuse and improve space availability for genuine users.

**CIVIL ENFORCEMENT LIMITED**  
Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3PF  
[www.ce-service.co.uk](http://www.ce-service.co.uk)



**PLEASE NOTE**

**We are not able to deal with Parking Charge Notice enquiries on site.**

**This car park is managed by Civil Enforcement Ltd.**

**Please follow the process outlined on the original Parking Charge Notice.**

**CIVIL ENFORCEMENT LIMITED**  
Horton House, Exchange Flags, Liverpool L2 3PF  
[www.ce-service.co.uk](http://www.ce-service.co.uk)

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## Sports Club Timetable - Autumn Term 26/27

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We are delighted to announce that our Sports Clubs resumed on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Our exciting and varied timetable is linked below.

For any students who do not have HRF/Games on their chosen club day, should bring their HRF kit with them and change after school.

Our clubs are for all students, there is no sign up process for these sports clubs, students should come along to HRF after school where staff will direct them to the chosen club.

**Sports Club Timetable -**  
**Autumn Term 26/27**



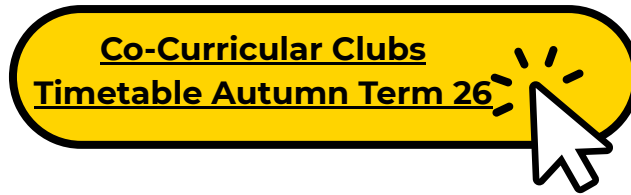
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# Co-Curricular Clubs Schedule - Autumn Term 26

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Dear parents/carers,

Please find attached the co-curricular clubs taking place this term.



Please keep an eye on the bi-weekly newsletter for further details as more clubs may be added throughout the term and it is here where we will celebrate the efforts and achievements of our students in clubs and events. This is in addition to the Key Stage 4 intervention schedule and Key Stage 5 football pathway.

Assistant Headteacher - Personal Development & Wellbeing

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## Communications Update - Bromcom/MCAS

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Please note that **Bromcom** is our chosen platform and works hand in hand with **My Child At School (MCAS)**

We will use MCAS for all communication regarding behaviour, achievements, and detentions. Parents and carers should already have access to this platform, however please do not hesitate to contact the school office team if you are experiencing any issues.

Please take a moment to check all your details are correct on MCAS.

Please note that we no longer be using SIMS / SIMS Parent or Classcharts as a method of communication.

This Newsletter will be sent out Bi-weekly on a Friday Week 1 to all parents and carers.

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## Key Dates for September 2026

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## Key Dates for October 2026

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**Thursday 1st October 2026**

Year 7 Parent Evening - EVOLVE ONLY - Details to Follow

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

Curriculum Enhancement Day 1

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

Sports Awards - Details to Follow

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2026**

Year 12 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026**

CWS House Race - Details to Follow

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Half Term -  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November

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## Key Dates for November 2026

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### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

First Day of Term for Students - Door will open at 8am

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## Key Dates for December 2026

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### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2026**

First Day of Autumn Term 1- All Students

### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2026**

Year 11 Parents Evening - Details to follow

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## Christmas Holidays

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2026 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027**

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### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027**

**INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students**

### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2027**

First Day of Spring Term for Students - Doors to open at 8am

### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2027**

Year 8 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2027**

Sixth Form Interviews - Details to follow

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2027**

Year 7 Parents Evening (all subjects) - Details to follow

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## Key Dates for February 2027

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### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2027**

Year 10 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

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## Half Term

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2027

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## Key Dates for March 2027

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### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2027**

Year 13 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2027**

Year 10 Curriculum Evening - Details to Follow

### **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2027**

Year 11 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027**

Last day of Term

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## Easter Holidays

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2027 - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2027

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## Key Dates for April 2027

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### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027**

First Day of Term for Students - Door to open at 8am

### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2027**

Year 9/KS4 - Curriculum Evening - Details to Follow

### **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2027**

Year 11 Curriculum Evening (2) - Details to Follow

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## Key Dates for May 2027

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**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027**

**Bank Holiday - School Closed to Students**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2027**

Year 12 Parents Evening - Details to Follow

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## Half Term

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2027

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## Key Dates for June 2027

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**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

First Day of Term - Door to Open at

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

Year 7 Curriculum Evening - Details to follow

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## Key Dates for July 2027

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**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

Year 6 to Year 7 Transition Evening for New September Starters - Details to Follow

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2027**

**INSET DAY - School Closed to Students**

**National Transition Day - Year 6 to Year 7 (September 2027)**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2027**

Last Day of Term - Student to be dismissed at 12pm

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## Summer Holiday

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2027mychart -

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# Term Dates - Academic Year 2026/27

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## **Autumn Term 2026**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September - INSET DAY - School is Closed to Students**

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Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September - First Day of Autumn Term 1- All Students

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Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September - School Open Evening - Students will finish at Midday

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Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2026 - Later Start - Students to arrive from 10.15am for their Period 3 lesson.

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Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026 - Last Day of Autumn Term 1

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**Half Term - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2026**

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Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November - First Day of Autumn Term 2- All Students

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Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Last Day of Autumn Term 2

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**Christmas Holidays - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027**

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## **Spring Term 2027**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027 - INSET DAY - School is closed to Students**

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Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2027 - First Day of Spring Term 1 - All Students

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2027 - Last Day of Spring Term 1

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**Half Term - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2027**

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Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2027 - First Day of Term of Spring Term 2 - All Students

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Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027 - Last Day of Spring Term 2

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**Easter Holidays - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2027**

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## **Summer Term 2027**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027 - First Day of Summer Term 1 - All Students

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**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027 - May Day Bank Holiday - School is Closed**

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Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2027 - Last Day of Summer Term 1

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**Half Term - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2027**

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Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - First Day of Summer Term 2- All Students

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**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July - INSET DAY - School is closed to Students**

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Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2027 - Last Day of Summer Term 2

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**Summer Holidays from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**