



Mr Wilson's Weekly Message



After a week of rest, reflection and revision, both staff and students have come back to school this week full of energy. For years 11, I'm sure much of half term was spent creating revision timetables and preparing for their upcoming mocks. For all students, the ability to recall information that they have learned previously is vital. As ever, the most important part of the mock exam process will be the feedback that students receive. As with all feedback, students must focus on their successes and their areas for improvement. Only by reflecting and learning from our mistakes can we become masters of a subject. I am grateful to parents for your ongoing support in helping our students to revise and to achieve the best possible outcomes.

This week I would also like to recognise the recent flooding in Spain, the impact of which has been felt by many of our pupils and staff. It is important that during such times we come together as a community and do all we can to support those affected. On Thursday and Friday, we held a bake sale to raise funds for Valencians UK, a charity which helps to fund emergency aid and recovery efforts, and we will be looking to do more fundraising in weeks to come. If you have any suggestions about how we as a community can further support, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Jack Petchey Speak out

Every young person deserves the chance to have their voice heard! We were thrilled to see our Year 10 students doing just that on the last Friday of last term, as they participated in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge 2024.

During the day, students engaged in dynamic workshops led by experienced facilitators from the Speakers Trust. Through various interactive activities - from spontaneous speeches to group discussion - students not only honed the art of captivating an audience but also discovered the true impact of their own words. The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge gives our Year 10s the tools to become persuasive and confident communicators, a skill that will serve them well both in school and beyond.

*Congratulations to the students selected to advance to the next round, which will take place here at school! **Congratulations to our winners: Christina Rose Cefra; Abush Hamilton; Angela Morella; Nicoleta Rotari and Anabella Smajlaj.** And a big well done to our runners-up: **Sasa Bankole; Connie Griffiths Cochrane; Dominic Jenkins; Honour Odusanwo and Fate-mah.***



Year 11 Mock exams

Mock exams for students in Year 11 begin on Monday 11th November. These exams are really important and will help you to see how your child is performing in each subject. Students have been given their exam timetable and revision manifests and should have started their revision over the half term break. We particularly recommend the following revision techniques:

- Self quizzing to learn definitions from a knowledge organiser (see [this video](#))
- Testing yourself on flashcards using the Leitner system (see [this video](#))
- Completing practice questions - your teacher will provide you with these

Teachers will be supporting pupils with their revision during lesson time, so it is important for Year 11 students to be in school every day and to get plenty of rest each night. A copy of the timetable for week 1 can be found below:

Mock week 1

Period	Monday 11th Nov	Tuesday 12th Nov	Wednesday 13th nov	Thursday 14th Nov	Friday 15th Nov
1	Biology 75/105		Maths paper 1 90		English Literature 135
2	mins		mins		mins
3					
4				RE 60	
5				mins	
6	Spanish writing 60/75	Chinese/ French/ Spanish writing 60/75	Chemistry 75/105		Maths paper 2 90
7	mins	mins	mins		mins

Parent Survey

Our parent survey is open now and we would love to hear from you. Let us know what we do well and where you think we can improve here: <https://edurio.com/poll/OpM3Ty>



Debate Mate Launch

On Wednesday 35 enthusiastic year 10 pupils attended the Debate Mate Launch Event at the Emmanuel Centre. It was a fantastic event, and pupils are now excited for their very first debate competition. Well done to all pupils who attended and all the best for the upcoming competition– happy debating!



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Subject in the spotlight



This week's subject in the spotlight is... Music with the head of department, Mr Clarke

Our Year 7 students are busy practicing their chosen instruments as part of our Class Band programme. They're divided into three groups: brass (trumpet or trombone), saxophone, and rhythm (piano or ukulele). This week, they've been learning to play 'Hot Cross Buns,' an English folk song, and they're also learning the difference between a semibreve, minim, and crotchet.

Year 8 is diving into Grieg's 'In The Hall of the Mountain King' from the play *Peer Gynt*. They're analysing how the dynamics and tempo change throughout the piece and how a fermata at the start creates tension and suspense.

Our Year 9 students are bringing back the jazz vibes through learning one of the most famous villain songs of all time: 'Cruella de Vil' from Disney's *101 Dalmatians*. They're mastering swing rhythms and understanding the role of an anacrusis.

Our Year 10s are getting ready for their first solo performances, which they picked themselves. They're keeping a rehearsal diary to track their progress and set their own goals for improvement.

Year 11 Music students are revising for their upcoming listening and appraising mock exam. They've answered questions on a variety of unfamiliar pieces of music and are honing their analytical skills for the 10-mark question, which focuses on how a piece of music effectively portrays a particular mood or action.

Outside of lessons our Music Scholars are super busy, practicing hard in our Brass Groups and Saxophone Groups. We've also brought back our school choir and started a new Music Production club called StudioX: a club aimed at students that are interested in songwriting and digital beat-making. We're so proud of how committed they've been, and we can't wait to show off their amazing skills later this term!



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Mr Wilson's Commendations

Congratulations this week go to the following pupils, who made it to the top of our Sparx maths and Sparx reader leaderboards.

Top pupils for Sparx maths are:

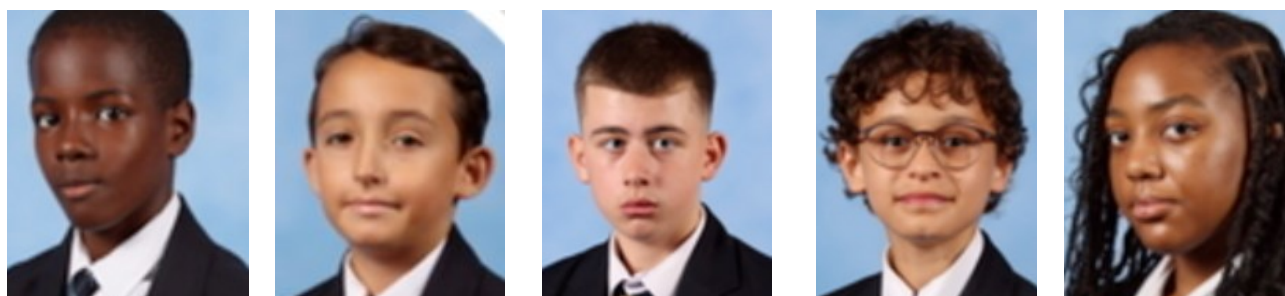
Year 7: Aiden

Year 8: Ollie

Year 9: Findlay

Year 10: Theo

Year 11: Olivia

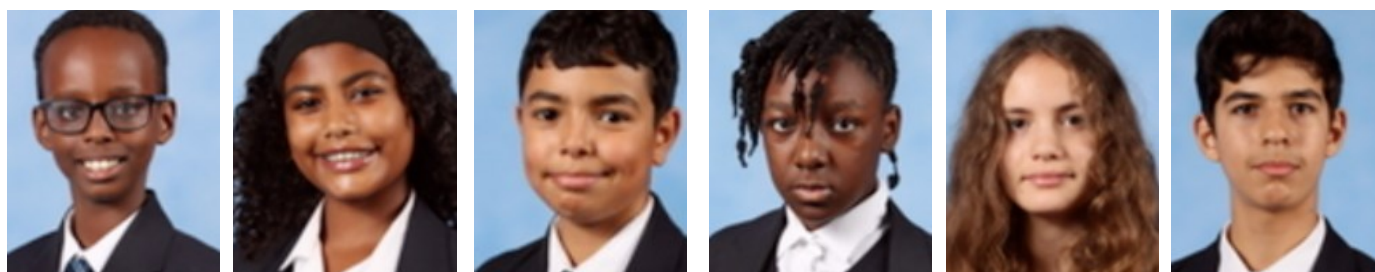


Top pupils for Sparx reader are:

Year 7: Nasri and Maleeka

Year 8: Ibrahim and Chaunique

Year 9: Badis and Cassie



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Mandarin GCSE Trip

On 22nd October, our Year 11 Mandarin GCSE class embarked on an enriching language and cultural trip. They explored Chinese history at the British Museum, with a guided tour in the China Gallery, highlighting key moments of Chinese civilization. Students also enjoyed browsing artifacts from the Silk Road exhibition. The trip concluded with a visit to Chinatown, where they confidently ordered food and drinks in Mandarin. Their enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the afternoon were truly inspiring!



Key dates for weeks beginning 11th and 18th November

Description	Date	Time
KS3 flu vaccinations	Monday 11th November	9:00-12:00
Year 11 Art trip	Monday 11th November	14:00-17:30
Year 11 mocks	Monday 11th—Friday 22nd November	All day
Year 10 advertising agency trip	Wednesday 13th November	9:00-15:30
KS4 flu vaccinations	Thursday 14th November	9:00-12:00
Year 9 France and Belgium trip	Thursday 14th– Friday 15th November	All day

