

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 17 November 2023

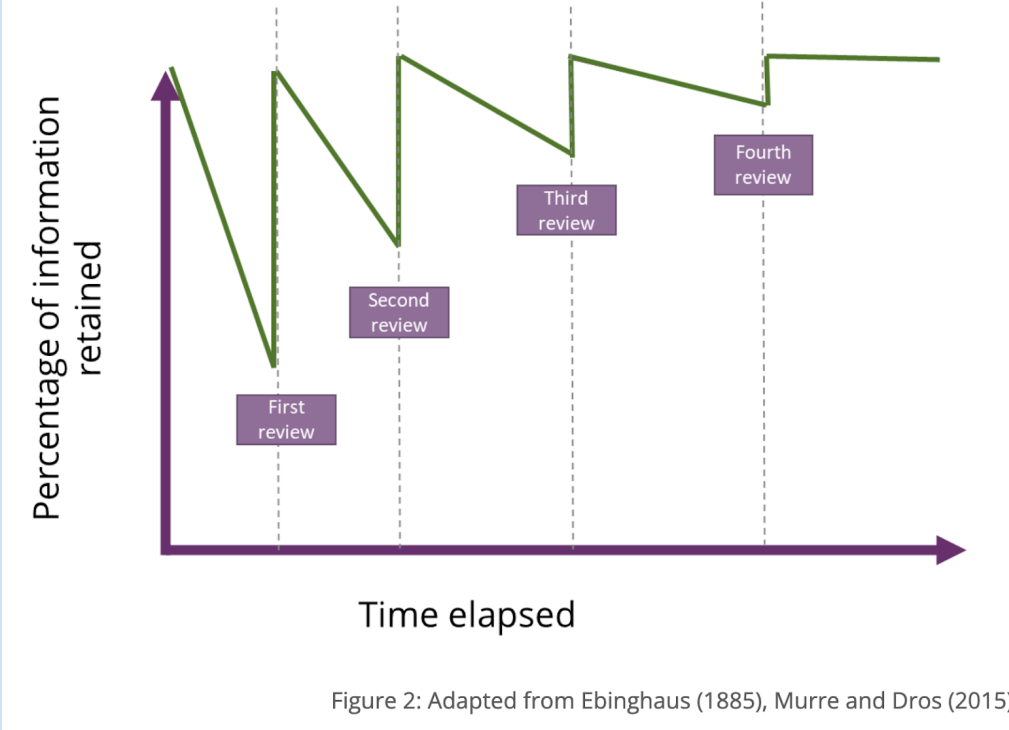
Dear Parents/Carers

Here are the latest school messages and updates for your information.

MESSAGES		
School	Whole School	Please find letter from Mr Humphreys with regards to SKYFund. Thank you to those who have made contributions, this is gratefully received. We have been able to set up this on ParentPay if you would like to also donate that way.
School	Whole school	Coffee with the Headteacher Our next coffee with Mr Humphreys will be on Thursday 23 November from 1500-1630, please email school@skdrive.org if you'd like to join us. We will be staggering dates and times across the year for those that can't make it this time.
School	Whole school	Community Christmas Carols - Thursday 7 December Please find attached letters from our students, Miss Andrews and Ms Jefferson.
School	Whole school	Christmas lunch - Thursday 14 December Please find attached letter here from Mr Maw.
School	Whole School	Free School Meals If you think you are entitled to claim a free school meal benefit because of your income or circumstances it's essential you apply. For each eligible child, the school receives funding for the next six years, even if their parents go back to full-time paid work. You can apply to North Somerset here . If you have any queries or would like the school to support you with your application please contact reception.
School	Whole school	Free School Meals If your child is entitled to a free school meal they can receive breakfast in the canteen before 8.30. They will be able to choose from the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 pieces of toast with jam • fresh fruit with a juice drink • porridge with honey/syrup with a juice drink • cereal with milk • 1 crumpet with jam.
Sirona	Whole school	This autumn all children from Y7 to Y11 are being offered a flu vaccine as part of the School Vaccination Programme. The flu vaccine is administered using a nasal spray. Sirona Immunisation team will be on site on the 5 December to administer this vaccine. Please complete the consent form , indicating whether you wish your child to have the vaccine, ensure you complete the consent form even if you do not want your child to receive the vaccination. If your child is not able to attend school on the day of the Immunisation session they can attend a catch-up clinic at a later date.
School	Whole School	As you may have seen there is a section for voluntary contributions on ParentPay for Design & Technology and Art & Design. These contributions if you are able to support us are to afford a full range of resources in the lessons as they have become incredibly expensive over the last 6 months and we wish to be able to give all young people a full and diverse curriculum.

Overdue Library books	Whole school	<p>When students borrow books from the Library, these will be due for return after 2 weeks, unless renewed. For items that go overdue, each tutor receives a fortnightly list to go through with students, and emails are sent directly where items are needed back more urgently. Beyond that, if items are still outstanding after many reminders, a final message is sent to tutors before we add bills for the replacement cost onto ParentPay. Often books are then found, so of course the bill will be removed.</p> <p>Students can all check which books they have on loan by clicking on the Oliver Library System link on their desktop, and they can renew books there as well.</p> <p>Students should see Ms Wyld in the Library for any queries with Library books.</p>						
Enrichment	Whole School	<p>The changes to the school day have run smoothly since September and feedback from students, staff and parents/carers has been positive. Enrichment from September 2023 is P5 on Week 1 Wednesday, allowing a maximum of just 20 in an academic year.</p> <p>Year 11 - academic intervention</p> <p>Year 10 - careers and work experience</p> <p>Years 7-9 now offers two choices. Students are given the choice at the start of each academic year.</p> <p>a) activities that students will undertake for the whole year - these students might already have a passion and opt to spend further time with others who share the same interest.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>b) a rotation of experiences (each one 6 sessions) - these students may not wish to pursue one of the 'All year activities' or might be interested in trying something new.</p> <p>All year activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Leadership - Years 7-9 tutor reps ● DAT Business Group - Years 7-9 ● Trailblazers Orchestra - Years 7-9 ● Drama Club - Years 7-9 ● Maths Challenge Group - Year 8 ● Social Action Group - Years 7-9 ● Duke of Edinburgh Award, Bronze - Year 9 <p>Rotation Experiences</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="502 1843 1474 2101"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="502 1843 858 1906">Year 7</th> <th data-bbox="858 1843 1163 1906">Year 8</th> <th data-bbox="1163 1843 1474 1906">Year 9</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="502 1906 858 2101">Mindful Arts and Crafts Natural History Team Building Games Touch Typing Murder Mystery</td> <td data-bbox="858 1906 1163 2101">Environment Club Communication Skills Geography Apprentice Advanced Cooking</td> <td data-bbox="1163 1906 1474 2101">Debating SKA Informed Talks Crochet</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Mindful Arts and Crafts Natural History Team Building Games Touch Typing Murder Mystery	Environment Club Communication Skills Geography Apprentice Advanced Cooking	Debating SKA Informed Talks Crochet
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Finance	Whole school	<p>Parentpay One-Click Payments (Bank Transfer) Parentpay is encouraging parents to use this payment method rather than card payment. As a school we do not like this as potentially a transaction can fail several days later causing lunch accounts to go overdrawn. The direct debits take 3 working days to set up before a payment should be attempted. The transaction can then take another 4 days to show on your bank statement. We would recommend continuing with card payment as these transactions are pre-authorised. This can be done by selecting the 'Add To Basket' button and then 'Other Payment Method' button.</p>			
Finance	Whole school	<p>Lunch accounts We are experiencing a significant increase in the number of students having to visit the Finance Office as they do not have enough money on their lunch accounts. Parentpay allows you to set a reminder to top up when the balance falls below a certain amount.</p> <p>To set an alert go to 'Communication', 'Alert Settings', 'Balance Alerts'. Set a threshold amount (say £5) and tick the email box. You will then be emailed a low balance alert when your child's lunch account falls below £5.</p>			
Ms Jefferson	Whole School	<p>Christmas Book Bonanza! Nationally, one in eight disadvantaged children come from a household where there are NO books. We believe that all children should have access to books of their own.</p> <p>This Christmas will see our fourth St Katherine's Book Bonanza, where all students can take home for FREE, thanks to your generosity, as many books as they wish.</p> <p>If you have any pre-loved books you can pass on, please ask your child to deliver them to the English Office any time before the last week of term. We welcome books for all ages, as many students like to take books for their younger siblings and older family members. This is an important moment for many young people to be able to thoughtfully select a present for a loved one.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for gifting the joy of reading for pleasure.</p> <p>P.S. Any spare carrier bags are also appreciated - many students need a bag to take home their newly acquired treasures!</p>			
Miss Adams	Year 7	<p>Trailblazers; thank you to all who have returned the instrument insurance form allowing students to take their instruments home to practise. Please could you complete this if not already done so.</p> <p><i>Please note that some home insurance policies may cover musical instruments but this would need to be checked with your own insurance company. Please note that instruments also need to be covered whilst in transit ie: from home to school and back again.</i></p>			

		Any questions please contact musicadmin@skdrive.org . Thank you.
Ms Wild	Year 7	Year 7 students have now received their free Bookbuzz book. Please ask them about it and don't forget to remind them to log and quiz their reading. Any questions, please email me: wildi@skdrive.org
Homework	Year 7	<p>Year 7 homework targets the regular retrieval of knowledge acquired in lessons. We use different quizzing platforms to help students revisit and retain this knowledge or demonstrate their understanding. The science of learning tells us that whilst we all forget things we have learned, the rate at which you forget decreases each time you revisit a particular piece of knowledge.</p> <div data-bbox="507 667 1519 1393" data-label="Figure">  <p>Figure 2: Adapted from Ebbinghaus (1885), Murre and Dros (2015)</p> </div> <p>Students need to retain this knowledge so they can build on this prior knowledge as they progress through each year of secondary school.</p> <p>Parent/Carer feedback has highlighted that some of our platforms used for quizzing were demotivating students as a direct result of the lack of judgement by the software. For example, spelling or grammatical errors. We have reviewed these platforms and made adjustments, referring answers to teachers where a more nuanced judgement is required.</p>
Ms Wild	Year 8	All year 8 students should have quizzed at least one book by now. Ask your child if they have quizzed and if not, when their first quiz will be! Any questions, let me know: wildi@skdrive.org
Ms Wild	Year 9	How many reviews has your child added to the Bucket List Classroom? Every book or story that's finished should be reviewed. Then, each review receives praises and contributes to the Bucket List House Competition.

Mrs Weatherson	Year 10	GCSE Photography catch up - Thursdays 3pm-4pm in Room 36
Ms Tallis	Year 10 art/textiles	<p>If your child is attending the art/textiles trip on Thurs 30 Nov, & they want to go directly home from town at around 2pm, they MUST give a signed permission note from a parent/carer to their teacher. Without this, your child will return with us to school in time to catch the school buses.</p> <p>On 30 Nov your child must wear full school uniform & bring the following items: a packed lunch, a few pounds to purchase postcards, a camera/phone to use for photographs, some dry drawing media, a sketchbook.</p>
Mrs Duncan	Year 10 - Work Experience	<p>WEX takes place on 1st - 5th July. Deadline to find a placement is 19th February. Many places, especially within popular areas such as sport, education, engineering and law, fill their allocation by December.</p> <p>Please encourage your child to start the search early.</p> <p>For more information, please read through this letter sent home at the beginning of Term 1. Please note that we are now using a new platform called Unifrog to log Placements. For more information, please head to the school website.</p> <p>Please have a look at this week's WOW! (WEX Opportunity of the Week).</p> <p>If you have any questions regarding work experience, please contact me on skworkexperience@skdrive.org</p>
Mrs Collins Mrs Lomax	Year 11 Drama	Students component 2 devising examination will be taking place Wednesday 29 November ALL DAY in the lecture theatre . Students are to head to the performing arts department and register here.. They must bring in all props, costume required for the performance exam ASAP in a bag with their name on it so they can ensure final rehearsals are successful. Any concerns please email lomas@skdrive.org as I will be on maternity leave as of Thursday 16 November. Thank you
Mrs Weatherson	Year 11	GCSE Photography catch up - Thursdays 3pm-4pm in Room 36
Miss Adams	Year 11	GCSE music solo performances will now take place on Friday 8th December instead of the original date of Friday 24th November. This gives students more time to practice and removes the clash with mock exams. These performances are worth 15% of the final GCSE grade. Please ask your son/daughter to perform to you at home to help them prepare. Timetable for the day will be published nearer the time.
Mrs Brooke	Ski trip 2024 Year 8, 9,10 and 11	There is a google form on the ski trip google classroom that students attending the ski trip need to complete. Students have been sent a link for the classroom. Could the form be completed asap. Thanks

Mrs Cameron	Year 11 GCSE Art students	Art students' deadline for ALL coursework (Natural Form and Animal/Building project) is Wednesday 3rd January. They all have personal targets to complete that are in their folders. These targets will also be emailed to parents soon.
Mrs Lewis	Year 11 Biology, chemistry and physics	Please find attached a copy of the revision timetables students could be following for independent science revision. This has been shared with students via google classroom. Triple Biology Combined Biology Chemistry triple Chemistry combined Physics triple Physics combined
Mrs Ivey	Year 11 Biology	Next week we will be offering biology revision afterschool on Thursday 3-4pm in lab 6.
Mrs Cameron	Year 11 Art GCSE students	Reminder that there are GCSE catch up sessions that ALL students should be attending at least once a week: Wednesday early lunch - Rm 12 (bring your lunch along) Monday after school - Rm 13 Tuesday after school - Rm 12 Thursday after school - Rm 10
Mrs Weatherson	Year 12 & 13	Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child - 28th November 6:00pm
Ms Tallis	Year 12 & 13 art	If your child is attending the art/textiles trip on Thurs 30 Nov , & they want to go directly home from town at around 2pm, they MUST give a signed permission note from a parent/carer to their teacher. Without this, your child will return with us to school in time to catch the school buses. On 30 Nov your child must bring the following items: a packed lunch, a few pounds to purchase postcards, a camera/phone to use for photographs, some dry drawing media, a sketchbook.
	Year 12 Work Experience	WEX takes place on 17th - 21st June Deadline to find a placement is 19th February 2024 . Many places, especially within popular areas such as sport, education, engineering and law, fill their allocated slots by December/January. Please encourage your child to start the search early. For more WEX information, please read through this letter sent home during Term 1. Please note that we are now using a new platform called Unifrog to log Placements. For more information, please head to the school website . This week's WOW! (WEX Opportunity of the Week) is with Lloyds Head Office. I have a number of spaces for this fantastic opportunity to work within their Harbourside Office where you will be shown the following departments: <i>Cyber, technology Engineering, UC/CX Design, Finance, Legal & Marketing.</i>

		<p>If you have an interest in applying for a space, please send me an email answering this question: 1. What made you decide to apply to Lloyds for work experience?</p> <p>The deadline for this is the 4th December and you will be notified by the 8th December if successful.</p> <p>If you have any questions regarding work experience, please contact me on skworkexperience@skdrive.org.</p>
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LETTERS - click [here](#) to see all letters

SPORT - click [here](#) to see all updates via our X (formally Twitter) page

UPCOMING EVENTS - click [here](#) to see all upcoming events

23 Nov	1500-1630 Coffee with the Headteacher
29 Nov	1600-1900 Virtual Y8 progress evening
30 Nov	0830-1500 GCSE and A level Art & Textiles trip, Bristol
1 Dec	1220-1300 and 1320-1400 Festive Market, LT
5 Dec	All day Whole school flu vaccinations
6 Dec	1730-1830 Ski Trip - Talk to parents/carers, LT
7 Dec	0715-2200 Y12, Y13 London galleries (Tate Modern, National Gallery)
7 Dec	Community Christmas Carols
12 Dec	0900-2000 Y10, Y11, Y12, Y13 WB Studio Tour visit, London
14 Dec	Christmas lunch
15 Dec	END OF TERM at 1230