

Newsletter

July 2025



Volume 4 | Issue 4

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,
A very warm welcome to the final newsletter of the 2024-25 academic year.

As we look back across the year there have been many milestones and accomplishments. We're now two years into our three-year school development plan and we've been progressing well. Our plans are designed to bring us ever closer to our ambition of being an 'extraordinary' school – where everyone can flourish. Our key achievements are on pages 4-5.

Our work beyond the school is of equal importance. We've continued to partner with other schools, charities and businesses to advance our purpose. The Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT) and Learning for Life Charity (LFLC) have continued to grow and develop - adding value to our school and the wider community. Our community highlights are on pages 20-21.

Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful team at West Lea, for all they have done and continue to do in support of our mission, each other and, of course, our pupils and families. And to you, our parents and carers, thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement. We are truly grateful for the trust you give us, which is something we never take for granted.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break.

We look forward to seeing you in September.

With all good wishes,



Paul Quinn
CEO



Renee Flourentzou
Director of Education



Melanie Bignold
Director of Education

community
kindness
learning for life
innovation inclusion

In this edition

Welcome	2
Flourishing Futures	4
Meridian Campus	6
Haselbury Campus	8
Learning for Life Campus	10
Horizon Campus	12
Pastoral Update	14
Student Council	16
Learning For Life Charity	17
Enterprise Cooperative Trust	18
2024-25 Family Round-up	20
Our Campuses	22
Key Term Dates	23

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Flourishing Futures

Helping people and pupils thrive

From leadership to life skills, here's how our school development plan is making a difference.

We're now two years into our three-year school development plan (SDP) - and we've made great progress. Six projects are underway, grouped under two themes: Flourishing Environments and Pathways for All.

Here are just a few of the changes and achievements from 2024–25.

Flourishing Environments

We continued with three key projects under this theme, all launched the previous year. Each one supports our belief that when our team members flourish, pupils flourish – and when pupils flourish, families and communities do too. Together, these projects are helping to build a school where everyone can be their best.

EXTENDING SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Because we believe in a people-first approach.

This year, we set out to strengthen engagement across class teams – helping everyone feel more connected, valued, and motivated at work.

Challenge Partners, a national network of schools that work together to improve education, praised our approach. They highlighted how coaching, care, and mutual respect are central to our culture. This ethos helped us achieve Silver Investors in People accreditation – and keeps our people flourishing.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO LEARN & DEVELOP

Because we want our people to flourish.

We made big strides in building a strong learning culture, in line with our Learning for Life value. Team members told us they feel encouraged to grow – and 94% said this year's development programme improved their performance.

We invested nearly half a million pounds in professional development, a valuable benefit for both class and support teams alike. Investors in People said this commitment is a key reason people love working here.

ADAPTING TO MEET LEARNER NEEDS

Because every learner should feel they belong.

We helped class teams build confidence in supporting emotional regulation and learner communication. Teams were given training, tools, and support to help children express themselves more effectively, and to approach behaviour with greater empathy and curiosity.

Alongside guidance from NHS speech and language therapists and behaviour specialists, these changes created calmer classrooms and more positive learning experiences for all.

At the heart of this work was a clear goal: to remove barriers to communication, learning, and friendship – and to strengthen every learner's sense of belonging.



Pathways For All

We continued with three key projects under this theme, all launched the previous year. Each one reflects our belief that every learner and team member deserves meaningful opportunities to grow, contribute, and move forward – in school, in work, and in life.

BRINGING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TO LIFE

Because we have high aspirations for all.

This year, we launched a bold new vision for food education – one that inspires a love of cooking, brings people together, and opens doors to future careers.

With support from industry professionals, we've upskilled our team – and our learners have loved the new catering experience. Thanks to our new commercial kitchen and hands-on work experience, students are gaining skills for life and a taste of what's possible.

DELIVERING THE FULL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Because we believe every learner can flourish.

We strengthened our employability strategy, Employment for All, expanding opportunities for learners to meet employers, visit workplaces, and explore careers that match their strengths and aspirations.

Our supported internship programme remains a jewel in our crown and was rated 'Good' by Ofsted. We also relaunched Personal Learning Plans – developed in partnership with learners and families – to support independence, confidence, and smoother transitions between campuses and into the world of work.

It's all part of preparing every learner to step into adulthood with confidence, purpose, and a future they can be proud of.

DEVELOPING THE EMPLOYEE LIFECYCLE

Because we're a great place to work.

We also strengthened our Partnering for Performance process, giving people managers and team members even more time to talk about how they contribute, learn, and grow. The result? Higher engagement, better conversations, and a stronger sense of belonging and purpose.

Our Investors in People assessor described these discussions as meaningful and rewarding, and said West Lea feels warm, supportive, and full of opportunities to learn and progress.

It's all part of our culture – where people feel seen, supported, and inspired to make a difference, for our learners and for one another.



MERIDIAN MAGIC: A YEAR OF GROWTH AND GREAT MOMENTS

From first steps to major milestones, our learners have had a brilliant year.

We're rounding off the school year with big smiles and even bigger celebrations. It's been a joy watching each child #TakeOff on their own learning journey.

Our weekly specialist sessions – including yoga, dance, PE, forest school and sensory circuits – have helped children build strength, balance and confidence in a fun and active way. These experiences play a central role in how we support physical development and core learning skills.

We've continued to create playful, sensory-rich spaces where children learn by exploring. Often, they don't even realise they're learning – they're too busy having fun!



This month, we're celebrating some special milestones:

- Our youngest learners in Bumblebee Class are graduating from Early Years and getting ready for Key Stage 1.
- Year 4 children are moving on from Dysons Road to start their next adventure at our Springfield site.
- And our Year 6s have officially graduated from Springfield – ready to #TakeOff for Haselbury in September.



Alongside creating a nurturing and joyful environment on campus, we've also worked closely with other schools to share expertise and best practice.

Thank you to every parent and carer who's been part of school life this year – from Annual Reviews and celebration events to Online Dinner Dates and more. Your support, ideas and encouragement have helped ensure all our children feel safe, happy and ready to learn.



Everything we do is rooted in our "magic formula":

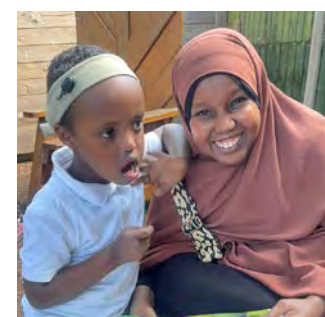
Flourishing people = flourishing children = flourishing Meridian.

Together, we've made that vision real.

We hope you enjoy looking through the photos and seeing your child's journey in action.

We can't wait to welcome you back in September for another fantastic year – with more parent and family events, and even more playful learning woven into our curriculum.

EMMA DRIVER
Head of School



A YEAR OF HIGHLIGHTS AT HASELBURY

Celebrations, creativity, and a brilliant bunch of Year 9 graduates.

What a year it's been at Haselbury. As a community, we've shared so many special moments and we're incredibly proud of the progress our learners have made – both academically and personally.

A huge thank you to our brilliant team for bringing so many events to life. From Black History Day and Mental Health Awareness Day to our Halloween and autumn celebrations, each one brought smiles, laughter, and lasting memories.

There's been plenty of brainpower on display too. World Science Day left us wondering, "Who did steal the sweets?" while World Maths Day gave learners the chance to show off their problem-solving skills. For the first time, we also hosted our own Winter and Summer Fayres, raising over £600 for charity.



The Dance Show was another high point. Seeing our learners take to the stage at Millfield Theatre in front of families and friends was truly magical. Our lunchtime performing arts group also showcased their talents in a special performance later that week – and they're already planning something exciting for next year's Creative Day.

Sports Day was packed with energy and laughter as learners took part in a carousel of activities, and we're grateful to the team members and parents who joined the adult races and made it even more fun.

We're especially proud of our Year 9 leavers. Their graduation ceremony was emotional and inspiring, and we wish them all the best as they move on to their next campus. We hope they'll stay in touch and let us know how they're getting on.

To all our people, parents and carers – thank you. Your support, encouragement, and positivity make a huge difference.

Wishing you a joyful and relaxing summer break.

DARIA KOHLS
Head of School



We've loved watching imaginations spark during National Storytelling Week and seeing eyes light up with new ideas during National Careers Week. One of the standout moments? Our amazing Year 9 pop-up restaurants – a real team effort and a huge achievement.



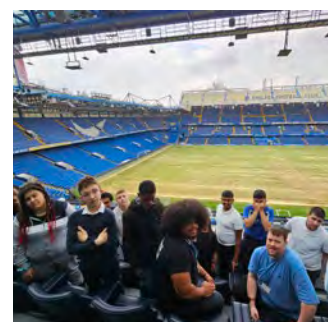
LEARNING FOR LIFE: A YEAR OF DISCOVERY, GROWTH AND GOODBYES

From inspiring trips to heartfelt farewells – it's been a year to remember.

What a brilliant year it's been at Learning for Life. Our learners have explored theatres, visited Madame Tussauds, and trained like rugby players at The Stoop (home of Harlequins Rugby Club).



They've also stepped into the world of work with behind-the-scenes visits to top football clubs including Chelsea, Brentford and Spurs. Whether navigating the Tube or running their own press conferences, they've embraced every opportunity to build confidence, develop life skills, and connect with the world beyond the classroom.

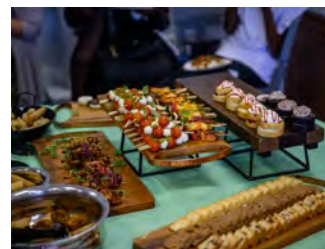


These weren't just exciting days out – they helped learners build essential skills, grow in confidence, and develop friendships that flourish through shared experiences.

Back at school, learners tackled Functional Skills assessments with real focus and resilience, took

part in joyful wellbeing sessions, and brought their creativity to life through poetry, drama and adaptive writing workshops.

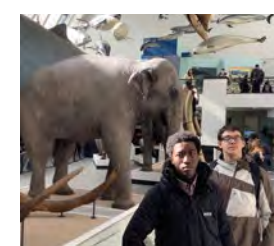
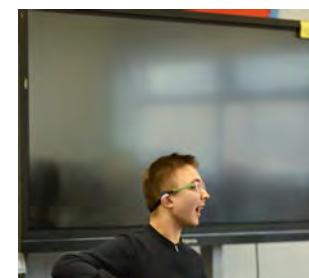
As part of our enterprise learning, they also designed, made and sold products like Easter gifts, homemade cakes and photo frames – gaining valuable experience in teamwork, communication and money management.



And of course, the year ended with a proud goodbye to our amazing Year 11s. From a prom evening full of joy and good food, to a moving Leavers' Assembly shared with family, friends and members of our campus team – there were plenty of smiles, a few tears, and an overwhelming sense of pride.

We couldn't be prouder of everything our learners have achieved. It's been a year of discovery, growth, and lasting memories.

THESPINA SKARPELLIS
Head of School



A BIG YEAR FOR HORIZON: NEW SPACES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

From supermarket takeovers to Sports Day – it's been a year of growth, learning and exciting change.

This year marked a fresh chapter as we welcomed Horizon Sixth Form students and Junior Interns into our newly refurbished home at Ponders End. With fantastic new spaces and a dedicated team, it's been a brilliant base for learning, connection, and new beginnings.



Meanwhile, our Senior Interns hit the ground running, embracing their work placements with focus and maturity. Whether in school or out in the world of work, learners made the most of every opportunity.

Early in the year, we were visited by Ofsted inspectors, who praised the Horizon Works programme. They highlighted how teachers and Job Coaches give learners the step-by-step support they need to succeed at work – from breaking down tasks to building confidence. Their feedback was a real vote of confidence in the way we prepare young people for employment.



Learning beyond the classroom has also been a big feature of the year. Highlights included trips to Whipsnade Zoo, the British Library, the London Eye and a wide range of workplace visits – including a memorable supermarket takeover. We also held our first ever Horizon Sports Day, full of fun, energy and teamwork.



In the final days of term, we celebrated everyone's achievements with assemblies, awards, and end-of-year events, recognising the milestones, memories and meaningful progress made throughout the year.

To all our learners, families, and campus team – thank you for being part of this special year.

KIKA CHARALAMBOUS
Head of School



Pastoral update

PASTORAL CARE: SUPPORTING FAMILIES, BUILDING CONFIDENCE

A safer, simpler approach to medical care

Our welfare team has worked hard this year to make sure every child's medical and care needs are well looked after. They've supported trips, residentials, college placements, and work experience by working closely with families to get the right plans in place.

We also piloted a new online system to manage medication and accident reporting. It sends timely reminders about medication expiry dates and makes communication with families much easier. Feedback has been incredibly positive, and we plan to roll it out across the school from September. If you haven't already, please register for School Comms to receive updates via Medical Tracker.



HELPING FAMILIES BREAK THE ANXIETY CYCLE

This year, we introduced a new support group for some parents and carers using a technique called Non-Violent Resistance (NVR). Led by our Safeguarding and Attendance Lead, Kathryn White, and NVR practitioner Katie Townsend, the programme helps parents support children dealing with high anxiety and Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA). One of the key ideas is that parents and carers are like anchors – helping children feel more stable as they face choppy waters.

We're looking forward to offering more support groups next year, so please contact us if you're interested in taking part.



FAMILY SUPPORT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Our Family Support Advisor, Zuhre Omer, has kept our community connected and supported through a wide range of activities this year – from coffee mornings and pamper sessions to bereavement support and help with benefit applications. She's also helped families access free food donations through the Felix Project and organised English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and IT classes.



"I'm truly amazed to see the positive changes taking place, which I never thought were possible. These sessions have given me so much confidence."

- Parent, NVR workshop attendee



CELEBRATING STRONG ATTENDANCE

We're proud to share that our school attendance is currently 90.6%, around 3% above the national average for special schools. That's a huge achievement and we want to thank every parent and carer for your continued support in making attendance a priority.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS ENFIELD

Our Attendance Support Unit (ASU) continues to support learners across the borough who are finding education difficult. Through activities that build confidence and social skills – including their very own end-of-year prom – the ASU team has helped many young people re-engage with learning.

As always, thank you to every family who has worked with us in partnership this year. Your openness, trust and commitment help us ensure your children feel safe, supported, and ready to flourish.

CATH GOODWIN
Head of Pastoral Development



School Council update

VOICE, CHOICE AND REAL IMPACT

Making sure every learner is heard, valued and empowered.

Our Student Council plays a vital role in making sure every learner has a voice. We're proud to create an inclusive environment where all pupils – whatever their communication needs – can share their ideas, views and preferences.

With the help of communication aids, symbols, assistive technology and tailored resources, we support all learners to shape their school experience in a meaningful way.

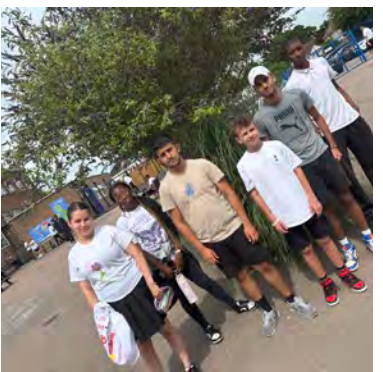


The School Council meets regularly to explore a range of topics, from enrichment activities to what students would like to see change. This year, they've shown brilliant teamwork and real passion. Here are just a few highlights from their work:

CLUBS FOR EVERYONE

After listening to feedback from their peers, the Student Council called for more opportunities for fun, friendship and learning outside the classroom.

Thanks to their efforts, several new lunchtime and after-school clubs were launched, including singing, drama, computing, football and art. Council members worked with staff to make sure the clubs



were inclusive, well-structured and tailored to different interests and needs.

OPENING DOORS THROUGH TRIPS

Many students said they'd like more chances to get out and about. In response, the Council worked closely with staff to make trips more frequent, more accessible and better matched to learners' needs.

As a result, more pupils than ever have enjoyed visits this year, from local parks and museums to exciting days out at the theatre and even Madame Tussauds.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS



Council members also gathered feedback on recognition. Students said they wanted new ways to celebrate success and feel proud of their progress.

In response, the Council helped introduce recognition stickers and "Be Ready, Safe and Kind"

postcards, which we now use to highlight kindness, effort and achievement. It's helped build a culture where every success is celebrated – big or small.

Being part of the Student Council gives learners the chance to develop valuable life skills – from communication and teamwork to problem-solving, public speaking and leadership. It also builds an understanding of democracy and respectful representation.

Student voice is at the heart of everything we do, and the Student Council is one of the most powerful ways we help every learner feel heard, included and inspired.

Learning for Life Charity

THANKS FOR BEING PART OF OUR JOURNEY

Celebrating a year of progress, partnerships and purpose.

As we come to the end of the academic year, we want to say a heartfelt thank you for everything you've done to support the Learning for Life Charity (LFLC).

Thanks to your generosity, we've achieved so much this year – from expanding opportunities for learners, to growing community partnerships, and championing inclusion and independence for young people with special educational needs, disabilities, or experiences of disadvantage. Whether you've donated, volunteered, or simply cheered us on, every bit of support has made a lasting difference.



As summer approaches, we're excited to invite you to our **end-of-season sale** at the charity shops, from Monday 18 to Saturday 30 August.

Visit us at:

Life in the Town

1 Burleigh Way, Enfield, EN2 6AE

Life in the Green

6 North Mall, Edmonton Green, N9 0EH

It's a great chance to pick up brilliant bargains – from clothes, books, and homeware to toys, electricals, and more – while supporting a cause that matters.

Here's how you can get involved:

- **Visit the shops during the sale** – and bring a friend!
- **Donate your pre-loved items** – we're always grateful for good-quality stock.
- **Spread the word** – the more people who know, the bigger the difference we can make together.

Thank you again for being part of the LFLC community. We hope you have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

OLIVIA WITTICH
LFLC Operations Director



Enterprise Cooperative Trust

MAKING ENFIELD WORK FOR EVERYONE

Unlocking potential and creating bright futures for Enfield's young people.



On Thursday 12 June, we had the privilege of launching our new campaign, **#EnfieldWorks**, at Enfield Council's Chambers – joined by local schools, businesses and community partners.

As Chair of the Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT), I know how important it is to create real pathways into employment – especially for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or those affected by disadvantage. West Lea has been leading this work for years through its Employment for All strategy, and I'm proud that the school is a founding member of ECT and a driving force behind this campaign.

#EnfieldWorks is our shared commitment to creating thousands of work opportunities for young people across the borough by 2030. Whether it's through employer visits, work experience, supported internships, apprenticeships or paid employment, we want to connect young people with the world of work in ways that are meaningful and lasting.

Together with partners like West Lea, our aim is to break down barriers and build brighter futures – because every young person in Enfield deserves the chance to flourish.

A huge thank you to Enfield Council, and especially to Cllr Ergin Erbil, for their continued partnership and belief in this mission. And to our families, team members and employer partners – thank you for being part of our journey.

Let's keep going. Let's make **#EnfieldWorks** truly work for everyone.

Find out more:
enterprisecooperativetrust.org.uk/enfield-works



JAMET LEACH MBE
Chair of ECT



"Almost one in seven young people aged 16–24 in the UK are not in education, employment or training (NEET). While we know the barriers young people face, there is a gap in local data and insight specific to Enfield. **#EnfieldWorks** will help us understand those journeys and work together to break the cycle of unemployment."

– Janet Leach MBE, Chair of ECT



2024-25

Family round-up

The West Lea community extends beyond our school gates to include the Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT) and Learning for Life Charity (LFLC). As we look back on a busy and impactful year, we've picked out some highlights that showcase the power of partnership, purpose, and community.



Welcome to Horizon Campus

In September, Junior Interns and Horizon Sixth Formers proudly welcomed guests to our newly refurbished Ponders End site – complete with a commercial kitchen and media suite. Feryal Clark MP returned in March for the official opening.

Cards with heart

LFLC's All Works of Life enterprise saw students designing and producing Christmas cards from a working print room – gaining hands-on experience before proudly selling them in LFLC's charity shops. Thank you to My Elements, Fortuna Healthcare, Rapport, and Taylor Woodrow.



Stronger together

We hosted a powerful workshop with the social enterprise Square Peg, deepening our focus on building strong relationships with families – making sure everyone feels cared for, heard, and like they belong.

We're officially a great place to work

In July, we were awarded Silver Investors in People Accreditation. Described by our assessor as "warm, supportive, and full of opportunities to learn and grow," it's a proud milestone on our journey to building a school where everyone can flourish.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Silver



Speaking up for vulnerable learners

Cath Goodwin, Head of Pastoral Development, co-presented at a series of National County Lines conferences alongside The Children's Society. She shared strategies to keep neurodiverse and vulnerable learners safe – with attendees from police forces praising the insight and impact.

SEP

DEC

FEB

APR

JUL

New connections, shared values



Enfield County School for Girls joined the ECT in September, strengthening our shared commitment to collaboration, inclusion, and brighter futures across the borough.

Pedalling for purpose

Riders from Rapport Guest Services took on the Cycle to Inspire challenge – travelling from Haselbury Campus to Dublin. With support from Compass Group, TJX, Knight Frank and Irish Ferries, they raised nearly £10k for LFLC.



LFLC's charity shops smash records

January saw record-breaking annual sales at Life in the Town and Life in the Green, thanks to our dedicated shop teams and upcycling experts. Every item sold helps support the work we do.

A window into work

During National Careers Week in March, learners met professionals including a chef, diplomat, fitness coach, builder, and music producer. A brilliant mix of talks, visits, and workshops that sparked ambition and opened minds to future careers.



A good result for employability

Following a two-day Ofsted visit, our employability programme – delivered in partnership with Enfield Council – was officially rated Good, recognising the step-by-step support that helps learners succeed in the world of work.



Building for the future

Work began on new classrooms, therapy spaces as well as changes to make our facilities more accessible at Learning for Life – part of a £700,000 investment to improve accessibility and expand our campus for learners.



#EnfieldWorks to unlock potential

In June, ECT launched its borough-wide #EnfieldWorks campaign – a shared commitment to create thousands of work opportunities for young people. With nearly 1 in 7 aged 16–24 not in education, employment or training (NEET), the goal is bold and essential.



Our campuses



Dysons Road
174 Dysons Road, Edmonton,
London, N18 2DS

Springfield Road
Springfield Road,
New Southgate,
N11 1SP





Haselbury Campus
Haselbury Road, Edmonton,
London, N9 9TU





Laurel Park School
Wilmer Way,
N14 7HY





St Mary's
Lawrence Road, Edmonton,
London, N18 2HN

Ponders End
219-221 High Street,
Ponders End, Enfield,
EN3 4DX



Key term dates 2025-26

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Monday 1st September
INSET Day – School closed to learners

Tuesday 2nd September
First day of Autumn Term 1 – Learners return to school

Wednesday 8th October
INSET Day – School closed to learners

Wednesday 22nd October
Parent/Carer meetings – School closes at 12.30pm for learners

Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October
Half Term – School closed to learners

Monday 3rd November
First day of Autumn Term 2 – Learners return to school

Friday 28th November
INSET Day – School closed to learners

Monday 1st December
INSET Day – School closed to learners

Friday 19th December
Last day of Autumn Term

Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January 2026
Christmas break – School closed to learners

SPRING TERM 2026

Monday 5th January
First day of Spring Term 1 – Learners return to school

Wednesday 11th February
Parent/Carer meetings – School closes at 12.30pm for learners

Friday 13th February
Last day of Spring Term 1

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February
Half Term – School closed to learners

Monday 23rd February
First day of Spring Term 2 – Learners return to school

Friday 27th March
Last day of Spring Term

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April
Spring break – School closed to learners

SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday 13th April
First day of Summer Term 1 – Learners return to school

Monday 4th May
Bank Holiday – School closed to learners

Friday 22nd May
Last day of Summer Term 1

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May
Half Term – School closed to learners

Monday 1st June
First day of Summer Term 2 – Learners return to school

Wednesday 17th June
Parent/Carer meetings – School closes at 12.30pm for learners

Friday 10th July
Year 11 and 6th Form learners – Last day of Summer Term

Friday 17th July
Reception to Year 10 – Last day of Summer Term

Monday 20th July
INSET Day – School closed to learners

Tuesday 21st July to Monday 31st August
Summer Holiday – School closed to learners



community
kindness
learning for life
innovation **inclusion**