

## Dear Parents

Many of you will have seen the 'league tables' published in the newspapers, showing Gillotts in the top few schools in Oxfordshire, achieving a Progress 8 score of 0.28. This means that students on average achieved over a quarter of a grade better in each of their GCSEs than expected. We are obviously absolutely delighted to have maintained this very high performance. Success like this is not easy to achieve and takes hard work, day in, day out, year in, year out. What also matters to us is that, whilst we may not be quite top every year, we have consistently now, over many years, maintained our position as amongst the very best schools in Oxfordshire. This is a wonderful testament to everyone's hard work, particularly all the teachers and support staff here, but also to all our young people, who work with such dedication, and to you as parents, who work with us every step of the way. Thank you.

You can find the tables at <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/>

You can choose Oxfordshire in the drop down for the LA, to see our results in comparison with other local schools.

This pressure is now on this year's Year 11 to meet their potential. I know that they, and you, are conscious of the very difficult employment situation for young people at present and the cost of university education. The message we have been sharing with them that it is important that they achieve their personal best, and do not settle for 'just enough' to get them onto the next stage. When we return from half term, we will be into the last 50 school days until GCSE examinations start in earnest and it is critical that the students maximise the impact of the time left. In particular, achieving grade 4 and above passes in English and maths is of critical importance – students are not funded to study post-16 unless they have these passes, or are resitting. We think it is much better to go for it first time!



Year 9 have just been taking their first steps in the Key Stage 4 journey as they have been thinking hard about decisions about routes and courses, with the support of their form tutors, Heads of House and subject teachers. I have been impressed by how maturely they have been engaging with the decision making – they certainly have lots to look forward to.

We know this is a time of year when some parents consider a different school for their child, usually grammar or independent schools. Whilst we completely respect parents' rights to choose the best school for their child, we know that all students, including those with high prior attainment, achieve well at Gillotts. The results of our highest performers at GCSE every year are testament to this - students could not do any better. Students who have left us often return to tell us that both the quality of teaching and learning and the quality of relationships with staff at Gillotts far exceed anything they have gone on to experience. There are also huge advantages in being educated in your community, with all the potential for connections in-school to be deepened by taking part in extracurricular activities in the town such as sport, music, drama and cadets. Gillotts is an inclusive school and our students learn to interact positively with students of all backgrounds and abilities, including those with significant difficulties. These early experiences put them at huge advantages when entering the world of work. Of course that means they do have some more challenging experiences, but life isn't smooth or simple and building resilience in our young people is crucial. All our sixth form providers tell us how very well prepared our students are for post 16 study - in their maturity, independence

and all-round readiness for the next stage of their lives. Just because a child could go to a grammar school, that does not mean that it is automatically the right choice; if a child is thriving at Gillotts, there is no reason for them to leave. If you are considering a move and want to discuss, please do speak to your child's Head of House or any of the Leadership Team.

As I write, we are looking forward to this week's performances of our school play, 'Ernie and His Amazing Illucinations.' Over 30 students have been working hard with Mrs Alder to put this show on – please do support them!

We wish all the students and staff on the ski trip a great week. Whatever you are doing, we hope you all have a good break.



Catharine Darnton  
Headteacher



## Reminder - dropping off and collecting students from Gillotts

The best places to drop your child off/ collect them by car are:

Makins Road – there is a network of footpaths that give access to the site. Please however do not park on the pavements or block residents' driveways; please also remind your children to respect residents' property as they walk in.

Leisure Centre car park – a one way system operates around the car park to ease the process. Please note that there is a 'give way' line as you leave the car park, giving priority to vehicles leaving or entering the school.

Please do not use the bus bay, any area of the school site beyond the turning into the Leisure Centre car park or Gillotts Lane.

The bus bay – we have a large number of buses and coaches, some of which need to reverse to get in or out. Please do not use the bus bay, the school cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may arise. Additionally, apart from the obvious danger this poses to all students, it is likely that your insurance will be invalidated if the clear signage is ignored. Teachers are on duty at the end of the day to ensure students who are waiting for the buses remain behind the barriers. Please do not drop off/ collect or park in the bus bay

The school site – because there is limited space for turning on the site, and because of the number of students, please do not bring your car onto site at the beginning or end of the day

Gillotts Lane – parents waiting by the kerb on Gillotts Lane effectively reduce the road to single track and this can lead to grid lock. Please avoid parking in this area if you can.

We do understand that there are some difficulties because of the location of the school but if all parents follow the above advice, previous experience indicates that all will go smoothly.

## Parent View

Parent View is an online questionnaire for parents and carers to feed back to Ofsted on their child's school. It is now the main mechanism that Ofsted use to gather parents' views at the time of an inspection. There are just 12 questions to answer. The questions look at the key areas such as happiness, safety, progress, quality of teaching, behaviour and school leadership. The final question asks if you would recommend the school to another parent. Everyone's responses are put together and are available to view on the Parent View website. In order to minimise the risk of abuse, you are required to register and create a password. We would be very pleased to have your ongoing feedback of what you think of the school – please visit <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

## Improve Digital Resilience By Allowing Children To Go Online

We are all too aware of some of the risks posed by the Internet and understandably want to protect our children from them. One way to do this is to ban Internet access, mobile phones and games consoles, however I would like to present a potential controversial alternative for you to consider. While this may seem counter-intuitive, research conducted by the Oxford Internet Institute suggests children develop better digital resilience if they are given the freedom to use the Internet. I am not suggesting unlimited screen time and no controls over the activities carried out online, however I am suggesting children can only learn to identify and respond to the sometimes stressful challenges of the digital age when they have an opportunity to be faced by them.

Children who are given the opportunity to explore the Internet, including social media, are more likely to see the Internet as a beneficial resource and consequently use it to keep up-to-date with current events and conversation on topics which interest them, such as their favourite TV shows or hobbies. Furthermore, children who engage in online discussions are more likely to understand the dangers of trolling (that is, people being abusive or harmful online) and over-sharing with strangers, and consequently self-regulate better than children with more limited opportunity to engage online.

Improving your own online skills can also be a beneficial part of developing your child's digital resilience. Familiarity with the technology and terminology can facilitate parents in becoming more involved in how their children are using these technologies and help them to use them appropriately and safely, not to mention help the child to describe and discuss a concern should they have one. With an improved awareness of the positive aspects of social media, blogs and online gaming, comes a greater willingness and confidence to allow children to participate.

Children who feel they are being unfairly restricted or monitored, especially in comparison to their peers, will often look for ways to bypass those controls and potentially in so doing gain access to the darker areas of the Internet as well as feel unable to then approach their parents if they find something which makes them feel unsafe.

As I said at the start of this article, I am not proposing children are given unlimited screen time, and parental regulation and monitoring is still key, however I would encourage you to consider the benefits of a shared engagement with your child's online activity. You can read the full report, *Building Online Resilience*, at [www.parentzone.org.uk](http://www.parentzone.org.uk)

Mr Jones

IT Services Manager and e-Safety Co-ordinator



## DARWIN NEWS

### Tutee of the Term

DABY - Ananya Anilkumar

DCHA - Pawel Kaczorowski

DFD - Anabella Joynes

DFMW - Sean Wilder

DGS - Alana Huggins

DHJR - Josh Le Beigge

DJAS - Alice Pegley

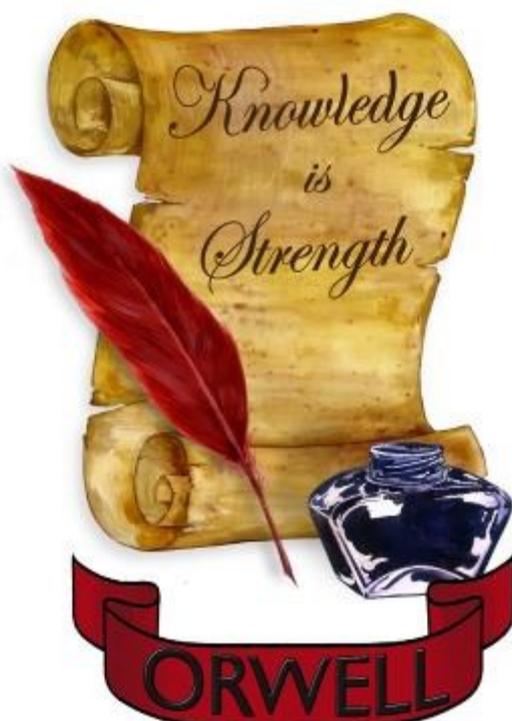
DJLG - Molly Spiers

DLN - Helena Porter

DPJY - Neve Staines

DROM/GB - Finnbar Flood

DYF - Emily Higson



## ORWELL NEWS

### Tutee of the Term

OAB/ELD - Brett White

OACM - Louie Bassinder

OCH - Amelia Priestley

OCLV - Phivi Jackson

OFH - Sam Phillips

OGMO - Roman Wilson

OJAW - Anna Tompkins

OJDG - Georgia Eggleton

OJWZ - Athena Hall

OLUH - David Pangani

OTWN - Amelia Sterjo

## PANKHURST NEWS

### Tutee of the Term:

PCAD/ND - Kian Alliston

PCD - Poppy Stevens

PCMR - Beth Tait Alexander

PGDM - Tyler Folley

PHS/CW - Naia Charman Vazquez

PLOS - Ruby Weatherley

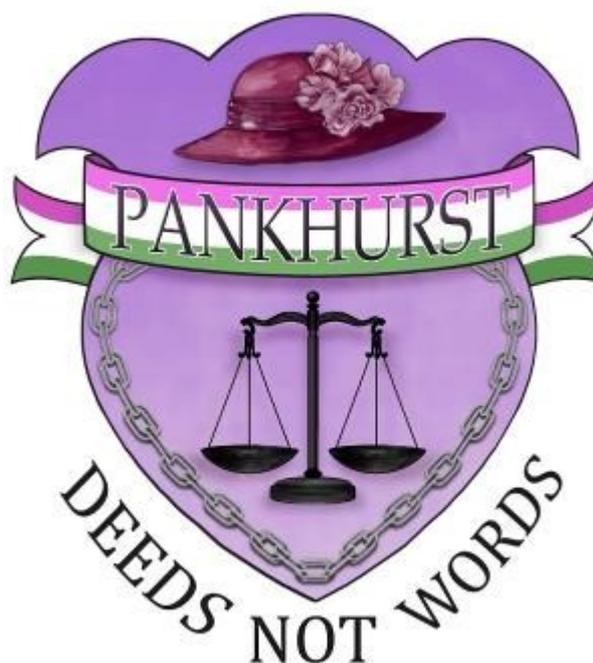
PLSS - Dan Kernick

PKLO - Cameron MacDonald

PKJS - Danny McAllister

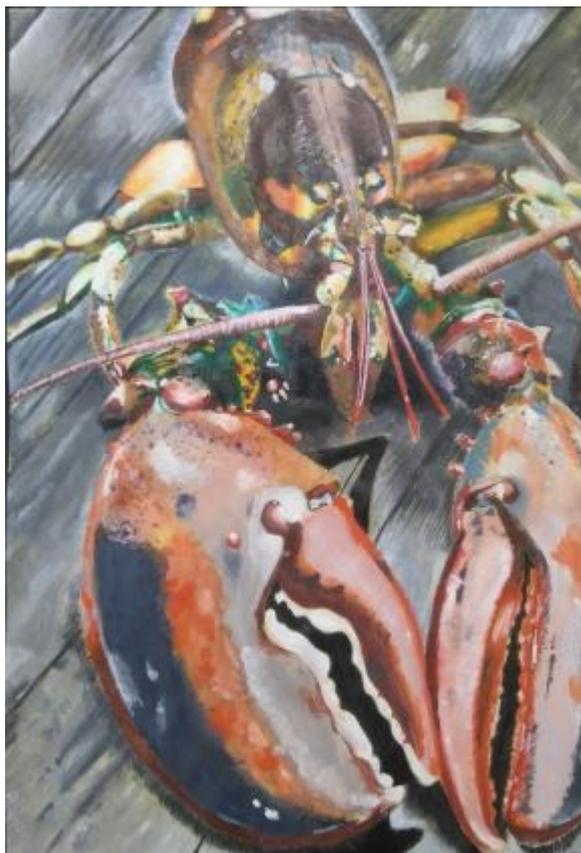
PSJW - Alex Stearn

PTAG - Ruby Thomas



## Winner of Art Competition

Lottie Woods in Year 11 was entered into the nationwide competition for the front cover of Specialist Catalogue. Lottie received special commendation and is featured in this year's edition of Specialist and in addition, has received a £25 voucher to spend through Specialist. The piece that was entered was part of her GCSE Coursework for a project called 'Fish and the Sea'. Lottie's work was featured alongside other young artists from around the country and she was one of the youngest competitors to be given special credit.



## Science Photo Competition

Late last year, the Science department held a competition open to all years and were very impressed by the standard of all the entries. The brief was to take a photo of the changes that students see in nature, during Autumn. The winners were Ella Wood (Year 7), for her photo of leaves changing colour (second page of this newsletter) and Ella Shute (Year 11) for her photo of a frosted teasle (front page). Both winners received a £10 Amazon voucher. Runners up are James Laing, Joe Day, Georgia Eggleton, and Angus Fraser.

## Ernie's Incredible Illucinations– Gillotts School Production

On Wednesday and Thursday, Gillotts students acted in this year's school play, entitled Ernie's Incredible Illucinations. The students, who are all in years 7-9, have been rehearsing the play since September. The play is by Alan Ayckbourn, about a boy whose imaginings come to life.



## Duke of Edinburgh

The 53 year 9 students working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award are making excellent progress. 2 students have already completed sections, Lexi Cronin has completed her 3 months physical section at Wallingford Netball club and Conrad Gurney has used guitar lessons to improve his technique for his skills section. Congratulations to both students and we hope this will encourage more participants to upload assessor reports and evidence as they complete their sections.



On 20th January, the students attended a training day in preparation for the expeditions they will be completing later in the year. They had workshops in the morning covering essential First Aid, navigation and planning suitable food and drink to take to keep them going for the 2 day hike.



In the afternoon they worked on their route for the expedition in May which will take place in the area near Gerrards Cross with a night camping. We were impressed on the focus and team working skills shown by the students on the day.

We are also pleased to announce that Lulu Broadbent and Poppy Priestley, both year 10 and Bronze award holders, are the Gillotts DofE ambassadors. They attended the area ambassador training day in January and have come back filled with enthusiasm to support the younger students in completing their awards.

The practice expedition is on the weekend of 24-25th March. An email with all the details including kit, timings and directions has been sent to parents.

Mrs Michael



## Henley Youth Festival

Dear Parents and Guardians

The Henley Youth Festival is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and of course the theme is 'Celebration'!

The festival takes place 10-18 March, and there are many ways for your youngsters to get involved and showcase their talent, or even help out behind the scenes at the Kenton Theatre, and we hope that you will encourage your children to participate.



Here at Gillotts we are promoting the Young Reporter competition, held in conjunction with the Henley Standard. Keen writers and journalists could win an opportunity to report on an HYF event, then spend a day with the editor at the Henley Standard office and have their article published in the newspaper.

To enter they should email 100-500 words of their own writing (it can be anything they've already written before) to [sbradshaw@henleystandard.co.uk](mailto:sbradshaw@henleystandard.co.uk) and myself [siobhanpratt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siobhanpratt@yahoo.co.uk) by Monday 19 February.

Other competitions your children can enter are the Writing, Art and Film competitions, all based on the Celebration theme. Entries for these are due on Friday 2 March, and can be brought to the school reception where they will be collected. All details and entry forms are on the website [www.hyf.org.uk](http://www.hyf.org.uk)



Performers can take their place on the Kenton Theatre stage either playing an instrument, singing, dancing, acting, or any other act they wish. This could be as a solo, duet or group.

Solo musicians, bands and DJs in Years 9-13 can once again perform on Gig Night (pictured) at Lovibonds on 10 March and enjoy a great evening together.

Entries must be in by Friday 23 February; again details at [www.hyf.org.uk](http://www.hyf.org.uk)

Please like our Facebook page for more updates, check the website or email me with any questions you may have on [siobhanpratt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siobhanpratt@yahoo.co.uk)

We know there is so much talent here at Gillotts, and the Henley Youth Festival offers a fantastic chance to perform for a friendly audience, and explore other artistic skills and talents.

We're looking forward to CELEBRATING with the Gillotts youth again!

Many thanks

Siobhan Pratt, Henley Youth Festival Gillotts Representative

## Gillotts Winning Rowers

On the 6th of February 16 pupils ranging from year 8 to year 10 represented Gillotts at an indoor rowing event in Abingdon. As we arrived Mr Harding as usual told everyone to set up camp outside the squash court. At the beginning of the event there was a short briefing about what was happening at the event. The first race was individually on the ergs (indoor rowing machine). Yr 7s had to row 2 minutes, yr 8s had to row for 3 minutes etc. The year 10s were up first and Ben Doyle won his race for Gillotts and he does not even row outside of school. The 4 year 9 girls who competed all came in the top 4 positions as they all row outside of school together. There were 3 year 9 boys representing Gillotts, one of whom rows outside of school at Leander Rowing Club, they also all came in the top 3 in their race. The Under 13s were next and the year 8 girls performed very well as two of them row for Henley and the other two row for Shiplake. For the year 8 girls there were 2 different races which they came 1st and 2nd in. The year 8 boys also has 2 separate races and Connor came 1st in his race and the others came 1st and 2nd. After all of the individual races, the relays had started which means that 4 people have to swap every so often and complete a certain amount of metres. The 2 under 15 Gillotts relay teams were in the same race which was 2020m long and the two relay teams came 1st and 3rd. The under 13 relay teams also did very well who also came 1st and 3rd. When all of the races had finally ended, it was time for the awards ceremony. All 16 pupils were nervously waiting as they saw the shiny golden medals lying on the table. The results got announced in reverse order and the Under 13s had won gold with roughly 85%! The Under 15 results were still to come and they too were waiting nervously. Again the results were read out in reverse order but luckily they had won gold as well with 90%. At the end Mr Harding took a picture of the group with their medals and two trophies! A trophy for each group and after this they headed back to school. All in all it was a great day for the pupils because they won!!!



Natalie Schoenmakers (Year 9)

## Henley Lions 2018 Swimathon– Saturday March 24th 2018 from 12.30pm at the Henley Leisure Centre

The Henley Lions Club is organising its annual fundraising Swimarathon, the aim of which is to raise money for a charity of the Club's choosing and a chosen charity of the participants. The event involves teams of swimmers swimming as many lengths as possible of the Henley Leisure Centre pool in 40 minutes.

Last year a team of Year 7 Gillotts School students raised £100 for Gillotts School and £100 for a local charity and it would be great if Gillotts students could again support the Henley Lions and the school by forming teams and participating in this event. Any monies raised for Gillotts would be given to the Parents Association which uses its funds to support the school in various initiatives. Please note that this is not a Gillotts School event and any student participating remains the responsibility of their parent/guardian during the Swimarathon.

Any students who wish to participate should email Gillotts Parents' Association for full information ([gillottspa@gmail.com](mailto:gillottspa@gmail.com)). You will need to:

- 1) Form a team of up to 8 swimmers (3/4 for strong swimmers, 5/6 intermediate and 7/8 for beginners)
- 2) Complete a registration form (one per team), identifying a preferred time slot
- 3) Individual team members to complete a sponsorship form, and bring it along to the Swimarathon
- 4) Turn up to the event and swim as many lengths as possible as a team within 40 minutes.
- 5) Collect sponsorship monies per team and return to Henley Lions by 30 April 2018.



 **OXFORDSHIRE  
TEACHER TRAINING**  
School Centred Initial Teacher Training

## Application Support Workshop

**This session is suitable for:**

- Candidates intending to apply to OTT this year
- Candidates who have been invited to an OTT interview

**We will cover:**

- The application (if relevant to your stage): standing out from the crowd
- Opportunities to observe and reflect on teaching
- Interview tasks: how to make sure you are properly prepared

### Where and When

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
Venue: Gillotts School, Gillotts Lane, Henley on Thames, RG9 1PS  
Time: 12.30 – 16.00pm



**HOW TO BOOK:** Email [teachingschools@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:teachingschools@gillotts.org.uk) if you would like to attend  
Or would like more information on future Workshops



### Do you speak Greek?

We are looking for help with GCSE Greek speaking assessments. Students need to complete a short speaking assessment, as part of their GCSE and we need someone to have a conversation with them. If you are able to help, we would be very grateful to hear from you. Please email Virginia Farman for more information, [vfarman@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:vfarman@gillotts.org.uk)

Thank you

### Letting the School Know about Absences

Any attendance related issues (ie: medical appointments, absence requests, sickness) are dealt with by the attendance administrator. You can let her know of any issues via [attendance@gillotts.org.uk](mailto:attendance@gillotts.org.uk) or by leaving her an answer phone message on 01491 636 812.

### School Uniform

If you need anything for a club, business or event and you are not sure where to source your requirements, why not give Brian a call or contact him by email. Brian has kindly committed to donate 5% of any orders made by new customers introduced to No Sweat by Gillotts' parents. The school has been very happy with his service and we feel confident any new customers will be as well. What's more, the school might benefit from any donations.

Call Brian : 01189 724005 or 07973 391665

Email Brian : [no-sweat1000@hotmail.com](mailto:no-sweat1000@hotmail.com)

## Advice and Guidance

### Oxcentric

[www.oxme.info/opportunities](http://www.oxme.info/opportunities)

This website is regularly updated with opportunities around Oxfordshire. It is suitable for young people looking for work, apprenticeships, training, volunteering and much more.

Webchat: you can contact The Opportunities Team on 01865 328460, by email [opportunities@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:opportunities@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or online. You can chat to the team about jobs, opportunities and other issues go to the Oxcentric homepage and find the icon on the right of the page.

Resources and tips: download worksheet on interview techniques, CV writing and much more from your first job (put into search bar) section of Oxcentric.

### National Careers Service

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx> - this offers information and professional advice about education, training and work to people of all ages. The website, helpline and web chat offers confidential and impartial advice supported by qualified careers advisers. The telephone number is 0800 100 900

### National Apprenticeship Service

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/> - this supports, funds and co-ordinates the delivery of Apprenticeships throughout England.

### Adviza

Adviza is offering a **Parent Adviza** service. Their careers advisers are able to work through a range of concerns with parents to help them support their son or daughter. Appointments are for one hour and are delivered one-to-one with a qualified and experienced Careers Adviser at a convenient time and location. A fee will be charged for this service, please see the Adviza website for details:

[www.adviza.org.uk](http://www.adviza.org.uk)

Adviza is also offering a **Graduate Adviza** service which is designed to help those students who have graduated in the last five years, and those about to graduate, to take their next step. Sessions are for one hour and are delivered one-to-one with a qualified and experienced Careers Adviser at a convenient time and location. For further information and to book go to [www.adviza.org.uk/](http://www.adviza.org.uk/)



[shop](#)

### eCLIPS

eCLIPS is an easy-to-use online careers resource that provides regular updated information on over 1,000 jobs and careers.

Please contact Mr Bull for the login.



## Term dates for 2017 - 2018

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2017.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	4 September – 20 October 2017	35
<b>October holiday</b>	23 October – 27 October 2017	
Autumn Term	30 October – 19 December 2017	37
<b>Christmas holiday</b>	20 December 2017 – 3 January 2018	
Spring Term	4 January – 9 February 2018	27
<b>Spring half term</b>	12 February – 16 February 2018	
Spring Term	19 February – 29 March 2018	29
<b>Easter holiday</b>	30 March – 13 April 2018	
Summer Term	16 April – 25 May 2018	29
<b>Late Summer half term</b>	28 May - 1 June 2018	
Summer Term	4 June - 25 July 2018	38
<b>Total</b>		<b>195</b>

### INSET days

The school will be closed to students on:

Monday 4 September 2017

Friday 29 September 2017

Monday 23 July 2018

Tuesday 24 July 2018

Wednesday 25 July 2018

**Note** that only Year 7 and Year 10 (and Year 11 Leaders) are required to attend on Tuesday 5 September 2017. The remainder of the school returns on Wednesday 6 September 2017.

7 May 2018 is the May Day bank holiday.

### Early closures (12.30pm)

Thursday 28 September 2017

Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Tuesday 19 December 2017

Friday 20 July 2018

## Term dates for 2018 - 2019

The dates set out below are the confirmed school term and holiday dates from September 2018.

Term	Dates	Number of days
Autumn Term	4 September – 19 October 2018	34
<b>October holiday</b>	22 October – 26 October 2018	
Autumn Term	29 October – 21 December 2018	40
<b>Christmas holiday</b>	24 December 2018 – 4 January 2019	
Spring Term	7 January – 15 February 2019	30
<b>Spring half term</b>	18 February – 22 February 2019	
Spring Term	25 February – 5 April 2019	30
<b>Easter holiday</b>	8 April – 22 April 2019	
Summer Term	23 April – 24 May 2019	23
<b>Late Summer half term</b>	27 May - 31 May 2019	
Summer Term	3 June - 24 July 2019	38
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Staff and students preparation for Open Evening

Friday 21 December 2018

Friday 19 July 2019