

# HEAD'S HERALD

HIGH EXPECTATIONS | HIGH ASPIRATIONS | HIGH STANDARDS | YOU WILL SUCCEED

## **VOLUME 10    DATE 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

Dear Parents/Carers

We had a wonderful start to the week with our amazing Remembrance Service, led by School Chaplain Mike Wildsmith and attended by some of the schools' former student 'Old Boys'. Current students who are cadets wore their uniforms.

The service included performances from students, leading to a 2 minute silence at 11:00. The school poppy dress, made from over 900 individual poppies made by students across all year groups, again made an appearance being worn by Year 10 student Alex Jones. Alex also sang a solo, 'Not About Angels.' The front of the stage was decorated with poppies with words of thanks – every student in our school community had written one.

As the Boteler Family, we experienced the profound power of remembrance. It is vital that our young people experience reflection within a service and understand the impact that war and conflicts have on society. As we shared stories and acknowledged sacrifices, we instil the importance of understanding the past. The level of respect shown in the service and around school really does demonstrate our Christian values of Hope, Compassion and Endurance. To be able to come together to remember and reflect is very powerful.

Many thanks again for being so compliant and understanding regarding the jewellery rules. I appreciate that inconveniences you by having to pick up the items confiscated. However, we have had very few instances of jewellery and so the sanction seems to have worked. I am confident that this is also because you have reiterated your inconvenience to students at home too. It is always great when we work so well together so thank you.

I just want to bring to your attention to some concerns over piercings. I appreciate that this is only relevant to a few of you, however, I am always transparent in my communications so that people can see I am being fair. We have had a spate of young people getting their ears and noses pierced in term time. Whilst they look lovely and I have no personal issues against piercings, I am very clear that they are not allowed to be worn in school. This is not a new rule and has been in place since 2014. I regularly communicate to you all that all piercings are to be done at the start of the school holidays, so they have time to heal, as they are not allowed in school.

Unfortunately, some young people think that they are exempt from this rule and they are not. By deciding to come to Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School you are agreeing to our rules. Currently if a child has a piercing, they lose their break and lunchtime until they can remove it and they have to wear coverings over the piercing. The reason I initially made this decision is because I did not want them not to be missing any learning. However, I am concerned this actually undermines the rules and the very values of fairness, because they are in lessons with the piercings in.

Therefore, going forward if a young person comes to school with a piercing and refuses to take it out for any reason, they will be isolated immediately and parents/carers will be asked to come in for a meeting that day where possible. They will remain in isolation until the meeting can be held. Ultimately the young person will then have to remove the piercing, regardless of when it was done, as these are the rules. If the piercing is removed after the meeting, then everything returns to normal and no sanctions are needed.

We may well introduce isolating the young person further depending on the case and this may take place at another school as a form of off-site direction, this of course is dependent on the level of defiance. Also, by refusing to follow the rules and refusing to take the piercing out, this would mean unfortunately they may not be able to access any of the rewards events or trips at the end of the term/year.

Clear earrings or nose studs are also not allowed, just to avoid any confusion.

I really do appreciate your support with this.

Kind regards

Beverley Scott-Herron  
**Headteacher**



## **Year 11 Mock Exams**

A reminder that the Year 11 written Mock Exams start on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November and will run for two weeks.

Mr Koltan met with Year 11 in assembly on Monday, explaining our expectations and how the exams will run.

### **The key information was:**

- Students need to be on time.
- Students need to sit in their allocated seat. All students have been given their personalised Mock Exam Timetable which has their row and seat number on it. Mr Koltan showed an example of this in assembly.
- Students should have their timetable with them for every exam, so they know where to sit. Students are not expected to memorise their row and seat number.
- Students need to be in the canteen at 08.45 for morning (am) exams. Students to register with their form tutor first as normal.
- Students need to be in the canteen at 12.55 for afternoon (pm) exams. SLT will clear the canteen so that the afternoon exams can start promptly.
- Calculators and equipment (black pen needed) must be brought in for all exams.
- Mobile phones must be handed in or switched off and in and placed in bags/coat at the back of the Ball Hall.
- Pockets must be empty. No papers, sweets, makeup etc.

No toilet breaks unless a toilet pass is shown.

Full uniform must be worn.

**YEAR 11– MOCK TIMETABLE NOV/DEC 2024**

WEEK	Date	Morning 08.55	Break 10.55	Morning 11.15am	Early Lunch 12.15	Afternoon 13.00
1	Mon 18 Nov	ENGLISH LANGUAGE Paper 1 1 hour 45				GEOGRAPHY Paper 1/2 1 hour 30
	Tues 19 Nov	MATHS Paper 1 Non Calc 1 hour 30				HISTORY Paper 1 1 hour 15
	Weds 20 Nov	DT/GRAPHICS 2 hours				BIOLOGY Paper 1 1 hour 15/ 1 hour 45
	Thurs 21 Nov	RELIGIOUS STUDIES Paper 1 1 hour 45				FRENCH/SPANISH Writing 1 hour 15/ 1 hour
		Morning 08.55	Break 11.10	Morning 11.25	Early Lunch 12.25	Afternoon 13.00
	Fri 22 Nov	SPANISH Listening & Reading 35/45 mins/ 45 mins/ 1 hour		GEOGRAPHY Paper 3 45 mins		HOSPITALITY 1 hour 20

WEEK	Date	Morning 8.55	Break 10.55	Morning 11.15am	Early Lunch 12.15	Afternoon 13.00
2	Mon 25 Nov	ENGLISH LANGUAGE Paper 2 1 hour 45				CHEMISTRY Paper 1 1 hour 15/ 1 hour 45
	Tues 26 Nov	MATHS Paper 2 Calc 1 hour 30				HISTORY Paper 2 1 hour 45
	Weds 27 Nov	PHYSICS Paper 1 1 hour 15/ 1 hour 45				French Reading and listening 35 mins/ 45 mins
	Thurs 28 Nov	COMP SCIENCE PAPER 1 2 Hours		RELIGIOUS STUDIES Paper 2 50 mins		ENGLISH LITERATURE 1 hour
		Morning 08.55	Break 11.10	Morning 11.25	Early Lunch 12.25	Afternoon 13.00
	Fri 29 Nov	MATHS Paper 3 Calc 1 hour 30				HISTORY paper 3 1 hour 20

WEEK	Date	Morning 8.55	Break 10.55	Morning 11.15am	Lunch 13.15	Afternoon 14.00
1	Mon 2 Dec	COMP SCIENCE PAPER 2 1 hour 45		SPORT 1 hour 15		MUSIC Listening 1 hour

# Dealing with Exam Stress and Anxiety



Mock exams can be a challenging part of Year 11, it sometimes brings up feelings of anxiety and stress for our students. During this time, we will be hosting 'exam stress drop-ins' to offer advice and strategies on how best to manage these feelings. We will be exploring and normalising the feelings that may bubble up when completing an important exam.

Students can also come to discuss unexpected difficulties that may arise, or offload worries and feelings about their exams.

**What:** Exam Stress Drop-ins

**When:** Friday lunch times (From Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December)

**Where:** Room 23

## Attendance at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School

You will be aware of our continued drive to ensure all students have high levels of attendance and the communication regarding this is regular.

The half term in the lead up towards Christmas can be testing, with schools often seeing a rise in the number of students absent for illness and unauthorised absence. We will continue to be here to support our students and families and we ask for daily communication when concerns arise. You can find our school Attendance Policy and Attendance Booklet by visiting the school website or by clicking here: [Attendance – Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School](#)

Our Attendance Booklet (<https://t.ly/5nfKw>) is a recent addition to the website and provides key information regarding:

- Whether to keep your child off school or not
- Advice and guidance for parents/carers
- What to do if your child refuses to attend school
- Reporting absence
- The impact of poor punctuality
- Legal requirements
- Key staff who can support you and your child

We have had some parent's question their child's attendance headline figure and we have again had to stress the importance of good punctuality and the Government introduction of the U code – arriving late 30 minutes after the register has closed.

**'Please note that a U code is classified for statistical purposes as unauthorised absence, where this may lead to more formal attendance procedures being put in place'.**

Students have been reminded about the Christmas rewards and recognition plans and we ask students to reflect on their own performance:

- Do you have a positive aggregate of conduct points?  
(House Points minus Behaviour Points?)
- Do you have 96% + for half-term 2? (Fresh start for all students.  
Attendance of 96% = 1 entry, 98% = 3 entries and 100% = 5 entries)

...Then you could win one of the following prizes:

- Amazon Fire HD tablet
- Bluetooth Wireless Earbuds worth £89.99
- Uefa Champions League Football
- A fancy Chrome Trim Parker Pen
- £20 cinema voucher
- £10 ASOS voucher

....and more.



Don't forget to track your child's attendance, punctuality and House Points via the Arbor App.



## **Food hamper support for families**

MCKS Charitable Foundation UK (MCKS) continues to provide schools across the country with support for their most vulnerable students and families, by donating food, toiletries, and much needed sanitary supplies.

Due to their amazing sponsors and donations, we have continued to receive a fortnightly delivery, where we have been supporting a number of families. We recognise that times are tough at the moment, and with the support of MCKS, we have gone a small way to help families at this challenging time.

We know that it can be hard to ask for support at times, however, we really encourage those who are in need of support at this time, particularly in the lead up to Christmas. Simply contact your child's Head of Year or Mr Leonard ([jleonard@boteler.org.uk](mailto:jleonard@boteler.org.uk)) and all requests for support will be treated sensitively.

A big thank you to MCKS.



## **Personal Development - Mrs A Mawby**

Students from Year 10 went to the Warrington Youth Zone Careers Fair hosted by The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge this Wednesday. There were over 60 employers, colleges and universities there. Students gathered information regarding their future careers.

Year 7 and 10 students will all be completing a Health and Wellbeing questionnaire from Warrington Borough Council this week. This is an annual questionnaire and is completed in their Personal Development lesson.

Year 10 students are taking part in a pilot study for Cheshire police on 'Consent' in line with the RSE policy.

## **Post 16 (Careers)**

We are launching our new Careers platform, Xello over the next few weeks during our tutor programme, INSPIRE.

Xello is an engaging online program that helps students build the skills, knowledge and plans to be future ready. The program uses an investigative, discovery-based learning process. Students better understand themselves, their future career options, and the 21st century skills they'll need to succeed. Here's how it works...

With Xello, your child will:

### **Build Self-knowledge**

Define their interests, skills, preferences, and aspirations so they can explore the opportunities that are right for them.

### **Explore Options**

Learn about career possibilities and educational pathways by exploring rich, engaging content and lessons.

### **Create a Plan**

Your child can create dynamic actionable plans that outline the steps needed to achieve school, career, and life goals.

### **Learn & Reassess**

Interactive lessons help your child develop age-appropriate skills and knowledge for success in school and beyond

### **Parent Involvement**

You're encouraged to explore Xello with your child by logging in together. Your child can log in to his or her account via desktop or mobile device to share what they've learned about themselves, the world of work, and their future options.



## **Safe and Secure Environment**

Xello takes data protection and privacy very seriously.

Xello complies with European Union and UK GDPR legislation requirements for data security and privacy. That means advertising is not displayed within Xello, nor is data used for commercial purposes.

You can learn more about Xello and the student experience by visiting [CEIAG Software that Inspires Students | Xello](#)

We hope you're just as excited as we are about this new online program and making every student future ready.

## **Parents Supporting Boteler**

Our Student Christmas Fayre will be taking place in the school hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 15:00 – 17:00. All our students are invited and everything will be under £1.

During the week before raffle tickets will be on sale to win various hampers and a huge teddy.

## SEND Open Evening

Willow Green are a specialist 16-25 provision in Warrington, offering a range of educational courses, including both Pre-Supported and Supported Internship programmes, to young adults with a range of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

They are holding an Open Evening event on Tuesday, 19th November, from 5-7pm. This event is open to any students with an EHCP, who may want to consider Willow Green for their future educational requirements.



Join us for an informative evening. Meet our dedicated staff, explore our facilities, and get a glimpse of the curriculum we offer.



Tuesday 19th November 2024



At 17:00-19:00



St Werburgh's Development Centre  
Irwell Road  
Warrington  
WA4 6DQ

**Call/Email to book your place**



01925 698519



[info@willowgreencio.co.uk](mailto:info@willowgreencio.co.uk)



Willow Green

# PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

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A reminder that our second parent forum of the year is on Arbor and Homework Support through SAM Learning. Taking place on Thursday, 28th November at 18:00 in the Main Hall, this session will highlight the benefits of the Arbor Parent App and ways in which engaging with your child's homework can positively impact their progress and learning experience.

## **Why Engage with Homework?**

Research shows that parental engagement with a student's homework is closely linked to greater academic achievement. By understanding the tools and assignments your child is using, you can help them establish effective study habits, manage time efficiently and approach tasks with confidence. Small actions, like checking assignments, discussing topics and encouraging consistent study routines can make a significant difference in their success.

## **Arbor: Strengthening School-Parent Communication**

Arbor, our school to parent communication app, is an invaluable tool for staying informed about your child's progress and upcoming events taking place at school. By engaging with Arbor, you'll have real-time access to important updates, which can help you better support your child at home. During the session, we'll guide you through the effective use of Arbor, so you can easily track and manage school communications and stay connected with your child's progress.

Refreshments will be provided, including tea, coffee and cake, to make the evening relaxed and enjoyable.

To confirm your attendance, please click on the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/PHvRDXkYg4>

## **Collective Worship**

This week as part of Collective Worship, students have been focusing on our new theme for this term: Thankfulness. Ahead of the Remembrance Service all students were invited to offer their thanks for the freedoms we have in our country today. Students offered a variety of thoughtful responses including being thankful for their own families, our school family and the wider community. Students also gave thanks for the dedication and service of our armed forces and the emergency and health services. They wrote these reflections onto poppies and postage labels which are displayed in the school hall and formed part of our Remembrance Service on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. In our school library we have permanent memorials to past students and staff who were tragically killed in conflict so November is an important time for our school community as we honour together the sacrifice made by those in the armed forces in the many wars, but particularly the two Great wars. Our Ethos Council and Worship Ambassadors led the readings and prayers during the Remembrance Service and represented the school with pride. Our scripture for this week is from Matthew 24:42:

**“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”**

As we approach advent, we are all invited to prepare for the arrival of Jesus into our lives. Please keep up to date with our weekly prayer and scripture via social media.

## **Drama – KS3 Footwear**

Please ensure that students are bringing in alternative footwear for Drama lessons. Now that the winter months are here outdoor shoes are bringing in mud, dust, stones etc. and making the environment for practical work tricky. Suitable changes of footwear can be clean trainers, clogs, grip socks, slip ons, pumps. They must have a non-slip sole for Health & Safety reasons.

## **Student’s Charity Run**



Head of Veritas House, Connor Rothwell, is raising money for The Alzheimer's Society in memory of a close family member.

Connor is running 80 miles over the coming weeks, and personally chose the Alzheimer's Society as Veritas' charity focus.

## Explore STEM Activities

Late October saw the start of a wonderful year of Stem activities for our students. Students are encouraged to take part in these extracurricular activities where they can experience wonderful thought-provoking activities to enhance their experience of the wider world (and beyond) whilst adding another spear to their learning.

Researchers from Oxford University planned and delivered 3 topics to our students. Year 7 and 8 students learnt all about the wonderful world of plants, how they adapt to our world in a wide variety of conditions. This then led to looking at conditions on planets in our solar system with the question, could plants grow on different planets and what would they need to grow. Could it be done?

Year 9 students took the space theme to a different level with the help of astrobiologists. Here they examined planets today and also conditions that existed millions of years ago in our solar system. Looking at the proposal is life possible or did it ever exist in the distant past. What conditions are needed to support life and allow evolution to proceed.

Year 10 students explored the horrendous world on natural disasters, an area which is becoming more and more relevant with the climate crisis we are all in. They explored different types such as famine, drought, flooding, earthquakes and hurricanes. Looking at the science behind the events and how they effect the area and the population caught up in such event. They then explored different ways of constructing earthquake resistant buildings, where they built a structure and tested it on an earthquake simulator.

The science department is now looking forward to more STEM events from Oxplore and many other organisations in the new exciting year.





**SIR THOMAS  
BOTELER**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL  
THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

# DANCING IN DECEMBER

SHOWCASING A VARIETY OF YEAR GROUPS AND DANCE STYLES  
FROM ACROSS THE DECADES - INCLUDING CHRISTMAS SONGS!



**12TH DECEMBER 2024 18:00**

**AT SIR THOMAS BOTELER CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

WILL INCLUDE SHORT INTERVAL WITH REFRESHMENTS SERVED BY THE PSB  
£2 PER TICKET - TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE MAIN SCHOOL OFFICE



Appleton Thorn Primary PTA  
warmly welcome you to our

# COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S MARKET

Sun 17th Nov 2024

10am- 2pm £2 entry (kids free)  
Appleton Thorn Primary School

A festive shopping experience with over 30  
preloved, boutique and handmade stalls.

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Delicious homemade cakes  
and savories in our community cafe.

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Christmas floral demonstrations

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Plus, fabulous raffle prizes, including:  
A Bollinger champagne and flutes gift set  
A sleepover for two from Best Sleepover Ever,  
Soft play hire from Cheshire Soft Play,  
Vouchers from The Bodhi Club,  
Activity for All, The Village Gym and M\*Jay's.  
A veggie box from Groobarbs,  
flowers, a hamper and more...

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