



Founded in 1888

# Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

*Educating Women of the Future*

February 2026

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## The Tudor Rose

Your half-termly newsletter from Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School



### **From the Headteacher**

As we reach the end of another inspiring half term at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School, I am delighted to celebrate the breadth of achievement, creativity and scholarship across our community. Our Year 9 Antarctica Flag Competition captured national attention, with Amelia and Deya designs selected to represent QEGS in the UK Polar Network competition. In a remarkable achievement, Amelia's flag travelled all the way to Ryder Bay on Adelaide Island, Antarctica, carried by the British Antarctic Survey team — a truly unforgettable honour linked to the historic Antarctic Treaty. Students have also engaged powerfully with learning beyond the classroom: from an insightful visit to Southwark Crown Court and a moving Holocaust Memorial Day webcast with survivor Paul Sved BEM, to academic enrichment through the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge and the NLCS Philosophy Conference. Meanwhile, our Computing competitions, Safer Internet Day initiatives, Poetry Club, TfL Pioneers Programme and GCSE Options Taster Morning showcase the confidence, curiosity and character of our students. Whether coding, debating ethics, designing flags, performing poetry or solving complex mathematical problems, our young people continue to embody ambition and integrity.

I hope you enjoy reading about these wonderful experiences and join me in congratulating all involved.

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# Year 9 Antarctica Flag competition

Winners - Amelia B Year 9 & Deya M Year 9

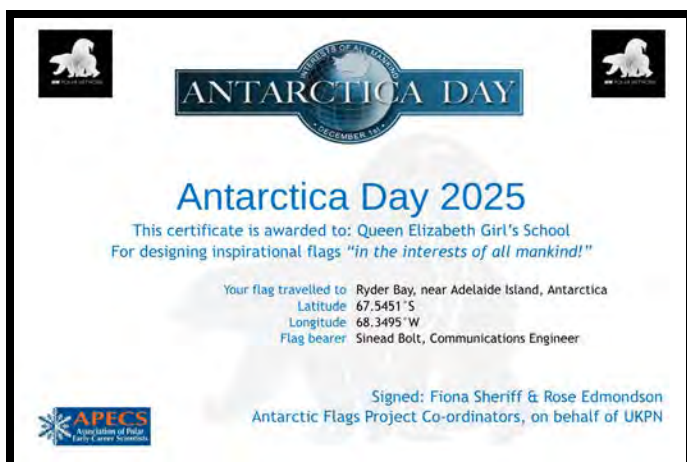


In October 2025, Year 9 students were invited to enter a House competition to design a flag for the continent of Antarctica. This was to celebrate the Antarctic Treaty, which was established on 1st December 1959. Numerous students entered with outstanding designs and for the first time TWO flags were chosen as the winners and entered into the UK Polar Network competition for their flag to be taken to Antarctica by a group of scientists and researchers. Hundreds of schools entered the competition and.....

.....*Amelia's* flag was one of a handful of winners and her flag made it all the way to Antarctica! Amelia's flag was taken to Antarctica by Ben Sharp who is a boating officer for the British Antarctic Survey. The flag bearer is Sinead Bolt, a Communications Engineer.



This is the official certificate to confirm that Deya, and Amelia's flag which represented QEGS entry, were successful winners and Amelia's flag was taken to Antarctica.



Ryder Bay is a significant bay on the southeast coast of Adelaide Island, Antarctica, known for its scientific importance, especially regarding climate and birdlife, featuring the UK's Rothera Research Station.

# Visit to Southwark Crown Court

Visiting Southwark Crown Court was an invaluable experience. Directly hearing the defendant speak during the trial enhanced my understanding of crime and deviance, allowing me to evaluate the sociological and psychological factors that influence the likelihood of committing crimes. I was particularly intrigued by the presence of the jury, and it was fascinating to see how their involvement can shape the course of a trial, as well as the level of attentiveness required throughout proceedings.

Observing and comparing the questioning techniques used by the prosecution and defence, along with witnessing the judge's key role in managing the courtroom, was extremely informative. I also benefited from speaking with the court manager, who provided valuable insight into the inner workings of the court and answered our questions about prisoners' rights during trials.

After an enjoyable group lunch at Nando's, we visited the London Dungeon, where learning about historical events such as the Gunpowder Plot helped us understand how crime and punishment have evolved over time. The interactive and often humorous exhibits made the experience memorable and reinforced my learning in a practical way.

I am really grateful to Mr Blyth and Ms St Ledger for organising this trip and ensuring we all had such an enjoyable and educational experience.

Imani, Year 13



# UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge



Year 10 students have competed in the national UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. The Maths Challenge is an annual event in which Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School proudly participates. It is a valuable enrichment opportunity.

The Maths Challenge is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition designed to make students think. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thoughts and fluency in using mathematical techniques to solve stimulating problems. The UKMT has over 500,00 entries annually which makes it the most popular mathematical event across the country. Students' scores support those with the highest to achieve certificates and this half term two students received Gold awards and very many more students were successful in achieving Silver awards. Many congratulations to all our participants.

A special mention to Zinan (Year 10) for her outstanding performance which supported her to achieve the Best in School award. Award certificates will be presented to students in the Year 10 assembly.

## Cyber Explorers Competition

We are excited to announce that our school will be entering the Cyber Explorers Cup 2026, a national online cybersecurity competition for students aged 11–14.

Students will work in teams to complete a 1-hour online challenge involving cyber puzzles and problem-solving tasks. This year's theme is Information Security, and the challenge is set within a fun storyline where teams help save a virtual city's smart mall after its AI system breaks down.

Who can take part? Students in Years 7–9 in teams of 4–6 students. The school can enter up to 5 teams (places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis).

- Entry deadline: 6 March
- Competition week: 16–20 March
- Winners announced: 1 April

The competition will take place after school, with support available throughout the session. Students interested in taking part should speak to Mr Ali to register their team.



# Raspberry Pi Foundation Coding Challenge

The Computing Department will be running the Raspberry Pi Foundation Coding Challenge for all Key Stage 3 students (Years 7–9).

This is a free, supervised coding competition where students complete a 45-minute challenge designed to build confidence, improve problem-solving skills, and develop computational thinking.

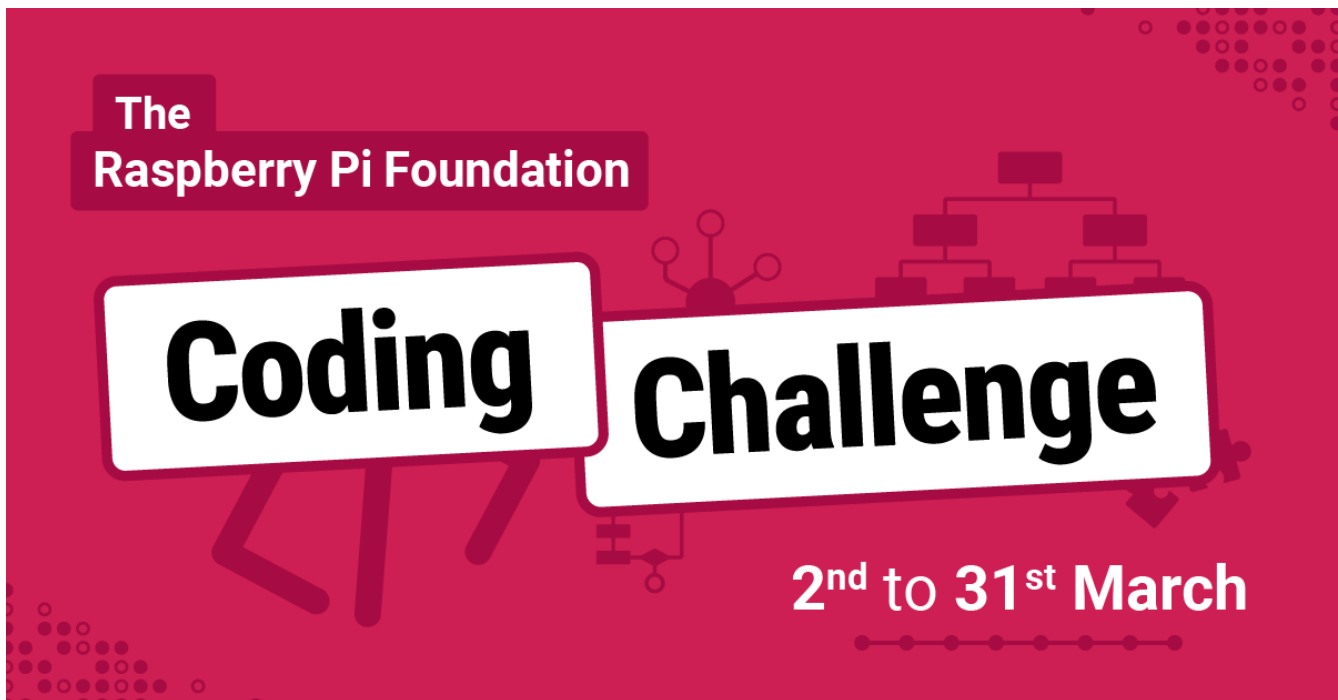
The challenge is suitable for all ability levels and includes:

- Block-based programming for beginners
- Text-based programming for more experienced coders
- A range of difficulty levels

The competition will run from Monday 2 March to Tuesday 31 March. Students may take part on any one day during this period.

- Time: 3:30pm – 4:15pm
- Location: Room 214
- Supervised by: Mr Ali

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their coding skills in a supportive, school-based environment run by the Computing Department.



# Safer Internet Day Competition

Safer Internet Day focuses on helping students use the internet safely, respectfully, and responsibly. It encourages young people to stay safe online, be kind to others, protect their personal information, and know what to do if something online makes them feel uncomfortable. As the internet is part of everyday life, these skills are essential for all students.

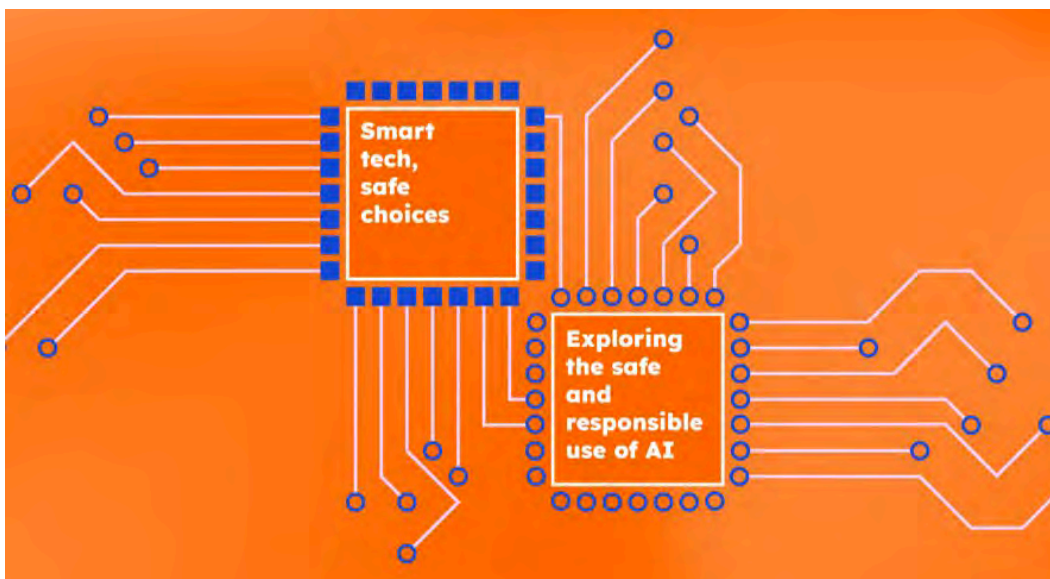
To support this, students are encouraged to take part in the Safer Internet Day competition. This year's theme is: "Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI."

Students are invited to create one piece of work linked to this theme. They may work individually or in small groups and will have one month to plan and prepare their entry. For safeguarding reasons, students have been reminded not to include their name or link their work to personal social media accounts.

Entries can take a variety of forms, including:

- Creative work such as posters, infographics, logos, slogans, or memes
- Media or performance pieces such as short videos, drama, poems, or raps
- Interactive ideas like quizzes, board or card games, or escape-style challenges
- Advice or reflection pieces, including letters, short stories, or "what I wish I knew online" reflections

This competition aims to raise awareness, encourage thoughtful discussion, and help students make safe and responsible choices online, particularly when using emerging technologies such as AI.



# Year 9 Option Taster Morning

*On Thursday, 5th February, Year 9 students took part in a dedicated Options morning to support their upcoming GCSE options selections. Representatives from 16 subject departments delivered comprehensive presentations, highlighting the transition from Key Stage 3 to GCSE. These sessions provided valuable insights into the two year curriculum, assessment structures, and the diverse career pathways each subject can open up. To complement the presentations, students also attended four 'taster lessons' in subjects of their choice. This gave the opportunity to experience what it might be like to study the subject at GCSE level, ensuring students feel confident and informed as they make these important decisions.*



Personally, PE was definitely a highlight! In this session we got to use jelly babies to identify the planes in the human body (transverse, sagittal and coronal). I found this to be a very creative and memorable way to understand how our bodies move and the best part was definitely being able to eat the jelly babies afterwards. Yum!



During my session in Geography we explored the formations of waterfalls which is one of the topics we will study in Key Stage 4. We even got to create our own pop up diagrams of a waterfall to help us understand its structure even better.

the actual GCSE content, giving us a good understanding of what a lesson may feel like next year if we chose to pursue the subject.

Le français, c'était vraiment sympa!

Overall, I would say that the taster morning was enjoyable, well presented and thought provoking in regards to our upcoming GCSE selections and choices.


Selena, Year 9



# 'Read, Watch, Make, Do' - Half Term

## 10 things to Read, Watch, Make, Do - February Half Term

Remember there are a number of places where [Kids eat free](#) this half term if you plan a day out!

10 Books to read	10 Things to watch	10 things to make	10 Activities to do in London (free or low cost)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">1912: The Year the World Discovered Antarctica</a></li> <li>2. <a href="#">The Harry Potter Series</a></li> <li>3. <a href="#">Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thieves series</a></li> <li>4. <a href="#">Bad Dad by David Walliams</a></li> <li>5. <a href="#">Anne Frank's Story</a></li> <li>6. <a href="#">The Great Gatsby</a></li> <li>7. <a href="#">The Roald Dahl Collection</a></li> <li>8. <a href="#">Noughts &amp; Crosses</a></li> <li>9. <a href="#">The Help</a></li> <li>10. <a href="#">The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole</a></li> </ol> <p>Please remember our ePlatform Library where you can borrow all of these books mentioned (linked). <a href="#">Here is a link to a pamphlet</a> which explains how to access and use it effectively. Login for the links above to work</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">TedEd: A reality Check on Renewables</a></li> <li>2. <a href="#">Planet Earth</a> - BBC iPlayer</li> <li>3. <a href="#">One Life (2023)</a> - BBC iPlayer. The story of Sir Nicholas Winton</li> <li>4. <a href="#">The Wizard of Oz (1939)</a> - YouTube. Great preparation for the school production!</li> <li>5. <a href="#">He Named me Malala</a> (2015) - Apple Tv, Amazon Prime</li> <li>6. <a href="#">The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</a> (2005) - Disney+, Apple TV, Google Play, Amazon Prime Video</li> <li>7. <a href="#">Matilda</a> - Netflix</li> <li>8. <a href="#">Prehistoric Planet</a> (2022) - Apple TV</li> <li>9. <a href="#">I am Greta (2021)</a> - BBC iPlayer</li> <li>10. <a href="#">The Elephant Whisperers</a> (2022) - Netflix</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pancakes for pancake day (Tuesday 17th February) - find vegan and gluten free recipes <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>2. <a href="#">A Bug Hotel</a></li> <li>3. A Random Acts of Kindness Calendar for <a href="#">National Random Acts of Kindness Day</a> Wednesday 17th February</li> <li>4. <a href="#">A lava lamp</a></li> <li>5. <a href="#">Easy gingerbread men</a></li> <li>6. <a href="#">Rainbow Pizza</a></li> <li>7. <a href="#">A jelly-baby wave machine</a> to investigate wave properties.</li> <li>8. Ice cream using <a href="#">this experiment</a></li> <li>9. A badge for World Book Day with your favourite book on it</li> <li>10. <a href="#">Finger knitted toy</a> for your pet at home</li> </ol> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visit Battersea Power Station and try one of their <a href="#">half term workshops</a> Visit the new <a href="#">Wallace &amp; Gromit and Friends exhibition</a> at the V&amp;A</li> <li>2. Explore whether life could exist beyond Earth in the <a href="#">Space exhibition</a> at the Science Museum</li> <li>3. Try one of the <a href="#">free hands on craft activities</a> at the London Museum Docklands - from Roman pottery to Viking brooch making</li> <li>4. Visit the RAF museum and perhaps attend one of the <a href="#">STEM events</a></li> <li>5. Visit the Southbank <a href="#">Imagine Children's Festival</a></li> <li>6. Visit The National Gallery and try one of the <a href="#">free family activities</a></li> <li>7. Take a <a href="#">self led walking tour</a> and discover Roman London, including a free visit to an Amphitheatre</li> <li>8. Attend one of the <a href="#">National Maritime Museum's events</a> which is celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month</li> <li>9. Visit <a href="#">The Hunterian Museum</a> to learn about the History of surgery - great for Science and History at GCSE level</li> </ol>

# Year 9 Poetry Club

*As a spoken word poet in my free time, and of course an English professor, I'm always excited to see students discovering the power of language beyond the classroom. Our Year 9 Spoken Word Poetry Club on Friday lunchtimes has been a space for creativity, confidence, and finding a voice — whether loud, quiet, playful or political. We explore creative techniques, write to a prompt and share our work in a positively critical environment. And it's been an incredible term. The poem shared below, just one of many, started in our club and honed at home, is a brilliant example of how young writers can use words to explore identity, emotion and the world around them. I'm incredibly proud of the courage and craft these students have shown, and delighted to share their work with the wider school community. Look out for a collection of work to come!*

- Mr Short

## How Am I Meant To Know?

By Dylan, Year 9

Why would I know who God is?  
It's not like I've met him.  
I dunno if he even exists.  
I'm supposed to have an answer.  
Like it's all set in stone,  
Looks like everyone else has,  
So why am I all alone?  
God is just a word,  
What does it even mean?  
Am I supposed to have an answer at only 14?  
We get taught all these things,  
About religion and God,  
And my friends go "Yeah, that's me",  
I just think it's kinda odd,  
How they have it all figured out,  
How it's not all scrabbled in their heads,  
As if they know who God is,  
But how am I meant to know,  
If we haven't even met...

## Year 9 - Holocaust Survivor Webcast

Year 9 students had a fantastic opportunity to attend a live webcast from Holocaust Survivor Paul Sved BEM and his son Richard, to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The webcast was streamed to Year 9 in the Hall on Thursday 22 January and the year group were exemplary in their behaviour and showed excellent listening skills. We were all very moved to hear Paul Sved's experience of growing up in Nazi occupied Hungary and the persecution that Jewish people faced at this time. There were a number of very powerful messages about being bystanders and standing up against injustice and we were all very grateful to Ms Shah for organising the opportunity.



## NLCS Philosophy Conference 2026

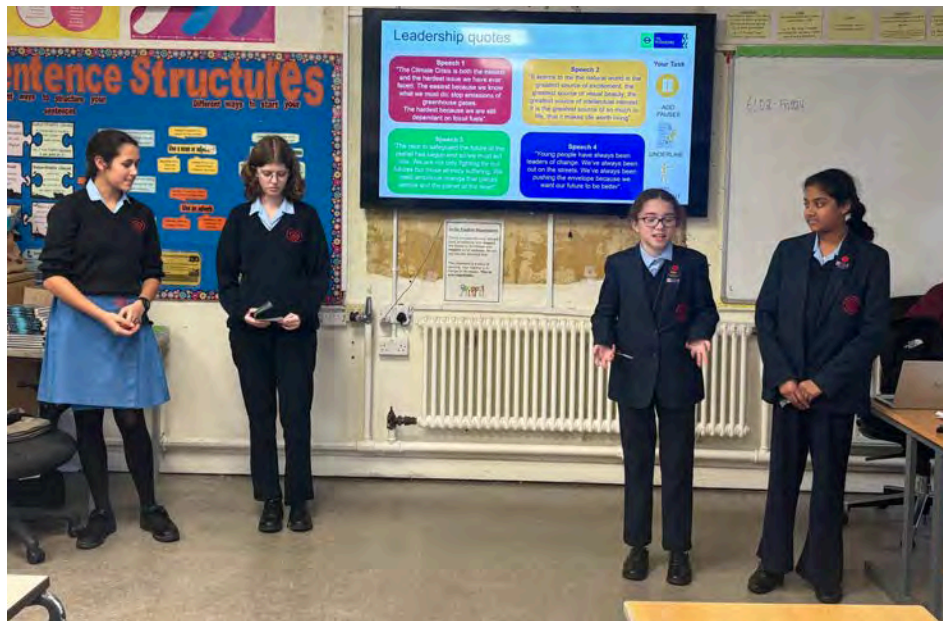
Students recently attended a Philosophy Conference where they heard from university researchers about how philosophical ideas apply to real-world issues. Sessions explored topics such as the ethics of artificial intelligence and online images, art and morality, how science and philosophy work together to understand reality and Socratic and Platonic methods of dialogue and conversation.

# TfL Pioneers Programme

This year marked the launch of the TfL Pioneers Programme, where 14 eco-representatives from Years 7, 8, and 9 teamed up with Michael Kitchen, the London Transport Museum's Youth Travel Ambassador and Louis Bynoe, Safe & Sustainable Travel Department for Barnet.

In their first session, the Pioneers explored local travel issues, discovering a startling statistic: 1 in 4 cars during the morning rush hour is on the school run, generating half a million tonnes of CO2 per year. The Pioneers discussed how we as a school could promote active travel by individuals walking the whole or part of their journey to school to become more active and help the environment at the same time. The second session focused on mastering the art of public speaking. The Pioneers developed their presentation skills, practicing techniques to keep an audience engaged and inspired. They will be delivering their first assembly to all year groups very soon!

Photographs of the Pioneers in action.



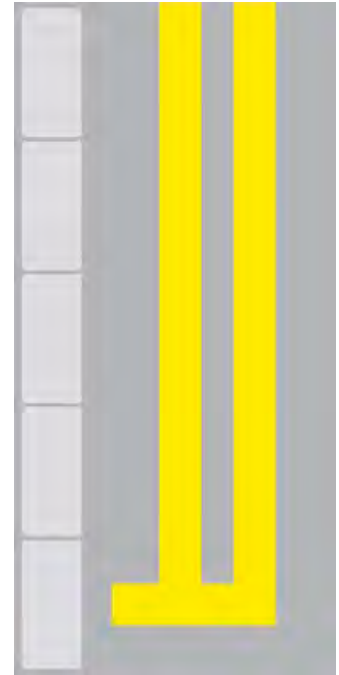
# Responsible Parking

At Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School we are proud of how many of our students travel to school by sustainable means, whether by walking or bicycle, or public transport. We understand, however, there are cases where it is necessary for students to be driven to school by car. In these instances, we ask parents and carers to be mindful about the rules on parking and waiting on a double yellow line. The Highway Code states that you may stop while passengers board or alight, however you may not wait there:

*Double yellow lines mean no waiting at any time, unless there are signs that specifically indicate seasonal restrictions.*

The School has received a significantly increased volume of negative feedback from local residents, members of the public and local councillors regarding the problems created by cars waiting outside the school to drop off or collect students. Quite apart from being unlawful, parking on the pavement, or on double yellow lines and blocking residents' driveways while waiting for school to open or end, is unhelpful and dangerous to pedestrians. Further information can be found [here](#).

Thank you to all parents and carers for your adherence to the Highway Code and your support in prioritising safety for our students and the community.



## Dates for your diary

- Parents' Evenings:
  - Year 8 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Wednesday 25 February
  - Year 10 2pm-6pm (students finish at 1.00pm) Tuesday 24 March
- Sports Day Monday 6 July
- School Play Performances Wednesday 8 - Friday 10 July

## Please follow us on LinkedIn:



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/20659538>

# Useful Support Lines

If you or your child needs support with their mental health over the holidays the following organisations are here to help:

**Childline** is a free, private and confidential service that you can access online and on the phone. They can provide help and support for people up to their 19th birthday.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/> telephone 0800 1111

**Samaritans** provide free confidential emotional support at any time either by calling 116 123 or emailing [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

**Kooth** is an online platform that has information and support for young people on how to manage their mental health <https://www.kooth.com/>

**Shout** is a 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. Text 85258. Only available in mainland UK website <https://giveusashout.org/>

**NHS Mental health** services are free on the NHS.

To get **urgent medical help**, use the NHS 111 online service, or call 111 if you're unable to get help online. Only available in mainland UK.

For **life-threatening emergencies**, call 999 for an ambulance

**Safer Schools** for learners experiencing any form of abuse. It also provides a contact point for reporting burglaries, vandalism and other incidents that impact on efforts to ensure safe schools. The Call Centre's telephone number is 0800 45 46 47.

**CEOP** is here to help children stay safe online. If anybody acts inappropriately towards you or another child or young person online (such as sexual chat, or being asked to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable); you can report it here.

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

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[READ MORE ON  
OUR WEBSITE](#)



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