

Yateley School Parents' Bulletin

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admin@yateley.hants.sch.uk



School Lane, Yateley GU46 6NW



(01252) 879222

Learning Together – Empowered for Life

Dear Parents and carers,

If I were to have known a year ago what the forthcoming year would bring, let alone the last seven weeks, I really would have thought it was April Fools' Day! Yet, in the last term we've administered over 6000 lateral flow tests, run an entire exam series for Years 11 and 13, brought everyone back into the building and learning together again safely. I am hugely impressed and proud of the determination and resilience of the whole school community – staff, students and parents. There's still some way to go, but some very obvious light at the end of the tunnel. People will need these Easter holidays for a variety of reasons, but in all cases – well deserved!



I should point out that there are some lessons coming out of the last year though that we would be unwise to ignore. The harnessing of digital technology is a must in lessons and it is vital that we keep up momentum with the use of BYOD technology in lessons and at home. This is a part of our work which can only grow in importance, so do please keep supporting by making sure that your child keeps their device charged and brings it into school every day. Following overwhelming parent support, we will be retaining the online parents' evening

system into next year. Clearly the lure of having appointments on time from the comfort of home is attractive, so the days of lengthy queues in a draughty school hall are over. That said, if a longer conversation is required with a member of staff, I should stress that this is absolutely a priority and these can be via phone, video call, or face to face meeting. The final point on this that I'd like to make is about the longer lessons. Support has been overwhelming from students and staff for retaining the double lessons into the next academic year – as in the majority of cases it has been so much easier to really explore topics properly, concentrate for extended periods and enjoy more challenging practical work. It is not perfect, but is certainly preferred and it dramatically reduces wasted movement time between lessons around the school site. The longer term plan is to explore even more effective timetable permutations, but that is not for September 2021.

Uniform – update from Mr Keeble and the pastoral team

We are aware that it has sometimes been difficult for parents/carers to source the correct school shoes due to shops being closed, however from 12th April this will no longer be the case. Therefore, as from Monday 19th April we are expecting ALL students to be in the correct school uniform (unless we have written medical professional reasons giving permission otherwise). Students will be checked on a daily basis as they enter school site and also during the school day. This will be either by tutors, Heads of House or members of the senior leadership team.

Any student that is not meeting the school's uniform expectations will be issued a school detention on a daily basis from 19th April until the issue is resolved (unless of course there is professional medical reason to support the difference in uniform). Items like Bluetooth earphones, mobile phones being out, incorrect jewellery and hoodies will be confiscated and will require parents to come and collect from main reception. Students should also be equipped for their learning each day (BYOD, books, pencil case with correct items, etc).

As from Tuesday 4th May (following the May Day Bank Holiday) students will be allowed to wear the summer uniform.

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We appreciate all parents and carers in supporting us with this. Some brief reminders of the expectations are:

- [CLICK HERE](#) – Full uniform policy and guidance
- **Shoes** = Black, polishable, formal, low heel, plain, traditional style (no logos, trainers, boots, canvas or similar styled shoes like Vans and Converse)
- **Jewellery** = No jewellery is allowed except a wristwatch; a single small plain stud in each ear. No other visible piercings, no spacers
- **Skirt length** = Standard school uniform stitch down box pleated style at least 18 inches in length, no jersey or pencil skirts. The skirt should be knee length and (allowing for growth) never less than 4 inches (10 cm) above the knee.
- **Coat** = Denim jackets, “hoodies”, tracksuit tops, body warmers are not allowed. An outdoor coat with sleeves in a plain, dark colour. No obvious badges or slogans
- **Bluetooth earphones and mobile phones** = These are not allowed to be used or seen during the school day (unless permission is given by a teacher).

Year 7 to 11 Tutor Time Return – Term 5

It is important we begin to slowly re-introduce tutor time to allow tutors to see their tutees (get to know them as individuals; begin to develop house and tutor group identity, ethos and belonging; addressing concerns with attendance and behaviour; congratulating on the positives, etc).

To begin with, we are only going to re-introduce tutor time on Mondays for Term 5 with a view to having tutor time every day in Term 6. For assemblies, the Heads of House will be issuing a couple of video house assemblies during Term 5 to the students and there are no planned year assemblies at the moment. We hope to look to have some form of physical assemblies in Term 6.

Week Beginning	Monday <i>AM tutor time</i>	Tuesday to Friday <i>Morning mustering and no tutor time</i>
19 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 entrance points (7 & 9 = B Block Main Gates; 8 & 11 = A Block Main Gates; 10 = Bus Bay Gates) - Staggered start times (7 = 08.35; 8 = 08.40; 9 = 08.45; 10 = 08.50; 11 = 08.55) - Sent direct to tutor in tutor room by SLT (<i>all wearing masks</i>) - Tutor time focus on getting to know everyone - All students sent at 09.20 to P1 & 2 (<i>all wearing masks</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No tutor time - 3 entrance points (7 & 9 = B Block Main Gates; 8 & 11 = A Block Main Gates; 10 = Bus Bay Gates) - Staggered start times (7 = 08.35; 8 = 08.40; 9 = 08.45; 10 = 08.50; 11 = 08.55) with collection from muster points by P1 and 2 teacher
26 th April	<i>All as previous week but:</i>	SLT and HOH at morning muster points doing checks (equipment, uniform, lateness, etc). Address issues with individuals and issue suitable sanctions and follow-up.
3 rd May <i>BH - Mon</i>	- 08.35 arrival time for all 7 to 11 with a 08.45 tutor start time	
10 th May	- Focus on tutor dashboard and actions	
17 th May	- All students sent at 09.05 to P1 & 2 (<i>all wearing masks</i>)	
24 th May	Mon 3 rd May = Bank Holiday	

The plans will of course be reviewed and evolved as required on a regular basis and we will follow closely the advice and guidance from the DfE and government announcements.

The plans for Term 5 are:

If you would like to remind your child of their tutor room location, then all details of tutors and rooms can be found – [CLICK HERE](#)

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We will also send out a school communication to all parents and students on Sunday 18th April to remind about the details for Monday 19th April.

Sixth Form Update

Things have been very busy in the Sixth Form over the last term and it has been great to see our students going from strength to strength

Year 12 have been busy beginning their preparation for the next steps. This term they attended the Virtual University and Apprenticeship Fair, the Meet the Russell Group University Fair and the National Apprenticeship Fair, where they were able to access 100 + exhibitors and speak to university and apprenticeship representatives about courses available and attend sessions on a range in interesting topics.



Within the National Apprenticeship Fair, a host of companies were available to discuss the opportunities they offer.

Employers available included -



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Cambridge Success We were absolutely delighted that both Amy Capp and Megan Scotford were selected to attend a Medicine Master Class with Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University. Places available were limited for the day of lectures and the opportunity to interact with other medicine applicants.

Volunteering A significant number of our Sixth Form students have been volunteering at the nationally recognised COVID vaccination programme in Yateley. The feedback has been very positive, once again showing our students as the positive role models for our youth in the area.

Below is a post on social media from Sue Vincent, who has been instrumental in organising the volunteers for the centre.



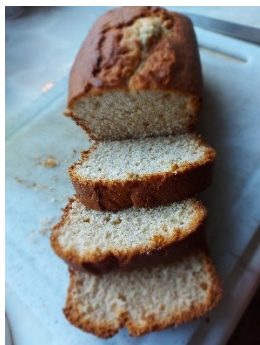
"Intergenerational.... Here's Marc 17 and Fred, 100 next month! So lovely to see Yateley's youngsters helping out today. Yateley School your sixth form students are a credit to you... Phoebe and Marc were exemplary - even thanked us for having them! Fred was dapper as always and Oakley Health outstanding for their inclusive approach to young volunteers! Yateley once again we applaud you!"

More positive news for our community. Yesterday 1000 jabs 🧑🏻 were completed at Yateley Medical Centre 🍊. On the same day that the volunteers completed 3000 hrs supporting the clinicians since the vaccinations were started on December 15th 🍊🍊. Finally this week saw the start of students from Yateley 6th Form volunteering and doing a great job 🍊🍊🍊. Plenty more 🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻 to do. Making the difference!

Bake Off In an attempt to keep the students motivated and to encourage them to take up a new skill we have held the sixth form Bake Off, entries have been outstanding, some of the delicious entries can be seen below. I am sure you will agree that everything looks incredibly professional as well as delicious. The overall winner has to be Mark Smith who is a very talented up and coming chef.



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Senior Students The process of appointing the new senior students for 2021-22 has begun in earnest, we have had a record number of applicants this year, the field is incredibly strong and it will be a hard selection process. We wish every student the very best of luck and look forward to watching their campaign videos due in after the Easter Holidays. The final appointments will be announced in May. Good luck to all concerned.

On that note we would like to thank the current Senior Students who have done an outstanding job in very difficult circumstances.

When we return on 19th April, it will be blue week (Week A) on the timetable. It just remains for me to wish you a happy and safe Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely

Paul German

Headteacher

Abi Tomlinson's (10PN) mum is currently raising money and raising awareness about Leigh House Hospital and is walking 100 miles in 10 days. If you are able to donate or would like to know more about the work that the hospital is involved in, please click on this link. [CLICK HERE](#)

Head of House Messages & Assembly Topic

The Heads of House have kindly put together some video messages for their house students along with a shared assembly topic of the importance of sleep. Please visit the below links and show these to your child:

- [CLICK HERE](#) - PowerPoint Presentation for all houses
- [CLICK HERE](#) – Darwin Assembly
- [CLICK HERE](#) – Nightingale Assembly
- [CLICK HERE](#) – Pankhurst Assembly
- [CLICK HERE](#) – Wilberforce Assembly

Student Leadership – Year 10

Term 5 is normally the time each year that we start the Year 10 student leadership process. This enables Year 10 students to apply for various leadership roles in the school (house captains, prefects, etc). However we have decided this year to postpone this until Term 6. We feel that it would be better to run the process when we will be able to see the year group as a whole and speak to them about the roles and application process in person instead of via e-mails.

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Further details will be issued to Year 10 students next term about the application process and deadline dates for Term 6 with a view for them to start the roles in September 2021.

Attendance is FANTASTIC!

We wanted to say how brilliant it is that our students have been attending school during these difficult times this year, especially compared to what the national data and figures are showing.

Our school target is to have a student attendance of 96% or higher. From September 3rd 2020 to March 26th 2021 we have an attendance of 94.9%. This might be lower currently than our target by 1.1% but compared to current national figures this is fantastic!

We can still achieve our school target by the end of this academic year by ensuring that all students attend school every day unless of course they have a legitimate reason not to be in (too ill to attend, etc). The only way that students can improve in their progress, studies, life skills and all round well-being is to attend school.

National Citizen Service – Year 11

We work closely with NCS each year to give our Year 11 students fantastic life opportunities over the summer period. This year NCS are back up and running, although slightly different to normal. If any Year 11 students would like to know more and signup then please do look at the various resources listed below. We are also looking for NCS representatives to visit school after Easter and talk to Year 11 when on their lunchtime muster points. More details to follow.

- [CLICK HERE](#) – NCS Main Website
- [CLICK HERE](#) – Student Video; [CLICK HERE](#) – Parent Video; [CLICK HERE](#) – NCS reminder video
- [CLICK HERE](#) – Student newsletter; [CLICK HERE](#) – Parent newsletter
- [CLICK HERE](#) – Student e-mail; [CLICK HERE](#) – Parent e-mail
- [CLICK HERE](#) – Student flyer; [CLICK HERE](#) – Parent pack

Shoot the Hoop House Competition

Due to Covid restrictions the PE department have been trying different House competitions to the norm to engage the House spirit amongst the younger students. Over the last seven days the year7, 8 and 9s have been taking part in a shoot the hoop House competition. Their enthusiasm and energy were endless!

The results are:

- 1st Nightingale with 1477 baskets
- 2nd Darwin with 1305 baskets
- 3rd Wilberforce with 1275 baskets
- 4th Pankhurst with 1074 baskets



A massive well done to Nightingale and to all the students for taking part.

Miss Hunt, PE Department

Build a Structure Competition, ICT & Computing, Y7

During the first half-term of lockdown we learnt about Computational Thinking methods, specifically abstraction, decomposition and algorithmic thinking. The students were then invited to take part in a competition over half-term to create a structure from items at home and submit a picture of it. The Heads of House then chose the best three for their house. Dr Case then kindly chose the overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd from these submissions. We had fantastic structures and the results were as follows:



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Darwin		Nightingale		Pankhurst		Wilberforce	
1 st	Lucie Williams	1 st	Dorotheea Spinoae	1 st	Maya Price	1 st	Jayden Gascoigne
2 nd	Paige Summerhayes	2 nd	Ethan Billington-Phillips	2 nd	Rosie Fletcher	2 nd	Elizabeth Moores
3 rd	Ivona Dimitrova	3 rd	Adam Jones	3 rd	Harry Findlay	3 rd	Molly Harrison

Overall the results were:

1st: Jayden Gascoigne

2nd: Dorotheea Spinoae

3rd: Ivona Dimitrova



Mrs Cobbold, Head of ICT

EXTRA CURRICULAR

The PE department are pleased to announce that we will be starting up a limited number of extracurricular clubs, as of Tuesday 20th April.

All clubs will run from the end of the school day until 4pm, in order for us to ensure we comply with the government guidance your child will have to register for any club they wish to attend. Students will need to make their way to the tennis courts at the end of the day and from here they will be collected by a member of the PE team and taken to their year groups designated changing area.

We are determined to ensure that our students are developing their love of sport and engaging in a healthy active lifestyle, so please do encourage your child to attend any of their year groups clubs.

Please see the timetable attached.

SUMMER TERM PE LESSONS

All students have been spoken to about their PE lessons in the summer term. The reason for this is for many of our students this is their first experience of a summer term at Yateley School. We thought we should share the advice and guidance we have given the students with our parents and guardians

- Attend all lessons with a full water bottle

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- Please wear sun cream on the days of your PE lesson our fields and tennis courts are not shaded, and our lessons last 1hour 40 minutes.
- We highly recommend that all students wear their Shorts and T-shirts in the summer term for PE to prevent overheating.

We look forward to a summer term full of fun and further opportunities with all students.

Mrs Evans, Head of PE

Maths Corner 17

Maths Lunch



Each day at noon, four mathematicians meet for lunch at the Prime Rock Café. Although each of the four eat a differently priced snack, they share the bill equally.

Yesterday this resulted in one mathematician paying £1 less than the cost of her snack, another paying £3 more, another £3 less and the last mathematician paid £4. What was the actual price of each snack?

1 house point to all parents/students who presents the correct answer to their maths teacher before next weeks Maths Corner is published.

Answer to Maths Corner 16 – First Day at School

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