



A running start to the new term!

Dear Parents,

It hardly seems possible that we are already four weeks into the Autumn Term! After what I hope was a restful summer break for all our families, school life is now very much in full swing.

Our pupils have made an excellent start to term, embracing learning, and tackling those first few sporting fixtures of the year. Some of our pupils have been further afield, experiencing trips to London, Salisbury Cathedral, the New Forest. All the details are within the following pages.

Alongside these opportunities, last week we launched our Valor programme of clubs and activities. From sport, drama, music to first-aid, tennis, we hope we have something to engage and inspire every pupil.

This term marks an exciting new chapter in the history of our school. Following their move over the summer holidays, our Prep pupils and staff are now fully settled at Townhill Park. It has been wonderful to see our younger learners enjoying their new surroundings and to witness the growing sense of one united Gregg community across all age groups.

Our Prep pupils were delighted with the cakes and treats that were available on European Day of Languages and their excited cheering on of the seniors during House Cross Country on Friday created even more buzz to a fun afternoon.

I would like to give a warm welcome to all of our new families who have joined our school this year. We are delighted to have you with us and hope that you already feel part of our Gregg School Community.

There is much to look forward to over the months ahead, with trips, sport fixtures, clubs, and community events. Not least among these is our Fireworks Night in November, which promises to be another sparkling occasion for our Gregg families and the general public. Please feel free to invite friends and spread the word.

I hope to see many of you there.

Mrs Sheri Sellers
Headteacher

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Another year and another successful European Day of Languages was celebrated at the Gregg School on Thursday 24th September. We would like to start by saying a massive *thank you* to all of our pupils and families who took part in our celebrations this year. This is an annual event held in order to recognise the diversity of languages spoken in Europe and to promote lifelong language learning. It is a special day for many Modern Foreign Languages Departments across the country and we are extremely proud of our celebrations here at The Gregg School.

This year was the first year that we could also involve our Prep phase pupils and what an exciting break time they had coming to the hall to buy cakes and sweet treats! Some pupils even donated and baked some wonderful entries for this years' House Bake competition and we were so impressed with their entries.

In the lead up to the day, our Year 7 pupils were set the task of creating a poster to advertise our "Euro Café". The Year 7 pupils made some really wonderful, colourful posters which were all used to decorate the hall for our Euro Cafe.

On the day, the cakes that were brought in looked brilliant and also tasted amazing. There were cupcakes with flags, a cake designed to look like the trenches, chocolate dipped waffles, a traditional polish cake, a "pizza" and "Edam cheese" cake, a giant cup of tea cake, to name but a few. We also had a 'Guess the name of the Teddy' competition, of course with the Teddy having a European name, Clement, and guess how many sweets are in the jar, where pupils had to guess in another language. Pupils were surprised to find there were 67 sweets in the jar. We are so delighted to have raised money to support Macmillan Cancer Support and we will of course let you all know of the total raised once this has all been calculated.

Along with the celebrations on the day, Mrs Lay held a virtual assembly to remind pupils of the importance of language learning. We had a European themed Tutor competition, the Year 8 pupils took part in a treasure hunt style activity to find out various facts about European countries and languages.

This day was so valuable in highlighting the importance of recognising and accepting other cultures, traditions and people, as well as learning a language. This, of course, underpins our respect values which we strongly promote here at the Gregg School. This is always such an exiting day at the start of the academic year and we hope all of the pupils enjoyed taking part in these events.



PASSPORT HUNT

As part of our European Day of Languages celebrations, Year 8 students took part in a Passport Hunt around the school. They travelled from "country to country", discovering fascinating facts about different European nations and completing their passports along the way.



EURO CAFE CAKE WINNERS

We would like to say a big thank you to all of the students and parents who contributed cakes and sweet treats to our Euro Cafe today. We are always in awe of the amazing creations that the pupils make and it means so much to us that so many pupils get involved with this event. It has been extremely difficult to judge these cakes as we appreciate all of the effort all pupils go to but we have decided that this years winners are:

1st Henry H for his Manchester City Cake

2nd Place Iona W for her Portuguese Pastel de Nata

3rd Place (joint) Alex for his Italian pizza inspired cake and Charlotte C for her Dutch Edam Cake.



Some special mentions for very close to top three are Rose O'C, Zach S, Alicia C and Luca H

The winners for the prep pupils are:

1st place Billy T

2nd place Seren S



FUTURECHEF



Miss Gibbs is launching the Springboard FutureChef competition to Year 9,10 and 11 pupils.

They should collect an information pack from Miss Gibbs or check out the Firefly task for more details.

Entries should be submitted by the end of Monday 28th September before the School Heat which will take place during our Open Evening on Thursday 8th October.

The local final will be held at The Gregg School at the start of December!

MACMILLIAN COFFEE MORNING

A big thank you to everyone who baked, bought and ate cake on Friday as part of our staff Macmillan Coffee morning. We raised £85, combined with our other events last week, there should be a considerable amount going to this great cause.





PREP NEWS

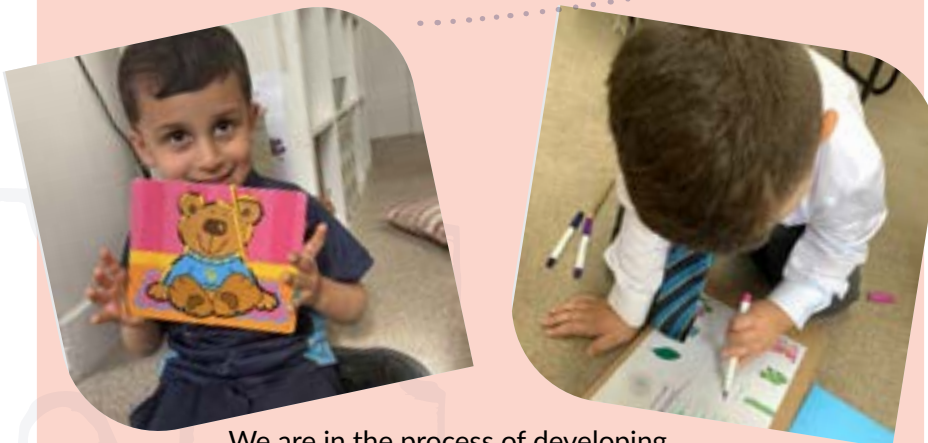
Year R and 1 are delighted to be in our new cottage classrooms and have been making the most of exploring our beautiful 23 acre classroom!

Here we are outside creating self portraits using natural materials and admiring our first den.



We are in the process of developing our outdoor provision and would welcome any old metal saucepans that we could be re-purposed in our outdoor mud kitchen!

And inside doing some 'busy learning'...



We are in the process of developing our outdoor provision and would welcome any old metal saucepans that could be re-purposed in our outdoor mud kitchen!



MEET OUR PETS



Our pet guinea pigs Badger and Sniff will soon be joining us full-time in the garden too. Here they are being given plenty of cuddles on a day visit:





PREP NEWS

To coincide with the Senior School's House Cross Country and Colour Run event, our Prep pupils also took part in their own mini Fun Run and decorated paths to support the Senior pupils with their house Cross country race.



BIRDS OF PREY



On Friday the whole Prep school took part in a bird of Prey workshop.



COLOUR RUN



Following House Cross Country, pupils were treated to one of the most colourful events in the school calendar, our annual Colour Run! With plenty of enthusiasm, energy and, of course, clouds of brightly coloured powder, pupils made their way around the course and emerged looking considerably more colourful than when they started.

Staff enthusiastically embraced their role as paint throwers, making sure that very few pupils escaped without a generous covering of colour! It was a wonderfully fun way to round off our day of fundraising and a fantastic celebration of our Gregg spirit, all while raising over £1,000 for charity.



GREGGFEST

GreggFest, that was held in the summer, began with a simple idea from our member of staff Lisa Edwards, who wanted to give something back after experiencing the incredible support of charities and the NHS during her treatment for cancer.

Thanks to the generosity of our school and local community, we raised £7,000 for the seven fantastic charities.

Last week, representatives from the charities returned to The Gregg School to collect their cheques.

Thank you to our sponsors, performers, volunteers, staff, students and everyone who attended and supported the day.



HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

What an incredible afternoon of racing around the 1.2km cross-country course, with pupils competing in very warm conditions and enjoying a fast course underfoot.

There were some fantastic performances across the afternoon, with all three Houses celebrating individual medallists and each House securing team victories across the different year groups. For the overall House competition, each year-group team earned 30 points for first place, 20 points for second and 10 points for third, making every race important towards the final standings.

The competition was exceptionally close, but Roman House took the overall victory with 220 points, while Spartan and Trojan finished joint second with 190 points each.

A special mention goes to Amber G and Jonny P, both representing Roman House, who recorded the fastest times of the afternoon. Amber was the fastest girl in 4:03 mins, while Jonny recorded the fastest overall time of 3:32 mins.

A brilliant afternoon of House competition, determination and fantastic support. Well done to everyone who took part!

Year 7 Boys

1	Rudy	A
2	Joseph	L
3	Dylan	T

Year 7 Girls

1	Elizabeth	R
2	Lauren	S
3	Emily	PF

Year 8 Boys

1	Jonathan	P
2	William	J
3	Zach	E

Year 8 Girls

1	Seren	T
2	Primrose	H
3	Alice	B

Year 9 Boys

1	Ryan	Jacob
2	Alex	MG
3	Naadir	D

Year 9 Girls

1	Amber	G
2	Anabelle	G
3	Elise	D

Year 10 Boys

1	Charles	DT
2	Finley	C
3	Ardel	F

Year 10 Girls

1	Bonny	K
2	Ava	D
3	Harnet	F

Year 11 Boys

1	Declan	S
2	Archie	L
3	Euan	H

Year 11 Girls

1	Jana	SA
2	Eva	MM
3	Sophia	A



STAFF NEWS

On 19th September, Miss Carter took part in the Monster the Loch Challenge on Loch Ness, rowing alongside competitors from around the world, with some travelling from as far as Australia. Despite 45mph winds forcing organisers to shorten the course, it remained an incredible physical challenge and an unforgettable experience. The conditions were dramatic, with large swells, white horses and frequent downpours, but each spell of rain was often followed by a rainbow, helping to keep spirits high throughout the event.

The challenge brought together a fantastic international rowing community, and Miss Carter's summer of training ensured she was well prepared for the demanding conditions. This was her second major rowing challenge of the year, following the Vogalonga in Venice, where the conditions could not have been more different.

Miss Carter is raising money for Southampton Rowing Club, helping to support opportunities for current and future generations of rowers.

Support the fundraiser [here](#).



GCSE ART & TEXTILES



Our Year 10 GCSE Art and Textiles pupils visited Salisbury Cathedral and Roche Court Sculpture Park, where they explored the contrasts between historic and contemporary art and design.

At Salisbury Cathedral, they looked at the key features of Gothic architecture, studying the cathedral's soaring spires, intricate stonework and impressive stained-glass windows. In contrast, Roche Court provided them with the opportunity to view contemporary art in the form of sculptures.

The trip provided them with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of both traditional and modern artistic practices whilst gathering inspiration for their own creative projects and supporting their GCSE coursework.



GCSE GEOGRAPHY



As part of the geography curriculum, Year 11 are required to complete a piece of coursework. This year, we decided to look at the sustainability of tourism within Lyndhurst.

On Friday 11th September our GCSE Geography cohort set off on a field trip to Lyndhurst to complete their survey. It was an absolutely fantastic day and a lot of useful data was gathered.

Our Year 11 pupils were exceptional; focused on their work and polite. This was seen in the level of maturity shown in speaking to member of the public and shop owners when asking questionnaires as well as completing vital data gathering in the field. They will now spend the next half term writing up their findings.



FORENSICS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY

On Wednesday 16th September, a group of Year 8-11 HPL and Excellence pupils travelled to London for a workshop at the prestigious Royal Institution of Science in London. Here, amongst the greats of Science, where no less than ten elements of the periodic table were first discovered, and where the electric motor, steam engine and Faraday Cage were invented, our pupils took part in a workshop on forensics with PHD scientists Ruadh and Jess.

The session was centred around a murder mystery, focusing on the forensic science aspect of a police investigation. Our pupils, using concepts and techniques at university grade, collected DNA samples from the five suspects and went through the real life and painstaking laboratory process that forensic experts use to support a conviction against a prime suspect.

From the preparation of agar jelly to the use of micro pipettes, the pupils from years 8-11 spent four hours going through each stage of the DNA profiling process, leading each group to successfully compare the samples to the DNA found at the crime scene.

The group had a wonderful day questioning the experts and learning more about the forensic investigation process- and they especially enjoyed riding on the London Underground to get to the venue!



STUDENT HELPERS OPEN DAY

Our annual Open Evening will be taking place on **Thursday 8th October.**

We would be delighted if our senior pupils would like to help run activities and be general helpers for the evening. If your child would like to help, please complete the Pupil Helper form on firefly before the 1st October.

Please note that school will be finishing at 12.55 on 8th October.

Helpers will need to return to school for 4.15 pm.



PHYSICS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY

The Excellence and Science HPL pupil trip to London was the second visit to the Royal Institution for science in as many weeks. This time around, students in Years 7-9 attended a workshop about crash testing, focused on vehicle safety and the forces that can act on us in the event of a car crash. Using video examples and a selection of building materials, our pupils were able to learn more about ways that structures can be designed to improve our chance of survival in the event of an accident. Eventually, the pupils were given the chance to build their own crash test car to see if they could design it in a way to preserve their passenger, in this case, a Pringle crisp!



Year 8 pupil Bernard T-M wrote this review of the day:

"I really enjoyed the Crash Testing workshop on the 23rd of September 2026 at the Royal Institution of Science in London. I think it was an incredible opportunity to experience and learn about something that we would possibly not cover in the same way in science lessons to the same degree of depth. I think that the hands on approach is significantly more fun and educational than simply learning from a textbook or researching online. Learning about forces and motion, how to improve transport safety, and building our own crash test car was really good fun. The crashes were entertaining to watch and I learned a lot from actually watching how the cars crashed. The slow motion replay was satisfying to watch. As for the staff at the Royal Institution, they were friendly and informative, and we learned a lot from them!"



YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY



In Geography lessons, Year 8 have been learning about ecosystems. We started the topic focusing on food chains, specifically producers consumers and decomposers.

We were able to get out into the school grounds to apply learnt knowledge to real-life examples. Students then looked at biotic and abiotic factors within food chains giving examples within the sundial lawn.



INTRODUCING OUR HOUSE CAPTAINS

We are delighted to introduce this year's House Captains for Roman, Spartan and Trojan Houses.

Our House Captains play an important role in school life, helping to lead their Houses, encourage pupil participation across a wide range of competitions, events and fundraising activities throughout the year.

Roman House

Henry C, Harry K, Louise M, Layla K, Amber G, Annabelle G, Rose O'C, Kim S, Tam L and Luca I



Spartan House

Jack B, Sam H, Lexie P, Lilly P, Joseph G, Ryan J, Amelie M, Jai N, Connie P and Amy R



Trojan House

Khosi R-V, Sophia A, Jana S-A, Declan S, Elise B, Lucia E, Charlie G, Charlotte C, Cerys C and Darcey A



We look forward to seeing our House Captains lead by example, inspire their teams and bring plenty of House spirit throughout the year.

Good luck to all of our House Captains - we look forward to an exciting year ahead!



REVIEW RSE POLICY



We are currently reviewing our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy.

As part of this review, we would like to gather feedback from our parent community on the updated policy.

An email will be sent once the policy is ready to be shared, and we would greatly appreciate you taking a few moments to read it and provide your thoughts. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us ensure the policy reflects the needs of pupils and the school.

VALOR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

See Firefly for times.



Monday Lunch – Orchestra – woodwind, brass, strings, drums/percussion and piano (to play tuned percussion)

Tuesday Lunch – Jazz Band – woodwind, brass, guitar, bass guitar, double bass, drums, singing.



Wednesday Lunch – Choir – boys & girls from any year group, singing a mix of pop, musical theatre, and traditional songs.



Thursday after school - Keyboard Club – improve your keyboard skills with a teacher's guidance, or come along and make your own music Logic Pro.

Friday Lunch – Rock Band – Singing, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drums, Piano.



INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

30 minutes per week individual tuition. Taken place during school time.

- Drama
- Singing – classical, pop, musical theatre
- Piano – pop, classical, jazz
- Guitar – electric, classical
- Bass Guitar
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Flute
- Oboe
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba
- Viola
- Violin
- Cello
- Double Bass



GYM CLUB

Our Gym and Weights club has started again for the Autumn term. The club proved to be very popular last year so signing up is essential.

If you would like to join, please see Miss Turnbull or email atu@thegreggschools.org



THEATRE TRIPS



Following the success of last year's Gregg Family theatre trips, we are delighted to announce this year's exciting programme of productions.

These trips provide a wonderful opportunity for students, families and staff to enjoy the magic of the theatre together. Whether you're an experienced theatre-goer or looking forward to your first visit, we hope there will be a production that captures your imagination.

Please note that all performances take place outside of school hours and places must be booked directly through Mrs Azor. Full details, including dates, ticket prices and booking information, will be sent home in a letter over the coming days. We encourage families to look out for the information and book early, as places are likely to be popular.

Operation Mincemeat, Tuesday 17th November, Yr 7-11 Student Trip
of particular interest, due to Townhill Park House's link to the real-life Operation Mincemeat. Students will meet at the theatre.

Robin Hood, Wednesday 16th December, Yr 6-11 Student and Family

Mean Girls, Thursday 14th January, Yr 7-11 Student Trip

Annie, Tuesday 26th January, Yr 6-11 Student and Family

Mrs Doubtfire, Tuesday 9th February, Yr 7-11 Student and Family

Hadestown, Wednesday 28th April, Yr 7-11 Student Trip

Everybody's Talking About Jamie, Yr 9-11 Student Trip

The Curious Incident of The Dog In The Nighttime, Thursday 13th May, Yr 7-11 Student Trip

Back To The Future, Tuesday 15th June, Yr 7-11 Student and Family

Grease, Tuesday 13th July 7:30pm, Yr 7-11 Student and Family

More details can be found on Firefly.



SCHOOL PLAY

We are excited to announce that this year's annual school production will be High School Musical!

Auditions took place this week and we will be announcing parts soon.

Over the coming months, the cast and crew will be busy learning lines, rehearsing songs and helping to design the sets.

Their hard work will culminate in a 2 night performance at the Winchester Theatre Royal in 2027. We look forward to sharing their progress with you.



CRICKET DISTRICT FINAL



Our cricketers played in the District Cricket Final on Friday, finishing as runners-up for the second year in a row.

An incredible effort from the whole team, with everyone making valuable contributions on the day.

A special mention to Lizzy and Zach, who both scored their first runs and to Alex, our Player of the Match, for a superb spell of bowling.

NETBALL

Our Year 10 Netball Team had their first fixture of the season, competing very well against some strong Year 11 sides in the Southampton Schools District competition.



SWIMMING

Our swimmers produced some fantastic performances at the Hampshire Schools and Colleges Swimming Relays.

The Inter Girls team, Kim S, India N-J, Kaelin W, Emilia I and Louise M, competed in both the Freestyle and Medley relays.

In the Freestyle Relay, they finished an impressive 6th out of 15 teams, recording a time of 2:13.

The girls then produced an even stronger performance in the Medley Relay, narrowly missing out on a medal with a fantastic 4th-place finish in a time of 2:25.

Our Senior Mixed team also enjoyed an outstanding competition, recording the second-fastest times in both the Freestyle and Medley relays. A fantastic achievement against such a large and competitive field.

Congratulations to Noah H, Charles DT, Lucia E and Lottie PL, who represented The Gregg School in the Year 11-13 Mixed Relay category. Despite racing against much older students, the team produced two superb performances, recording the second-fastest times of the day in both the Freestyle Relay (1:57.65) and Medley Relay (2:11.58).

A huge well done to all of our swimmers for their effort, determination and teamwork. They represented The Gregg School brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of their performances in the pool!



FOOTBALL



Senior girls made an impressive debut in division one well with a 5-0 win. Captain Amelie W led the side superbly with new editions to the team, Annie G, Amber G, Asya C and Flo P, playing really well in their first game. Well done team!

TENNIS CLUB



Tennis Club has enjoyed a positive start to the term, with 15 students attending. Students have been developing their racket skills through a range of drills and competitive games.

It has been encouraging to see students of all abilities participating with enthusiasm and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship.

Please sign up with Mr Cluett if you wish to attend, as this club is in high demand. If you are unable to attend a session, please inform Mr Cluett as soon as possible so that your place can be offered to a student on the reserve list.



SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY



Our series of inter-school cross country races started this week with a great effort from our Squad. Amber came 2nd, Anabelle 7th and Elsie 11th. Our boys had an equally good race with Harrison leading the boys team, followed by Alex R, Max S and Harry K all making their debut as part of the team.

If you would like to join them next week please see Mrs Brenton in the PE department. Races take place on a Wednesday after school.

PUPILS NEWS

Alexander M-G travelled to Sweden this summer to play in the Gothia Cup, where he represented Phoenix Football Academy in one of the world's largest youth football tournaments.

Competing in an age group featuring 176 teams, Alex's team delivered an impressive campaign, winning their group with victories over teams from Tunisia, Sweden and Germany before progressing through the knock-out stages. Their remarkable run included wins against sides from Sweden, Brazil and Greece, eventually reaching the quarter-finals, where they narrowly lost 1-0 to a team from Mexico City.

Alex played a key role throughout the tournament, finishing as joint top scorer with seven goals.

Congratulations to Alex on this fantastic achievement and international football success.



Over the summer Year 11 pupil **Marty S** helped his Hamble Sea Scouts crew achieve outstanding success in this year's Great River Race, often described as London's River Marathon.

The prestigious race covers 21.6 miles along the River Thames, stretching from Millwall in the Docklands to Ham in Richmond and passing beneath 28 bridges.

This was Marty's third year of taking part in the race with the Hamble Sea Scouts. The team of six consisted of four rowers, a cox and a passenger. They faced particularly challenging conditions, rowing against a strong headwind.

Having already won the Under-16 category last year, the crew returned to defend their title and succeeded in winning both the Under-16 category and the Scout Trophy, an impressive achievement against strong competition.

Congratulations to Marty and the entire Hamble Sea Scouts crew on this fantastic accomplishment!



BMX SUCCESS

James W had a busy summer of racing coming first at the KWD BMX Club Race in the Open Under 14 category and making it to the finals of the South Regional race. His great results and accumulated points have helped to push his BMX Club to 7th in the South Regional Rankings.





Autumn is calling and so is our Open Evening

Thursday 8th October 2026 | 4.30pm-7pm

Please let your families and friends know that our Open Evening is just a few weeks away. It is the perfect opportunity for them to visit us and see how The Gregg School can help their child thrive at every stage; from Reception through to GCSE.

- Talk by Mrs Sheri Sellers, Headteacher
- Tour our spacious campus
- Discover more about our approach to education
- Explore our 23 acres of beautiful woodland and grounds

If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending, please forward this [link to them](#).

The Gregg Fireworks Night 2026

Join us for another spectacular evening of fireworks, family fun and delicious food at Townhill Park House!

Wednesday 4 November

Gate open for pedestrians: 5:15pm

Firework display starts: 6:30pm

What to expect:

A fantastic 10-minute display by Pains Fireworks

Burgers, bagels, churros and hot drinks



Important Parking Information:

Parking is available only for visitors who have purchased a pre-paid parking ticket. Please ensure you are on site by 6:30pm. Vehicles without a valid pre-paid parking ticket will not be admitted.

Please note that the roads surrounding the school are residential and no parking is available in these areas. Alternative parking is available at Haskins.

Gather your family and friends, wrap up warm, and enjoy an unforgettable fireworks spectacular as we light up the night sky!

Ticket Prices: Adults: £10, Children (5-15): £7.50, Under 5s: FREE, Over 65s: FREE

Parking: £5 (pre-paid only)

Get your tickets here: <https://bit.ly/4jajt01>

COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS

Brokenhurst College 30th September
Open Evening 5-8 pm

Peter Symonds College 30th Sep and 1st Oct
Open Evening 5.30-8.30pm

Sparsholt College 3rd October
Open Day 4.30-8.15pm

Itchen College 8 and 10th October
Open Evening 5-8pm
Open Day 10am-1pm

Eastleigh College 13th October
Open Evening 5-7pm

Taunton College 14th October
Open Evening 6-8pm

Fareham College 15th October
Open Evening 5-7pm

KES Sixth Form 15th October
Open Afternoon

Brokenhurst College 17th October
Open Morning 9am-12pm

Southampton College 21st October
Open Evening 5-7pm

KEY DATES AT SCHOOL

Saturday 26th September
Year 6 Activities Morning

Thursday 1st October
Year 7 Information Evening

Wednesday 7th October
Flu vaccine (Senior School)

Thursday 8th October
Early Finish 12.55
Open Evening

Wednesday 14th October
WB Studio Tour

14th - 17th October
Creative Arts and MFL Trip
Barcelona

Thursday 15th October
Year 9 Information Evening

19th - 30th October
Half Term

Wednesday 4th November
Fireworks Night

Thursday 12th November
FROGS Meeting 7-8pm

Monday 16th November
Charity Day - Odd socks

Tuesday 24th November
Open Morning

Thursday 3rd December
Winter Concert

Saturday 5th December
Christmas Fayre

Sunday 6th December
Santa Fun Run in Winchester

Thursday 10th December
Pantomime Yr 7& 8

Friday 11th December
House Quiz
End of Term 12.55 Finish



We hope to see you at our FROGS AGM!