LVS OXFORD SHOUT OUT

MAY 2025



A message from Mel

As we approach the end of term, there is much to celebrate and be proud of. Among our highlights, we are thrilled to share that Abi Cameron has secured the first-ever apprenticeship offered at Soho Farmhouse—a remarkable achievement that sets a precedent for future opportunities. Additionally, Taylor Swatton has begun her apprenticeship journey at Begbroke Pre-School, marking an exciting new chapter in her career development.

We are also delighted to report that all our Year 11 students have successfully confirmed their post-16 destinations, which is an incredibly positive milestone. As they enter their GCSE examinations, they are doing so with confidence and determination. In conversations with them, it's clear they feel supported and encouraged, and we are proud of the maturity and focus they have shown during this critical time. These accomplishments reflect the hard work and commitment of our students, staff, and wider school community—and we look forward to celebrating more successes in the future.

The creativity of our students continues to shine—particularly through the fantastic artwork produced by our Year 7 and 8 students. These unique pieces will be available to purchase on Enterprise Day, taking place on 11th July. It's a great opportunity to support our young artists and take home a one-of-a-kind creation.

We've also seen some wonderful individual achievements. A big congratulations to Raymond for successfully completing his Police Academy Cadets training—an impressive milestone. Well done to Jack, for achieving his fastest lap time yet at the Race Academy. Billy celebrating his 10th year with Wallingford Scouts. These accomplishments are a testament to their hard work and dedication. Well done, boys!

There's so much to celebrate at LVS Oxford right now, and we hope you enjoy this edition filled with positive stories and student success. One personal highlight must be our "Love a Tree Day" as part of Mental Health Awareness activities—staff and students came together to hug trees and share a moment of connection with nature. It was a fun, light-hearted way to raise awareness about mental wellbeing. And we can't forget a very special moment for Debbie—she met her culinary hero, Raymond Blanc! She hasn't stopped smiling since. To top it off, thanks to our wonderful Governor Eleanor Paice, Debbie and Gladies will be attending the food show at Blenheim this weekend with complimentary tickets. We're sure they'll have an unforgettable time.

Wishing you all a wonderful week ahead—and let's hope for plenty of sunshine! Mel



Chris Childs Vice Principal



Natasha Tillyer
Pastoral Lead and
DDSL



Chris Lacey
Pastoral Lead and
DDSL



Kate Henderson-Dyer Teaching & Learning Lead from January 2026



Laura Tindler PSHE Lead



Karen Williams
Office Manager
and DDSL



Emily Kemp Student Services Manager



STAFF MEMBERS WITH NEW ROLES



Prior to the Easter break year 8 and 9
students had the opportunity to work with
chef Adam from our Sodexo catering
team. With the Easter focus they learnt
the history behind Hot Cross Buns before
making their own.

Everyone enjoyed this activity, and the finished products looked and tasted delicious





SODEXO HOT CROSS BUN WORKSHOP – WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL 2025





















Fabulous ARTWORK



Artwork created by Year 7&8 The pieces will be on sale during our Enterprise DAY 8th July







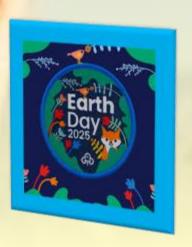
Kidlington Eco Group LVS Oxford Green Day 2025

Click above to find out more

Earth Day 2025 Visit – Working Towards a Greener Future

On Tuesday 22nd April, in celebration of Earth Day 2025, we were pleased to welcome Phil Durrant from the Kidlington Eco Group into school. The group is a collaborative network of environmentally-conscious organisations, community groups, and individuals all committed to promoting sustainability and helping build a greener future for Kidlington.

During the visit, students had the opportunity to learn about local environmental initiatives, discuss practical ways to reduce their ecological footprint, and explore how small actions can contribute to positive change. It was an inspiring and thought-provoking session that encouraged everyone to think more deeply about their role in protecting the planet.









What was VE Day? - BBC Bitesize VE Day - BBC Bitesize VE Day: What is it, when is it and why do we remember? - BBC Newsround



BRITISH VALUES, THE COMMONWEALTH AND VE DAY A WEEK OF CELEBRATION – TUESDAY 5TH-FRIDAY 9TH MAY

OMERTO

We were honoured to welcome a special guest from Blenheim Palace for a memorable school assembly. Richard Francis, a representative from the historic estate, delivered an engaging and insightful presentation focused on VE Day, the pivotal role of Winston Churchill during the Second World War, and Blenheim Palace's deep connections to both the war effort and the Commonwealth.

Mr Francis captivated the audience with fascinating stories and historical context, helping to bring to life the significance of VE Day and the enduring legacy of those who served.

We are incredibly grateful to Mr Francis and the team at Blenheim Palace for sharing this important part of our history with us.





Tues 6/5: British Values Tutor time activity **Wed 7/5**: Commonwealth Tutor time activity **Thurs 8/5**: VE Day activity / Speaker from Blenheim Palace

Fri 9/5: students can dress in Red, White, Blue or the colours of the commonwealth flag
Fri 9/5: British afternoon Tea for students and

staff







From T-Shirts to Tote Bags!

After an inspiring visit from the Kidlington Eco Group,

students were excited to get involved in a fun recycling activity with a creative twist!

Using old t-shirts, they learned how to repurpose them into handy, eco-friendly tote bags. The results were fantastic, with each bag showing off the students' creativity and effort.

- Not only did everyone enjoy the project, but they also learned how small changes can make a big difference for the planet.
 - Well done, eco heroes!



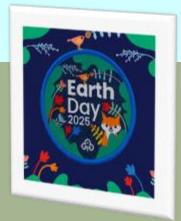












If you are interested in learning more about the T-Shirt activity, please follow this link:

How to Upcycle Old T-Shirts into Reusable T-Shirt Bags - GreenCitizen





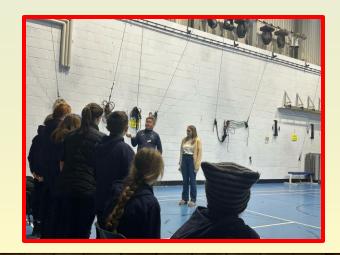
YEAR 7 AND 8 TAKE ON BOCCIA AT OXSRAD!

Recently, our Year 7 and 8 students took a trip to the Oxrad Sports Centre—a super cool place that's all about inclusion, staying active, and having fun together, no matter your ability.

The highlight of the visit? Getting stuck into a game of Boccia (pronounced bot-cha)! It's a Paralympic sport that's a bit like bowls, played on a court the size of a badminton court. The goal? Roll your coloured balls as close as you can to the white target ball, called the "jack." Sounds simple? Not quite—it takes some serious skill and strategy! After learning the ropes, our students were quick to put their new skills into action. There was plenty of concentration, competitive spirit, and a whole lot of laughs. It was a fantastic session of learning, teamwork, and trying something new—and everyone left with smiles (and maybe a few secret Boccia pros in the making!).















MAY 2025

And finally, to end it all off, a guide from Libby on how to stay safe in the Summer Heat!

Duke of Edinburgh Practice:

This is a personal story of mine, from William Taylor, Year 10, this practice expedition happened on the 24 April, once we arrived at Hill End, there were several things to do.

Firstly, we were introduced to what we were going to be doing, such as using a compass to find areas to mark, and this was especially important, for the compass activity I was paired up with Seb, a Year 10 classmate of mine, after all of these activities, we had lunch, we made pasta, which I and my classmates who went on the trip absolutely enjoyed, then, after lunch, we went on a practice DofE walk, which lasted an Hour and a half.

The walk was very tiring, yet, I still endured and enjoyed it, clearly, it goes to show that sometimes the best of enjoyment is found in difficulty, not in convenience or easy goings.

The walk was first going up a hill after going through the activity forest of Hill End, which took a long while to go up, but once we reached the top, we took some time to rest before the others came to us, we were split into two groups, I was with Rosemary, alongside Sam, Cameron and Olivia.

Once the other group caught up, we went down the hill back towards Hill End, before we got back on the bus, overall, I would like to say that such day, albeit exhausting and tiring, was quite enjoyable, so for the sake of it, just get out in nature more, you never know what you could find there.

How to stay comfortable in the summer heat

Although it is not yet the summer months, we have reached temperatures that are, to me at least, *very* annoying. Last week it reached the hottest it has been all year. Because of this we remind you to keep sun hats on your person, not to mention sunscreen. It is very unpleasant to get burnt! Other tips to stay cool in the rising temperatures is drink lots of water. This will stop you getting dehydrated, which gives you a nasty headache. Remember you can fill your water bottle up at the water dispensers around school. Another is to keep indoors or in shady parts of the site to cool down. We have a handful of fans in certain classrooms which I tend to stand next to. Another is to wear shorts and other lightweight and breathable clothing.

When at home try and close windows and blinds to stop sunlight getting in. Also invest in lots of ice creams! With that note let's hope it doesn't get too hot!

LIBBY YEAR 10

Thank you for reading this edition of LVS Spirit and have a good day!

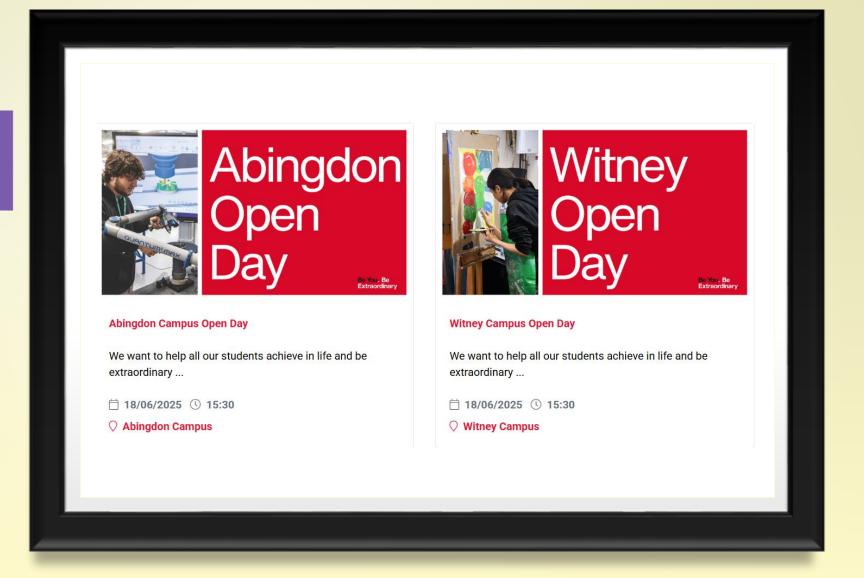
ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE FINAL OPEN EVENTS FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

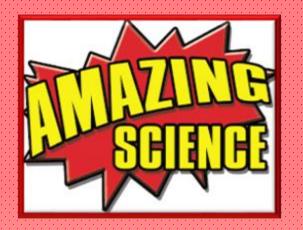




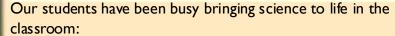
Witney Open Day

HOVER ON RELEVANT PICTURE TO FOLLOW LINK TO BOOK A PLACE

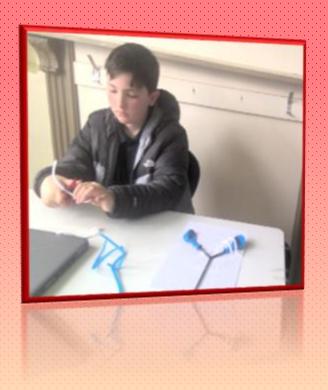




Science in Action!



- •USI students have been carefully testing how heat travels through different materials as they investigate thermal conductivity.
- •Year 7Y students have been enthusiastically building respiration system models, learning how our bodies take in oxygen and release carbon dioxide.
- •Year 9Y students have been hands-on with experiments to explore different mixture separation techniques, such as filtration and evaporation.
- •Year 9X students have been using Molymod kits to build models of simple molecules and giant structures. They've been learning how to spot the difference between small covalent molecules and giant lattice structures—and they've especially interested in creating models of graphite and diamond! It's been a week full of discovery, creativity, and curious minds in Science!











Celebrating Student Achievement BILLY STREETER



We would like to extend our congratulations to Billy in 9X, who has recently marked an incredible milestone—his 10th year with the 2nd Wallingford Scouts. Billy has shown outstanding commitment and perseverance, progressing through Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts over the past decade.

This level of dedication is truly commendable and reflects qualities of resilience, loyalty, and personal growth. Billy should be extremely proud of this achievement, which stands as a testament to his long-term commitment and community involvement.

Well done, Billy!



Billy leads a very active life outside of school, spending much of his spare time horse riding and playing football for his local team, Crowmarsh & Wallingford FC. Recently, he had the exciting opportunity to ride an exracehorse during one of his lessons.

On Sunday 11th May, Billy wrapped up the football season on a high note by scoring a goal in the final match. His team celebrated a well-deserved win to end the season in style!





LVS Year 9 Visit Le Manoir for 'Nurture, Thrive Bloom' Experience Our Year 9 students had an unforgettable day at the prestigious Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, exploring the journey of food from plant to plate as part of our enriched LVS curriculum. Led by our enthusiastic food and nutrition teacher, Debbie, students toured the stunning organic gardens and learned how fresh, seasonal ingredients go from soil to service. The highlight? Meeting the legendary Raymond Blanc himself! Debbie was absolutely thrilled to meet one of her culinary heroes, and his passion for sustainable food deeply inspired both staff and students. A truly memorable experience that brought learning to life beyond the classroom. This inspiring experience not only deepened students' appreciation for food and nutrition, but also sparked meaningful conversations around sustainability, well-being, and careers in the culinary and agricultural industries. At LVS, we believe in learning that lasts a lifetime and this trip was a perfect example of education coming alive beyond the classroom.

YEAR 9 VISIT TO LE MANOIR AUX QUAT'SAISON 13TH MAY 2025

16/5/2025 by Helena Benson

Year Nine Visit to La Manoir

On the 13th of May, we went to visit an incredibly fancy hotel/ restaurant, founded by famous chef, Raymond Blanc. The extravagant gardens had multiple statues (a snail. Raymond Blanc's face on a scarecrow, someone sitting in a chair reading a book, a sheep and more).

They butchered their own meat in the kitchen, growing their own fruit and vegetables. Everything is organic, and they grow cardamoms, lemongrass, borage, courgettes, apples, pears, stone fruits, quinces and medleys.

A beautiful mural was on the ceiling of the florist's office, they aimed to get local supplies to reduce carbon emissions and fresher flowers. They put purple and white flowers because Raymond finds it a calming colour. Purple flowers are also particularly attractive to bees, unlike red flowers. We met Raymond Blanc himself, and he said that we're the newest generation that should carry the passion for food like he does.

Unfortunately, we couldn't try the food there. It was a beautiful day, and it was lovely to see such luscious gardens that were full of life. My favorite bit was the kitchens and meeting Raymond Blanc.



Evan Davis 16/05/2029

Les Manoir & What We Saw There

On 13th May 2025, we went on a trip to Les Manoir, the restaurant of famous chef, Raymond Blanc. Once we got there, we saw many statues, including a scarecrow with Blanc's face on. Everything had a wonderful fragrance, especially the floral house. We also saw orchards and walked past polytunnels. We got back onto the minibus once the tours were done and went to a park where we had lunch and played in the playground. We went back to LVS Oxford at exactly 2PM and we had to do some journaling or do a PowerPoint presentation on Les Manoir itself. I really enjoyed this trip; I was engaged in the tours and would love to hear more about Les Manoir and Raymond Blanc.

Extra Things We Did At Les Manoir

- We took a picture with Raymond Blanc himself.
- Blanc talked about how he got his passion for cooking to us. He also talked to us about his visions for his restaurant and how we are the next generation to enjoy cooking.
- As well as the scarecrow. We also saw a statue of his mother.

My Opinion

I really enjoyed the day. My favourite parts were the tours. I was so engaged in said tours and learned lots from them. I even asked one of the chefs a question: "Are you pleased with your progress?". If I were to rate the day, I'd give it a 9/10.









Celebrating Student Achievement RAYMOND GREGORY

DUTIES RAYMOND HAS COMPLETED

Participating in new Police Officer scenario training (as part of new police officers' assessments to become full police officers) - acting as part of the scenario: antisocial behaviour, hanging around, possession of illegal substance, creating a disturbance (loud music in house), evading police officers. He has done 5 of these.

Operation Sceptre - police campaign to reduce knife crime. Raymond and the other cadets searched for knives in the parks of Newbury and in the town centre.

Public Outreach - cadets knocking on house doors in Newbury to advise residents of the spate of vehicle thefts that had taken place recently and how to secure their vehicles/valuables within vehicles

Directing traffic/visitors and portering -

Wheelchair Police Officers rugby tournament held at Police Training Centre Sulhamstead. Visitors came from other police regions such as Somerset and Avon.

Over the summer holiday Raymond will be going away with the Police Cadets for a residential trip to the New Forest.

Raymond has been in the cadets since September 2024 The certificate is his Attestation Certificate presented to Raymond at the West Berkshire Commander's Commendation Awards and Cadets Attestation ceremony at Thames Valley Police Training Centre, Sulhamstead on 24/4/25. After a probationary period the new cadets have to 'swear an oath' of attestation. Here is the text that Raymond had to read:

"I, Raymond Gregory of West Berkshire Police Cadets do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will well and truly serve my community in the role of Volunteer Police Cadet.

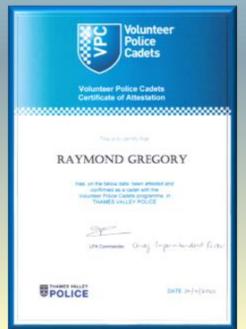
I will attend meetings regularly, participate in unit activities, wear my uniform with pride and advance my education and training to prepare myself to be of service to my community.

I will act with honesty, courtesy and regard for the welfare of others; I will be trustworthy in words and action, treat others with respect and be responsible in all things.

I will constantly strive to honour this oath in my service as a Volunteer Police Cadet with my police Service".

Raymond read this in front of an audience of aound 100 people (officers, officers' families, cadets' families and commanding officers).





Anomalies

Noun

Meaning: a person or thing that is different from what is usual, or not in agreement with something else and therefore not satisfactory.

'Statistical anomalies can make it difficult to compare data.'

Calibration

noun

marked on an instrument so it can measure accurately.

'He peered at the calibrations on the

Meaning: the unts of measurement

ruler.

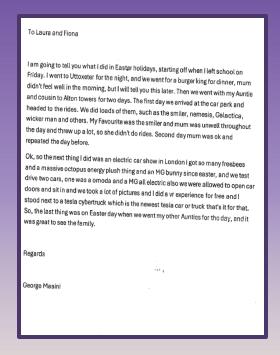
From Monday 2nd June

From Monday 9th June









Zack - "I found it a bit weird to get a letter from you. I did not know why you had my address"

Mollie - "It was really cool. It was fun getting a letter I never get letters other than from the dentist"

Poppy - "My letter didn't arrive until after I was back at school. I would have preferred an email its quicker"

Luca - Q -" Did you get a letter?" A- "Yes but I only opened it yesterday, we thought it was a birthday card"

Jess - "I found it a bit weird as I only get letters from my family or god parents. But when I opened it I was happy, its really nice to get a letter"

Year 7 Students Explore the Art of Letter Writing

As part of their recent English unit on letter writing, our Year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to practice their skills in a meaningful and personal way. Each student received a handwritten letter from Laura and Fiona, and in return, they were asked to craft thoughtful responses.

The activity not only helped students refine their writing skills, but also encouraged creativity, empathy, and the joy of personal communication. It was wonderful to see how engaged the students were—and how much they appreciated receiving a real letter!

Here are a few highlights from the students' letters, along with some of their own reflections on the experience:

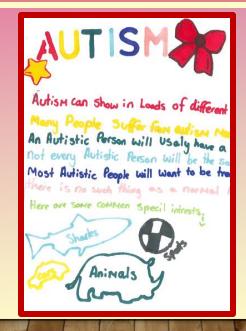
It was a fantastic way to bring writing to life, and we're proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by our young writers!

On Friday 25th April, students had a belated celebration for Autism Awareness Day, which was during the Easter break. In the morning Chris delivered an assembly to mark the occasion, after which students participated in activities that celebrated their skills and strengths.





CELEBRATING OUR SKILLS & STRENGTHS









RACING AHEAD JACK YEAR 9



Jack joined the Race Academy at Team Sport in High Wycombe in February and now attends weekly go-karting lessons, which he's thoroughly enjoying. Since starting, he's worked hard to cut his fastest lap time from 46.3 to 39.6 seconds. This Sunday, he had a fantastic session—coming first in a race of 14 and moving up to the Advanced group. This promotion means he can now take part in the qualifying round of the British Indoor Karting Championship (BIKC). He's excited to spend more time at the track in the coming months as he aims to qualify for the local finals in September.





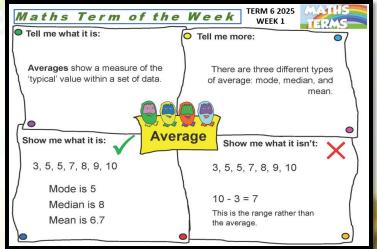


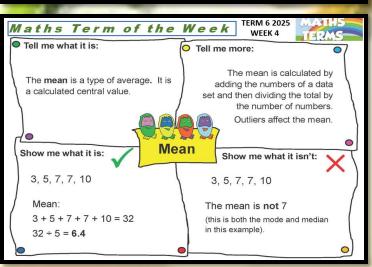


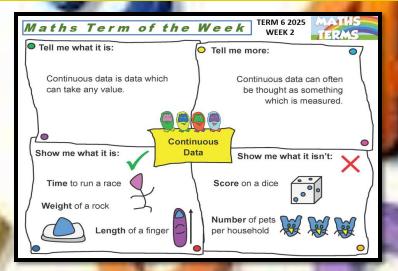
Wednesday 21st May was National Numeracy Day. This is a day dedicated to raising awareness and promoting confidence in everyday maths skills. This year's theme is "The Money Edition," focusing on improving numeracy skills for managing money. National Numeracy, a UK charity, organises this day to empower children and adults to feel confident with numbers in their daily lives. To celebrate this Neil has put together lots of fun numeracy activities/PowerPoints/videos etc that show using money in different contexts.

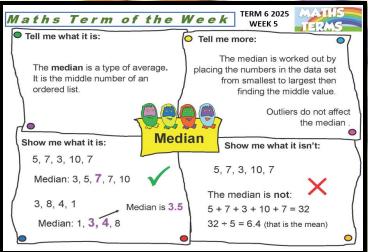


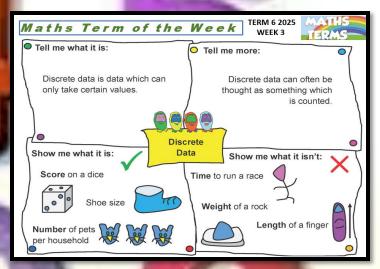
MATHS TERMS OF THE WEEK FOR SCHOOLTERM 6

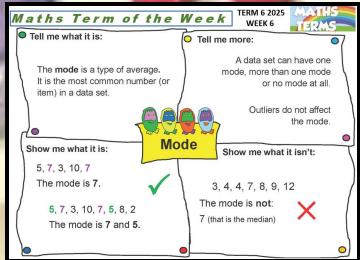












A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS LACEY – EXAMS OFFICER

As you begin your GCSE exams, I want to take this opportunity to wish you the very best of luck. You've worked hard throughout your courses, and now is your chance to show everything you've learned.

Please remember the following important points as you enter the exam period:

- •Arrive on time: Make sure you arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of each exam. Late arrival may result in not being allowed to sit the paper.
- •Be prepared: If you bring your own equipment you need (pens, pencils, calculator, etc.) in a clear pencil case. Only clear water bottles are permitted.
- •Follow exam rules: Exam conditions must be respected at all times. This includes no mobile phones, smartwatches, or any unauthorised materials in the exam room.
- •Listen carefully: Pay close attention to instructions from invigilators before and during the exam.
- •Stay calm: If you feel anxious or unsure, take a deep breath and do your best. There is support available if you need it—please speak to a member of staff.

You've got this. Believe in your preparation and focus on one exam at a time. We are all very proud of how far you've come and are here to support you every step of the way.

Please refer to https://www.lvs-oxford.org.uk/learning/exam-results/ for coping strategies and revision support and for JCQ and school policies.

EXAM AND REVISION TIMETABLE 2025

REVISION SESSIONS

DATE	SUBJECT	TIME	
22/04	English	9.30-12.30	
22/04	Science	1.30-3.30	
23/04	English	9.30-3.30	
23/04	Science	1.30-3.30	
24/04	Geography	9.30- 12.30	
24/04	History	1.30-3.30	
25/04	Home study leave	Home study leave	
28/04	Maths	9.30- 12.30	
28/04	History	1.30-3.30	
29/04	English Literature	10.30 - 2.30	
30/04	Science	9.30-12.30	
01/05	Geography	9.30 -12.30	
01/05	History	1.30-3.30	
06/05	Maths	9.30-12.30	
06/05	English	1.30-3.30	
07/05	Science	9.30-12.30	
08/05	Study leave	Study leave	
08/05	Study Leave		

EXAMS BEGIN AGAIN ON WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE

DATE	SUBJECT	AM/PM	EXTRA REVISION
12/05	English Literature	AM	Geography 1:30-3:30pm
13/05	Biology	PM	Science 9:15am-12:00noon
14/05	Geography	AM	Maths 1:30-3:30pm
15/05	Maths	AM	Science 11:30-2:00pm
			History 2:15-3:30pm
16/05	History	AM	
19/05	Chemistry	AM	English Literature 11:30am-
			3:30pm
20/05	English Literature	AM	Science 1:30-3:30pm
·	,	AM	3:30pm

21/05	Study leave		
22/05	Physics	AM	English Language 1:30-3:30pm
23/05	English Language	AM	
26/5-	Half term		
30/5			
2/6	Revision day/Study leave		History 1:30-3:30pm
3/6	Revision day		Maths 9:30-11:30am
			English Language 1:30-3:30pm
4/6	Maths	AM	
5/6	History	AM	Geography 9:30am-12:30pm
			Science 1:30-3:30pm
6/6	English Language	AM	
	Geography	PM (1pm	
		start)	
9/6	Biology	AM	Maths Revision 11:30am-
			12:30pm
10/6	History	PM (1pm	History 9:30-11:30am
		start)	
11/6	Maths	AM	Geography 11:30am-12:00noon
			and 2:30-3:30pm
12/6	Geography	AM	Science 1:30-3:30pm
13/6	Chemistry	AM	Science 11:30-2:30pm
16/6	Physics	AM	FINISH
16/6	Leaver's lunch		1pm – 2.30pm

GOOD QUALITY SPARE UNIFORM AVAILABLE

- 2 x Large blue hoodies (New) donated back by parents
- 1 x Medium hoodie excellent condition
- Blue Polo shirts All very good condition
- aged 11/12 x 5
- 9/10 polo shirt x 1
- Adults' small blue polo x 1
- Adult medium x 1
- Polo shirts aged 13 x 6
- Lots of green PE one's various ages/sizes

Please ring reception



EXAM CONGRATULATIONS

- Well done to Orli, Harry, Albert and Samantha for gaining the BTEC Home Cooking Skills Level 1.
- To the year 9 students who have completed 8 assessments during the academic year in Entry level maths.