



29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

## Hummingbird Celebration

This week we held our Hummingbird (electric racing car) celebration evening. Students were awarded for their contribution to the performance team, hammers and spanners, pit crew, driving and media support. Hummingbird is a hugely successful and inclusive club where students are integral to the team effort of getting the car on track and keeping it competitive. My thanks to parents and carers who support the club and to Becton Dickinson for their amazing financial support. We were delighted that Becton Dickinson were able to be present at the celebration evening to present one of the awards. Hummingbird goes from strength to strength and we look forward to seeing how our second car will perform in the kit car category next season.

## GWR disruption

GWR have announced on their website that there will be disruption to services from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Please see [here](#) for more details and scroll down to the Plymouth area information. We have been assured by GWR that they have alternative services in place. Should you have any concerns, please feel free to contact GWR.

## Reading

There once was a reader so bright,  
Whose books kept them up through the night.  
With each page they turned,  
More knowledge they earned,  
And their mind soared to great heights of light!

This week's recommendations are

Biology [M&S supplier lashes cows with chains - The Day](#)

Music ['There's only so many notes in pop music' - The Day](#)

Law [MPs get free vote on assisted dying - The Day](#)

Please find below the link to The Day website - there are no further log in details needed to access the articles and resources once this link has been clicked

Here is the link, [The Day](#)

### **Carols and Mince Pies (CAMP)**

A reminder that CAMP will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 5pm to 6.30pm. Please find below a link to *Ticket Source* for parents and carers wishing to buy tickets for CAMP 2024.

Date: 11 December 2024

Time: 5pm – 6:30pm

Venue: Newman Hall

Ticket price: £2

[Ticket link for CAMP](#)

### **Christmas lunch**

A school Christmas lunch is a special tradition, bringing joy and festivity to students. It includes a delicious roast with trimmings and dessert. It's a moment to celebrate, bond with friends, and enjoy the holiday spirit, creating lasting memories of warmth and togetherness.

The Christmas lunches will take place on:

- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December for years 7, 8 and 9
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December for years 10, 11 and sixth form

At £2.80 per student for a school Christmas lunch, the meal includes a traditional roast (such as turkey or a vegetarian alternative), sides, and dessert. There is no need for students to book, they just turn up as usual (but on the correct day for their year

group) and pay in the usual way using their parentpay account. Please note that **A drink is not included in the price.**

**Main Course:**

- Roast turkey or a vegetarian option.
- Traditional trimmings like stuffing, roast potatoes, and vegetables (carrots, peas, or Brussels sprouts).

**Dessert: A festive choice such as:**

- Christmas pudding, mince pie, or yule log.

On Christmas, the feast is divine,  
With turkey and pudding so fine.  
The cookies are sweet,  
The fruitcake's a treat,  
And the table just seems to outshine!

For those students who will not be having a Christmas lunch on the dates above, alternative food will be available from Bertha's at lunchtime, but there will be a reduced selection. Breaktime choice will remain unaffected.

**House news**

I am delighted to share that the process for appointing our 2025 House and Junior House Captains is well underway. Shortlisted students will be interviewed next week and we hope to announce the successful candidates very soon.

**150 Foundation**

You may remember that I shared with parents and carers that we launched our 150 Foundation this year. It is a bursary arrangement funded by two ex PHSG students who wanted to give back and support young people in year 12 on their educational journey. The 150 Foundation provides a cash prize which students can use to support them in their studies, however they see fit. This year, there were two successful candidates who share the prize money. [Visit the 150 Foundation page here](#) to find

out more. If any of our parents and carers wish to contribute to the 2025/26 bursary fund, please do visit our [150 Foundation page here](#) and scroll down to see the donation button. The 150 Foundation page will soon have pen portraits of the 2024/25 recipients, so do pop back later to have another look. Thank you in advance to everyone who is able to make a contribution to this new venture.

### **A note from Mr Law regarding year 11**

As we have reached the end of the second week of examinations, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the students once again for their exemplary behaviour and dedication to their studies during this challenging period.

However, it has become apparent that some students are experiencing signs of 'examination fatigue.' This has led to a reduction in the effective use of lesson time for revision in certain cases. We understand the intensity of the examination period, and we encourage students to maintain their focus and motivation as they approach the final stretch.

As the examinations come to a close next week, I wanted to provide you with a few key updates:

- **Monday and Tuesday:** Students will return to their normal timetable, with lessons running as usual. These lessons will not introduce new content to ensure Art students completing their Art Mock Examination are not disadvantaged.
- **Wednesday:** This will mark the conclusion of the scheduled examinations. Students not sitting other examinations will have the opportunity to revise for their final Mathematics examination during periods 1 and 2.
- **Catch-Up Examinations:** For students who have missed any examinations, catch-up sessions have been scheduled. Students should have received a timetable for these sessions this afternoon. Please note that it is unlikely we will be able to reschedule any missed examinations from next week.

I want to extend my gratitude to you for the invaluable support you have given your child throughout this examination period. Your encouragement has undoubtedly played a significant role in helping them navigate this experience.

Finally, I hope that each student feels a sense of pride in their efforts and accomplishments. These examinations have been a significant milestone in their academic journey, and their hard work deserves recognition.

Year 11 will receive their mock grades at the mock results event on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

### **Year 13 mocks**

Year 13 will begin their mocks after the Christmas break and are no doubt working hard now on their revision. The mocks are a crucial point in the final year preparation for public examinations and I wish year 13 well in their journey to being ready to perform.

### **Last day of term**

We are fast approaching the Christmas break, so I thought a reminder about our last day would be helpful. Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December is our last day and is the day we have our carol service at our local Church. This is a full uniform day. Students will finish school at 12.45pm with DHSB contract buses arriving at 1pm. We are unable to change the times of other buses and train service on the last day. If you would like us to supervise your child until 3.30pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December, please let your child's Head of Year know. We would be grateful if you could let us know as soon as possible, ideally by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, if you require supervision for your child until 3.30pm on the last day so that we can put appropriate measures in place.

Best wishes,



**Simon Underdown.**  
**Headteacher.**