



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Newsletter

Summer Term

July 2023

Message from the Principal

As we approach the end of another incredibly successful year at Soar Valley, I would like to thank all parents/carers and other stakeholders for your support. It is through partnership working that we continue to achieve excellent standards in all areas of our work – thank you.

Our staff are brilliant, and work incredibly hard to ensure students have the best possible provision, constantly developing their own practice. This does mean that some are successful in gaining promoted positions elsewhere, and this year we congratulate and say goodbye to several colleagues. However, we look forward to welcoming our new starters in August; they have already spent time in the school learning about our systems and curriculum so they will be ready to hit the ground running in August.

Term will end on Friday at 1.15pm, with lunch available for those students wishing to stay. We hope everyone has an enjoyable summer break, and look forward to seeing students back with us on Tuesday August 29th. Students would be well advised to spend some of their leisure time reading, which is a fantastic way to keep learning going over the holidays!



As we celebrate 50 years of Soar Valley, the school has entered an exciting new phase of its journey by becoming an academy. We have set up a new multi-academy trust in the city, and will be the lead school of Aspire Learning Partnership. The name of the new Trust has been chosen to reflect the values, all part of the current Soar Valley way of thinking, and to spread these values to other schools which join us on this venture.

'**ASPIRE** to be the best you can be' is the core message for our Trust and those with whom we work: to have high aspirations, to want to succeed and constantly improve, and then to do so! **LEARNING** is at the heart of all we do, transforming individual lives and the success of our communities. Our schools provide rich opportunities for children to be successful and prepare them for their next steps. We believe that **PARTNERSHIP** working is the key to significant and sustained change, and leads to the highest levels of achievement for all and to excellence in all aspects of our work. Each school serves a unique community and will retain its individuality whilst working collaboratively, supporting and challenging others to constantly improve.

Attendance Matters



This graph shows the direct link between attendance and outcomes nationally. Students attending 99% of the time in Year 10 and Year 11 achieved **0.73 grades higher per subject** than estimated on KS2 SATs results.

Conversely, once attendance across Key Stage 4 dips below 90% students tend to under achieve compared to expectations with the under performance becoming more acute as attendance drops.

The data on which this graph is based also shows that 75% of students are attending at least 90% of sessions over Key Stage 4. Good attendance is the norm and leads to good outcomes!

Soar Valley Stars



It has been a term where our students continue to shine, demonstrating through their endeavours what can be achieved with hard work and dedication. Here are some of the fantastic success stories we have been able to celebrate.

National Spelling Bee Competition

Moosa from Year 7 made it through to the National Finals of the Routes Into Languages French Spelling Bee, held this term at The University Of Cambridge.

After translating and spelling an amazing 17 words in 1 minute he just missed out on a top 4 finish.

However, of the 21,099 students who took part in the competition Moosa made it into the top 100 students nationally. That puts him in the top 0.5% of young linguists. Keep up the hard work Moosa, we are VERY proud of what you achieved!



County Cricket Finalists

On Tuesday 27th June our Year 7 cricket team played in the Under 12 County Cricket Final against Loughborough Grammar School.

Their journey to the final began with victories over both Rushey Mead Academy and Crown Hills Community College in the city rounds of the competition. They then faced a well prepared Leicester Grammar School side in the semi final, but managed to win by 70 runs with Priyen Damania scoring 50!

The 20 over final was a tough game against a very competitive and experienced side, and although we lost the game we are nonetheless extremely proud of how hard the team fought and the manner in which the game was played. Well done boys!



And finally...

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year!

The School Games Mark is a government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust, to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

With a vast number of young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our students for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including our young volunteers, leaders and officials who have made hosting a range of secondary and primary school competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. A special thanks to the entire PE team for providing these plentiful opportunities for our students. We look forward to applying once again in 2024!





Your PASSPORT to SUCCESS

At Soar Valley we are clear that **EFFORT IS EVERYTHING**. Participation in extra curricular opportunities and House competitions is a great way to stretch yourself and make the extra effort needed to push beyond what you thought was possible.

Chess Tournament

Last term the afternoons, after the school day had finished, were witness to the highly contested, intellectual battleground of the annual SVC Chess Tournament. Students from across the year groups chose to take part, which is a great example of the participation agenda at Soar Valley!

After two and a half weeks of very serious, and very intense, matches there were 8 quarter finalists left standing. Manav (8.4) fought against Ishaan from 7.4, Thenula in 8.12 battled against Harshit (8.4), Aryan (10.3) went head to head with Namish (8.4). The final contest was between Vincent in 8.4 and Ibrahim from 9.6.

They all played to a good standard, and the matches were often very close, but the eventual winner was Vincent with Thenula and Manav coming second and third respectively. Huge congratulations to the winners and better luck next year to those looking to take Vincent's crown.

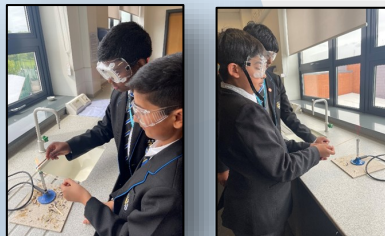


Vincent with the Chess Tournament trophy, Thenula who came in 2nd and Manav deep in thought about his next move.

Another great example of the participation agenda is the group of Year 7 students that have been attending the CREST Club this year.

In this science led club they have been exploring machines of the future and their potential to be utilised. They have debated which existing machines are most useful and whether they would trust a machine to do certain jobs. All of this was in preparation for designing their own machine for the future.

Over the year students have designed and created a model and have carried out several experiments testing the durability of various materials. Based on their findings they have adapted their designs to prove that their machines of the future are reliable, practical and innovative.



Science: Crest Award



The CREST Club with their certificates.

Francophile Competition

In MFL Year 8 students were challenged to represent an aspect of French culture in a creative way. Sumayyah [8.8] produced a mouth watering booklet on French patisserie that won the heart, minds and stomachs of the judging panel. Bien joué Samayyah!





The House System @SVC



As the school year draws to a close, the competition for which House will be victorious in the overall House Competition continues in a positive and competitive spirit. This half term has seen student participation and unity of the houses at an all time high.

50th Anniversary Greetings Cards

For the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Soar Valley College there was a unique competition for students to design a greetings card celebrating the event. The winning card has been sent to members of the local community and to other organisations with whom we have well established links.

As is usual with House competitions, there were some brilliant entries showcasing what an amazing artistic selection of students we have. After judging by the Senior Leadership Team Laiyla in 10.5 was deemed to have produced the winning entry. Well done to Laiyla as well as to 2nd placed Priana in 9.7. 3rd place went to 10.12 who entered a collective effort. So, an important win for Victoria house as we enter the home straight!



House Competitions Galore

- The IT and computer science House competition of a treasure hunt brought an excellent atmosphere to the school, with Watermead being victorious.
- The library themed quiz had an amazing 104 entries and Abbey came out in 1st place.
- The geography department ran a 'Tree-mendous Rainforest Competition' this half term to get students to write their own poem to capture the living rainforest. The winner was Sukhbir Kaur in 9.7, another win for Abbey under the belt!

Year 6 students were welcomed to Soar Valley for their Transition Day on 5th July. As part of the day they competed in their forms to represent their new Houses in a series of problem solving and team building activities.

The activities included new age curling [right], marble runs, a toxic waste challenge, and a team based obstacle course. Overall winners were Bradgate, closely followed by Victoria. We are looking forward to seeing them all compete against each other next year; they definitely have the competitive spirit we want to see at SVC!



The Heads of Houses would like to think every student who has volunteered their time, participated in activities or donated to charity events over the year. We are looking forward to the overall results being announced on the last day of term in an awards ceremony during the final lesson of the year. We wish you all a safe and well deserved summer holidays and look forward to seeing you all bright eyed and ready for the new year in August!

Sports Day 2023



What a fantastic day! The college grounds were transformed into a carnival of sport, with Key Stage 3 students participating in a wide variety of inclusive and fun events including seated volleyball, football, relay rowing, golf chipping, fairground fun and dodgeball.

With students dressed in their House colours, waving banners and cheering on their friends, the day had a lively festival atmosphere that was a delight to behold.

Nevertheless, this was a competition between the Houses and the rivalry was fierce, particularly between the Heads of House. After rotating through **4 zones** and taking part in **25 events** the competition concluded with the following winners -

Year 7 Winner: **Castle** Year 8 Winner: **Victoria** Year 9 Winner: **Bradgate** Overall Winner: **Bradgate**



Well done to all of Key Stage 3 for participating with fantastic team spirit and being gracious in both victory and defeat. You were a credit to the school. Thank you to all staff who enthusiastically supported on the day, without you the event would not be possible.



A Winning Season

6 wins from 9 cricket matches this summer is testament to the commitment and hard work that the students have demonstrated in their extra curricular training sessions throughout the summer.

Throughout the season the boys taking part in the matches have demonstrated wonderful etiquette, sportsmanship and teamwork, which has resulted in some fantastic performances, especially when fielding and bowling.

Having been inspired by their PE lessons, we have had many new players attending extra-curricular cricket sessions this year, many of them for the first time. This has only added to the strength in depth that we have across all year groups, and has made team selection so much more difficult!

We are very proud of our squads and are also grateful to the senior students who have acted as terrific role models to our Year 7s and Year 8s.

Well done everyone!



Inter House Sport

This term has seen the Year 10 boys competing in softball and the girls competing in rounders competitions, with the whole of the year group participating as part of the PE lessons.

Over the past 5 weeks the students have been building their sporting knowledge in lessons, with a particular focus on the more complex rules, tactics and strategies involved in these sports.

The competitions provided an exciting climax to the blocks of work and enabled students to work with others who they would not ordinarily be able to, which of course created great excitement and fervour.

Year 10 softball results:

Abbey 1st, with Watermead 2nd, Victoria 3rd and Castle, Beacon and Bradgate finishing in that order.

Year 10 rounders results:

Castle 1st with Bradgate 2nd, Beacon 3rd and Victoria, Abbey and Watermead making up the final positions.



German Trip to Cologne

What a way to round off a year of hard work in MFL! At the end of the Summer term, 41 intrepid Year 9 and 10 students [and some rather brave staff volunteers] set off for a wonderful week in Cologne in Germany.

Throughout the week they had the chance to visit numerous cultural and commercial landmarks in the city. Highlights included the Lindt Chocolate factory, the Deutsches Sport and Olympia Museum, the Haribo factory shop, Burg Medieval Castle, perched on a mountaintop, the 4711 Perfume shop, and the beautiful Augustusburg Palace and magnificent Cologne Cathedral.

Students also had free time in Cologne which was a great opportunity to practise their German and sample German culture and cuisine. A wonderful time was had by all!



Careers Round Up

WOW Week 2023

WOW Week is a great opportunity for Year 10 students to engage with the World of Work through numerous workshops, activities and trips.

From writing personal statements to interview practice, via a careers carousel and team building with the RAF, the week is packed with opportunities to find out about potential careers.

As we always are, we are bowled over by what brilliant ambassadors our students are for SVC in all that they do!



Industry Day

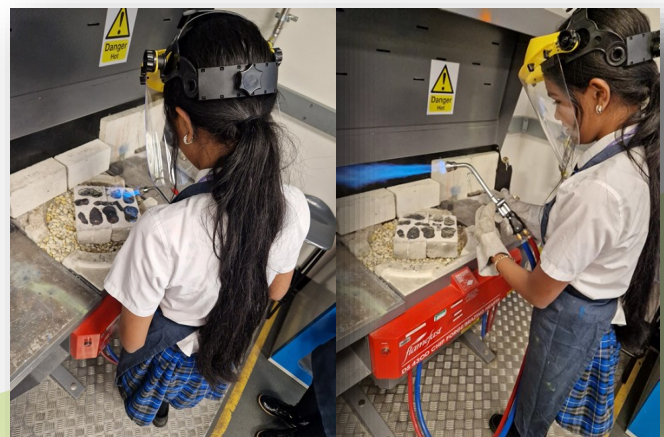
Industry Day, which is part of our Year 10 World Of Work Week, is a chance for students to meet employers and learn about employment and employability in the areas that they might consider for future careers. With visits covering such diverse areas as hospitality and catering, hair and beauty, public/uniformed services and law, students had a unique chance to get out into the workplace and to speak to professionals about their personal journey. The workplaces who hosted us were full of praise for the mature and considered engagement our students demonstrated throughout. Well done Year 10!

Girls in STEM

Students in Year 9 recently had the opportunity to use the **brazing hearth** in the workshop whilst working on a metal based project in Design & Technology.

This was something new and exciting and an experience not many students get to explore. The blow torch was used to heat up and anneal the metal adding colour and variation.

The D&T curriculum is enriched with opportunities for students to develop their knowledge using a range of tools and machinery, something that these students have fully embraced.



The Big Bang STEM Careers Fair

In June 50 Year 8 students were taken to the Birmingham NEC to experience the Big Bang Fair. The event is intended to inspire young people to consider a career in STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths].

Students had the opportunity to get hands on with all sorts of exciting and interactive activities surrounding potential careers they might want to explore in the future. There were numerous employers with stalls at the fair including: the RAF, Specsavers, Rolls Royce, The Highway Agency, Network Rail and the NHS, as well as companies involved with hydrogen fuel cell development, drones, coding, new materials research and car manufacturing.

It would be fair to say [sorry] that fun was had by all involved and that the students represented Soar Valley impeccably.



Should you have any questions about our Careers Education programme please email careers@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk

Industry Day 2023

Law



We are pleased to be able to celebrate another fantastically successful Industry Day as part of our WOW Week offer. Students were able to engage with employers and workplaces and discuss routes into their chosen area of work.

As we would expect, the feedback from employers on the conduct of our students was overwhelmingly positive.

NHS Healthcare



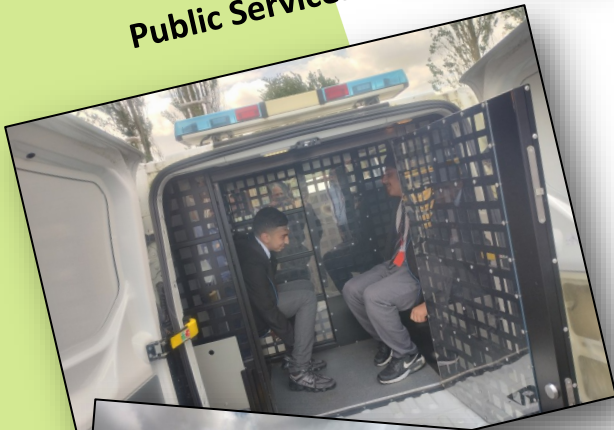
Engineering & Construction



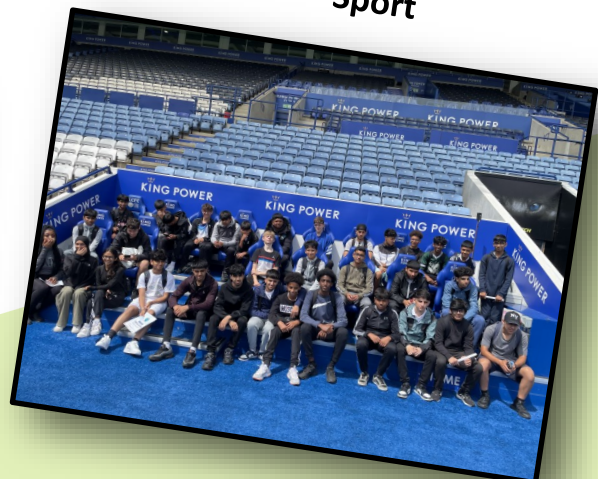
Creative Arts



Public Services



Sport



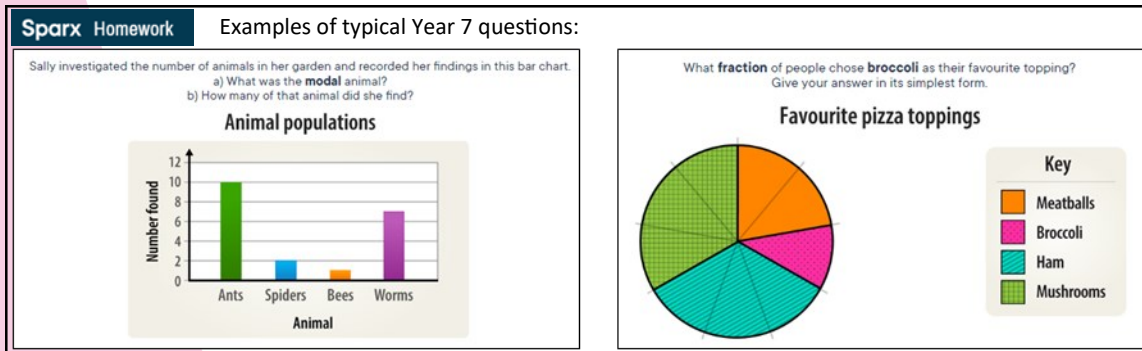
What is 650 000 divided by 1200?*

As we approach the end of the educational year we'd like to give you a quick update about our use of **Sparx Maths**, an online learning platform for maths.

Sparx Maths is a personalised website that provides tailored homework for all our students. We tell the platform what topics are being taught and the program helps us to select the right questions at the right level for *each and every student*. The feedback is instantaneous and teachers can immediately see what has gone well, identify any areas that need strengthening and address any issues or concerns.



Spotlight On... **Sparx Maths**



So, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of the parents who have helped to make the launch such of Sparx Maths such a success. We hope that the regular email reminders about maths homework have been useful.

Since we first introduced Sparx Maths back in January a staggering **650 000 problems** have been solved by our students. That is an average of over ***500 questions per student** completed over total of more than **13 500 hours**.

The effort of all our students is worthy of a reward but a special mention must go to the following students whose commitment to completing their mathematics homework to the highest standard has been exceptional.

Year 7

Sienna Kaur (7.3), Peter Suster (7.3), Gurnoor Singh (7.5), Kavya Bharatkumar (7.7), Abdirahman Ali (7.7), Hensi Ramdas (7.8), Anay Valand (7.8), Yuvraj Gill (7.8), Shavsan Sivakumar (7.9), Darsh Gohil (7.9), Abdirahman Duale (7.9), Krinal Patel (7.9) and Ahmed Vadi (7.9)

Year 8

Pritisha Yugesh (8.1), Anaya Battu (8.1), Simona Salhan (8.2), Yashi Sailesh (8.4), Soham Natu (8.4), Mathusha Manoharan (8.6), Tejal Thanki (8.6), Ibrahim Malik (8.6), Wardah Nauman (8.6), Jinkal Pravin (8.7), Shrutika Shureshkumar (8.8) and Esha Chauhan (8.8)

Year 9

Fatima Yussuf Hersi (9.1), Eesha Vaghela (9.2), Drashti Amarshi (9.3), Kashvi Camal (9.3), Dhvani Chandrakant (9.6), Shubham Devji (9.6), Kesvy Bathia (9.7), Akshara Jogia (9.8), Jahnvi Mukes (9.8), Ruhi Shetty (9.9), Ahmad Vali (9.10), Vivek Masania (9.10), Russell Acheampong (9.10), Sumaiya Parkar (9.11), Ibsaan Khan (9.11), Oscar He (9.12), Andrei Voicu (9.12) and Rhea Aydee (9.12)

Year 10

Hiten Parmar (10.2), Safa Uddin (10.3), Devika Mansuklal (10.3), Arpita Amarshi (10.3), Twinkal Valji (10.3), Zainab Esa (10.4), Rehan Ali (10.5), Riyanjeet Thoor (10.7), Neel Godhania (10.7), Esha Patel (10.8), Danny Haridas Santos (10.8), Parth Bhavsar (10.8), Qamar Aidarus (10.9), Tiya Lad (10.11), Mirat Parikh (10.12) and Bindiya Shureshkumar (10.12),

Library News

If you would like support with encouraging your child to read for pleasure then please contact our librarian, Mrs Richardson

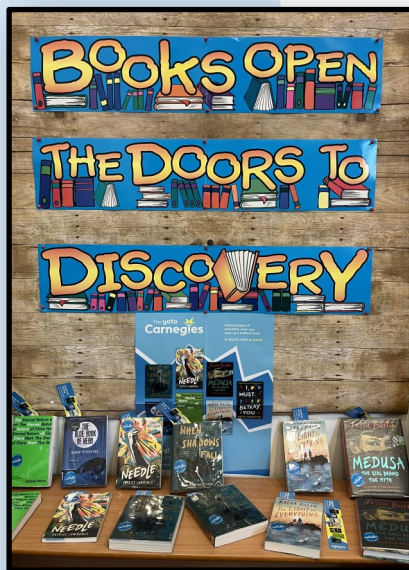


It has been another busy year in the Library, with students enthusiasm for reading as high as ever. There has been a lot going on this term...

For instance, Soar Valley students enjoyed joining others from across Leicester and Leicestershire for the virtual **Reading Rampage** finale.

Students read 10 engaging titles, took part in lots of challenges, and produced some beautiful visual representations. The celebration event saw authors awarded for most borrowed book and overall favourite. Students' work was celebrated, and one student from each school received an award for exceptional participation. Well done to Umiya [8.9] for winning the SVC award.

Students also had the opportunity to shadow the Yoto Carnegie competition, reading gripping and often challenging texts.



Soar Valley College Library enjoyed celebrating Pride Month with a wide range of titles for students to choose from.

Summer Reading

As we break for the summer don't forget to keep reading [as Mrs Robinson says in her message on the front page].

Students might want to take up the **Summer Reading Challenge**, visit the local public library, or use Soar Valley College's online ePlatform. All you need is your school email and a world of books is right there at your fingertips..



1st



2nd



3rd



Design a Bookmark Competition

The number of entries for this term's Design a Bookmark competition in the Library was tremendous. The winners were chosen by students and will now be produced to be available for students to use in the new term. Well done to Sukhbir [9.7] for producing the winning entry. Kavya [7.7] came second and Lorna [7.12] rounded out the top three.

FAMILIES in Leicester are being encouraged to get moving this summer with a free programme of fun activities at their local children's centre.



Run by the city council, the programme will include lots of outdoor fun, such as skipping, den building and giant outdoor games, as well as green-fingered fun and seed-planting.

There will also be plenty of opportunities to play with LEGO, bubbles, playdough and paints, and to join in with this year's Gadgeteer-themed [Summer Reading Challenge](#).

On Mondays, there'll be activities at St Matthews, Thurnby Lodge and Woodbridge CYPFCs; on Tuesdays the action is at the Kingfisher Youth Centre, while Beaumont Leys CYPFC is the place to go on Wednesdays; on Thursdays youngsters can get up and go at the Tudor Centre, Spinney Hill Park and the CYPFCs at Netherhall, New Parks and Belgrave; while there's Friday fun at The Grove in Braunstone and Eyres Monsell CYPFC.

Times vary at each venue so people are advised to check the timetable [here](#) or to call their [local children's centre](#).

There will also be mini Playdays in Town Hall Square on most Wednesdays in July, where there'll be giant outdoor games, story-time, arts and crafts and a dedicated area for babies. Mini Playdays take place from 11am-2pm on 13, 20 and 27 July.

[Leicester's Playday](#) runs from 11am to 3pm on Wednesday 3 August. The Town Hall Square will be turned into a giant playground for babies and children.

Dates for Your Diary

Parents' Evenings	
Year 9	16 th November
Year 11	18 th January
Year 8	29 th February
Year 10	21 st March
Year 7	2 nd May

Term Dates	
Autumn Term begins	29 th August
Autumn Half Term Break	16 th —20 th October
School Closed	13 th & 14 th November
Autumn Term ends	21 st December
Spring Term begins	8 th January
Spring Half Term Break	19 th —23 rd February
Spring Term ends	22 nd March
Summer Term begins	8 th April
Bank Holiday	6 th May
Summer Half Term Break	27 th —31 st May
Summer Term ends	12 th July

Other Events Next Term	
Y11 Parents' Info Evening	5 th September
Y10 KS4 Transition Evening	12 th September
Year 6 Open Evening	21 st September
Year 11 Post 16 Evening	4 th October
Year 7 Settling In Evening	26 th October
Year 7 Reports home	26 th October
Year 11 Reports home	27 th October
Year 8/9/10 Reports home	16 th November
Ex Year 11 Celebration	23 rd November
Year 11 Mock Exams start	27 th November
Year 11 Mock Exams finish	8 th December
Christmas Concert	13 th December

First Day Arrangements

There will be a staggered start as shown below:

Year	Day starts:	Students may arrive at school from 10:30 and go to their form rooms to wait.
7	8:45	
8	11:00	
9	11:00	
10	11:00	
11	8:45	