



**CLAIRES COURT**  
**SENIOR BOYS**

# Weekly Bulletin

**24 JANUARY 2025 (SPRING TERM WEEK 3)**

## FROM THE OFFICE

### Principal's Blog

Please read Mr Wilding's new blog for this week: ["The longer I live, the more convinced am I that this planet is used by other planets as a lunatic asylum."](#) – George Bernard Shaw

### Parent survey - your voice is heard!

Please could we ask that you complete the survey, sent on Tuesday via email, by 8pm on Friday 31 January. We read all the comments and the feedback helps to aid our plans for the future too.

### Court Report - hard copy

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the Court Report for 2022-24, please complete the [Google Form here](#) and we will pass it to your child to give to you.

### PTA Seniors Meeting - 9.30am Friday 7 February

**\*SAVE THE DATE\*** We would love as many senior parents as can to please join us for our virtual Seniors PTA meeting - see below in 'Forthcoming Dates' for further information.

### Lost property

Please ensure all items that boys bring to school that you would not want to get lost are clearly labelled with your son's name, as named lost property is so much easier to reunite with the correct pupil. If boys have lost anything, they should ask the nurses for clothing items, or in the staff room for books, calculators, water bottles etc. and Mrs Tarr for Chromebooks.

### Asthma Inhalers

A reminder from the school nurse that all pupils with a diagnosis of asthma should carry an inhaler with them at all times **and** parents should supply a spare inhaler to be kept in the office for use in an emergency. Any queries please email [medical-cc@clairescourt.net](mailto:medical-cc@clairescourt.net).

### Drugs Talk Resources

Thank you to those who joined Bob Tait (DRED) virtually for his informative talk last Wednesday. Please find the presentation slides from the evening and further information for your reference:

- [Slide Presentation](#)
- [Alcohol and the Law](#)

- [Edibles](#)
- [Types of Drugs](#)
- [Tables of Class A, B and C Drugs](#)
- [The Law](#)

### **New, news, news!**

Take a look here..... <https://bit.ly/40qgNjs> at our fantastic media wall on the school website where we collate all the stories from across the school. There are stories from Instagram, Facebook and Twitter plus photo albums from Flickr which can all be filtered by year group/activity/event.

## **FORTHCOMING DIARY DATES & YEAR GROUP INFORMATION**

### **ALL YEAR GROUPS**

#### **PTA - Seniors Meeting - Friday 7 February *\*SAVE THE DATE\****

Our first 2025 PTA meeting is in two weeks and will be virtual, as we want to encourage as many senior parents as we can to join us. The meeting will take place at 9.30am to ensure parents can be home/work after the school drop off. The purpose of the meeting is for the PTA to share what they have been doing, what is planned for 2025 and also to provide an opportunity for parents to make suggestions and share ideas on fundraising and enhancing our children's school experience in addition to the curriculum and what the school provides. Please add a placeholder in your calendars and the meeting link will be sent next week.

#### **PTA Quiz Night - Friday 21 March**

Mr Richards and Mrs O'Clee are hosting another popular Quiz Night on Friday 21 March 6-8pm in the Hall at College Avenue SL6 6AW. This event sold out in November, so book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets are £10 per person or £100 for a table of ten and can be booked here -> <https://ccpta.org.uk/products/quiz-time>. There will be a bar, card payment only, with thanks to the PTA and bring your own food or order food in. Any questions please contact Helen Phipps via [hep@clairescourt.net](mailto:hep@clairescourt.net).



## **Seniors Spring Concert - Thursday 27 March \* SAVE THE DATE \***

This music concert will be held at College Avenue and further details will be shared in due course.

## **YEAR 7 ONLY**

### **Unicorn Theatre Trip "Pig Heart Boy" Wednesday 5 February**

Please find the [Year 7 English trip letter](#) to see Malorie Blackman's Pig Heart Boy at the Unicorn Theatre. School uniform should be worn and pupils will need a nut free packed lunch/drink.

### **B7 Parents Evening - Wednesday 5 February**

Parents and boys are invited into school for the Year 7 Parents Evening taking place from 5.50pm on 5 February. Five minute appointments with teachers need to be booked in advance and you can choose up to ten subjects/teachers to book with. English, Maths and Science teachers will be based in classrooms 1-8 (i.e. the English & Maths classrooms in the newly refurbished Jubilee wing, **NOT** the Science block) as shown in this [map](#). Booking opens at 7am on Tuesday 28 January via [schoolcloud](#) and you should use your son's full name, as the system does not recognise abbreviated names. Please select to book **manually** (not automatically) so that you can leave 5 minute gaps as 'travel time' to move between the Sports Hall and Classrooms as required. If you are unable to book with one of the ten teachers you have prioritised to see, please email them directly with any questions you may have. Booking will close at 7am on Tuesday 4 February.

On the night please do not drive into school until after 5.40pm by which time all the school coaches should have safely departed. Your son can remain at school and meet up with you when you arrive. Please make your way to the sports hall to sign in and refreshments will also be available here. Whilst we will do our best to keep the evening running to time, inevitably there will need to be some flexibility throughout the evening, so please do bear with us. Teachers have been asked to see parents in the order they have booked where possible and keep appointments within their five minute timings. Therefore if you find a longer conversation is needed, please continue this at a later date. The evening is scheduled to finish by 8pm.

## **YEAR 9 ONLY**

### **B9 Immunisations Consent Form**

Please complete a YES or NO Consent Form using school code BK110153B at your earliest convenience. You will need your son's NHS number which can be requested here if not known. Further information can be found in the following publications:

- [Letter](#)
- [Leaflet for Secondary School Vaccinations](#)
- [Meningitis ACWY leaflet](#)
- [Teenage 3-in-1 booster](#)

### **B9 Parents Evening - Thursday 13 February**

**\*SAVE THE DATE\*** Further information to follow next week.

## **YEAR 10 ONLY**

### **Year 10 English Language Mock Exam - Tuesday 11 February**

In preparation for the GCSE examination in the Summer, Year 10 will be sitting another English Language Mock Examination on the morning of Tuesday 11 February. This will replace normal lessons on that morning. We will be preparing for this in class, but students should be encouraged to revise and prepare for this at home as well.

### **Year 10 GCSE Art Pupils V&A Trip - Wednesday 5 March**

Please find the [letter](#) regarding the Year 10 GCSE Art & Textiles trip to the Victoria & Albert Museum on 5 March. The payment of £18 to cover the cost of travel is available to pay via our [Payment Portal](#) now. Pupils should wear school uniform and will require a nut-free packed lunch, small sketchbook/paper & drawing materials and a small amount of money.

### **Year 10 Geography Trip to Margam Park - 20-22 March 2025**

Please find the [Margam Park Geography trip letter](#) taking place 20-22 March 2025, where boys will undertake fieldwork to collect data for their paper 3 Geographical Investigations. The [consent form](#) should be completed and the non-refundable £360 [payment](#) made by Friday 28 February 2025.

## **YEAR 11 ONLY**

### **Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening**

Thank you to those who joined the virtual Year 11 Exam Preparation meeting on Monday evening, we hope you found the session beneficial. The plan is to hold another similar session virtually before the Easter break, date TBC, so watch this space. Please find below a recording of the event and the presentation slides for your reference.

- Year 11 Exam Preparation meeting RECORDING
- Year 11 Exam Preparation SLIDES

### **Year 11 Work Experience**

Please find the Year 11 Work Experience Letter shared this week. After the GCSE examination period is complete, we have found pupils benefit from acquiring workplace skills and the suggested Work Experience weeks are w/c 23 & 30 June although we appreciate that work experience may need to be arranged at alternative times. Pupils will be provided with a work experience log book to record details of their placements.

### **Year 11 English Literature Mock Exam - Tuesday 11 February**

As we were unable to run a full English Literature exam during the Mocks last term due to where we were in the teaching of the course content, we will be running another English Literature Mock Examination for students in Year 11. This will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 11 February and will replace their normal lessons that afternoon. We will be preparing for this in class, but students should be encouraged to revise and prepare for this at home as well.

### **Year 11 GCSE PE Practical Mock Moderation - Friday 14 February**

### **Year 11 GCSE Food Technology Practical Exams**

The Food Technology Practical Exams will be taking place on Wednesday 5, Thursday 6 and Friday 7 March, and boys have been allocated to one of these three sessions.

## Year 11 Parents Evening - Wednesday 19 March

A full Parents Evening will be held in person in school for all pupils and parents, covering all subjects, on Wednesday 19 March.

## B11 GCSE Subject Directory 2024/25

Please find the [Senior Boys GCSE Subject Directory](#) containing the various subjects/exam board/coursework deadlines/exam dates. You will also find a link to the GCSE handbook on the document.

## B11 Subject Drop-in Sessions

Year 11 teachers will be running weekly drop-in sessions according to this [timetable](#), so if your son has any questions that arise from his revision or requires help in these subjects please encourage him to come along and make the most of this resource.

## TRIP LETTERS

[My Neighbour ToToRo Theatre Trip](#)

[Ypres Trip Parental Consent letter](#) / [form](#) - DUE BY MONDAY 27 JANUARY

[Cologne Trip letter](#) - for German pupils currently in Years 8 - 10

## DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

### Root of the Week

A reminder about 'Root of the Week' where pupils learn one new word root and its meaning each week, along with examples of words containing that root in an attempt to increase vocabulary and comprehension.

- The root this week was '**Post**' meaning '**after or behind**'
- Example words: postpone, postmortem, postscript, postseason, postgraduate

## Post

Origin: Latin

Meaning: After or behind

### Examples:

Postpone

Postmortem

Postscript

Postseason

Postgraduate

### Words of the Term

- It has been widely researched that one of the stumbling blocks for teenagers is literacy. A teenager with a 2000 word vocabulary is able to access 73% of academic literature, a 5000 word vocabulary 83% of academic literature.
- However it has also been found through research that a pupil with a 2000 word vocabulary in addition to the 570 words identified through research as the Academic Word List can access 95% of academic literature.
- The [Spring term Academic Words](#) are shown below and pupils have a copy of these words inside their exercise books. Please support your son to familiarise himself with these words, as well as comprehend and use them in the correct context.

sector	available	financial	process	individual	specific
method	data	research	contract	environment	export
source	assessment	policy	identified	create	derived
factors	procedure	definition	assume	theory	benefit
evidence	established	authority	major	issues	labour
occur	economic	involved	percent	interpretation	consistent
income	structure	legal	concept	formula	section
required	constitutional	analysis	distribution	function	area
approach	role	legislation	indicate	response	period
context	significant	similar	principle	estimate	variables

### **Linguists of the Week**

In German for great attitude to Learning in Year 8:

Year 8 - Henry P, Jacques A, Nathaniel W, Jonty R, Will H, Leon H, Flynn S, Noah P, Oliver G, Barnaby M

### **Mathematicians of the Week**

Year 7 - Jack M

Year 8 - Jonty R, Will H

Year 9 - Alfie B

Year 10 - Michael C, Sam R

### **Scientists of the Week**

Year 10 - Seb S for excellent work on bond energy calculations in Chemistry

### **Sparx Reader of the Week**

Year 7 - Joel Z (7B)

Year 8 - Thomas K (8D)

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Term Time Absence**

Please see our [Attendance and Holidays in Term Time Policy](#) noting that absence for holidays is not encouraged during term time and will not normally be authorised for the first or last week of any term. If you do wish the headteacher to review a request please complete the [Request for Term Time Absence Form](#).

### **Sickness Absence**

Please report all absences daily to the school office before 9.30am either via the [Report Portal](#) (accessible via the Parents page of our [website](#)), by email to [seniorboys@clairescourt.com](mailto:seniorboys@clairescourt.com) or 01628 327600.

### **Medical/Dental Appointments**

Please notify the school office at least 24 hours prior to the appointment via email to [seniorboys@clairescourt.com](mailto:seniorboys@clairescourt.com). We would also ask where possible that appointments are made outside of school hours or during school holidays.

### **Medication**

Any medication should be handed into the school accompanied by the [CC Administration of Medicine Request Form](#) for nurses to administer.

### **Illness and Games afternoons**

If your son is unable to play sport, he is expected to accompany his year group to games and will be given an alternative role. Permission for non-attendance at games afternoons can only be signed off by the nurses ([Medical-CC@clairescourt.net](mailto:Medical-CC@clairescourt.net)) or the Director of Sport, Mr Carter ([sic@clairescourt.net](mailto:sic@clairescourt.net)).

