

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our School Community,

As we approach the Christmas break, I am pleased to share with you the vibrant and impactful developments at Compass over recent weeks. Our commitment to providing comprehensive educational support and engaging experiences for our students continues to be at the forefront of everything we do.

Our reading development programme has been making significant strides, supported by our partnership with the Hampshire School Library Service. We have been working diligently to ensure that great learning occurs across every subject, with experiences that are both meaningful and transformative for our students.

We have been fortunate to host several important and informative sessions recently. Our students have benefited from careers talks and visits that provide crucial insights into future opportunities. Additionally, we arranged a critical talk on Firearms and Knife Crime, which aims to educate and raise awareness about personal safety and community responsibility and students in Year 9 have benefited from a visit to look behind the scenes at Wagamammas.

Our Compass Plus programme and Woodland School continue to offer unique learning environments that support our students' holistic development. These innovative approaches provide alternative and engaging educational experiences that complement our core curriculum.

The Engagement and Reintegration Team has been instrumental in providing comprehensive pastoral support. Their dedicated work ensures that each student receives personalised attention and guidance, helping them navigate their educational journey with confidence and support.

We will be celebrating the end of term with a Christmas lunch, which is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together and share a festive moment of connection and joy.

Looking ahead, we are excited about an upcoming visit from our local MP, Lloyd Hatton, early in the Spring Term. Mr. Hatton is looking forward to meeting with and speaking directly to our students, which presents a valuable opportunity for engagement and dialogue.

We have also installed a net over the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) to keep footballs contained, enhancing our sports facilities and providing a more structured environment for physical activities.

/continued

cont.

For parents and carers, I would like to draw your attention to a few important notices. We are mindful of Care at Christmas provisions (01305 - 228558) and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Our team is available to provide further information and support regarding these initiatives.

Our school remains committed to providing a supportive, inclusive, and dynamic learning environment that responds to the unique needs of each of our students.

Alison Glazier, Headteacher

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

Year 11 Mock Exams are taking place for two weeks beginning on **Monday 12 January 2026**.



An overview timetable has been published and shared with students.

There will be some changes to the finish times for other students in Years 9 and 10, which you will be notified of separately.

If you have any questions regarding the mock exams please contact us.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE SPRING TERM 2026

Monday 5 January 2026

Spring Term begins

Monday 12 January 2026

Year 11 Mock Exams (2 weeks)

Thursday 5 February 2026

Parents Evening

Thursday 12 February 2026

Students finish for half term holiday

Friday 13 February 2025

INSET Day No: 3

Monday 23 February 2026

Students return from half term holiday

Thursday 26 March 2026

Students finish for Easter holiday

Friday 27 March 2026

INSET Day No: 4

Monday 13 April 2026

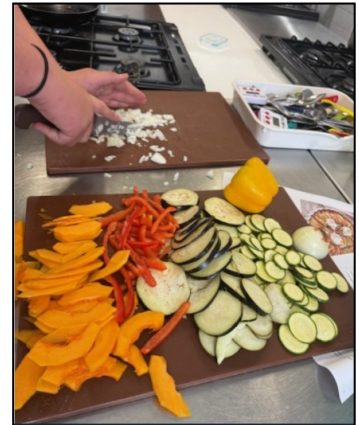
Students return from Easter holiday



NEWS FROM THE CATERING DEPARTMENT

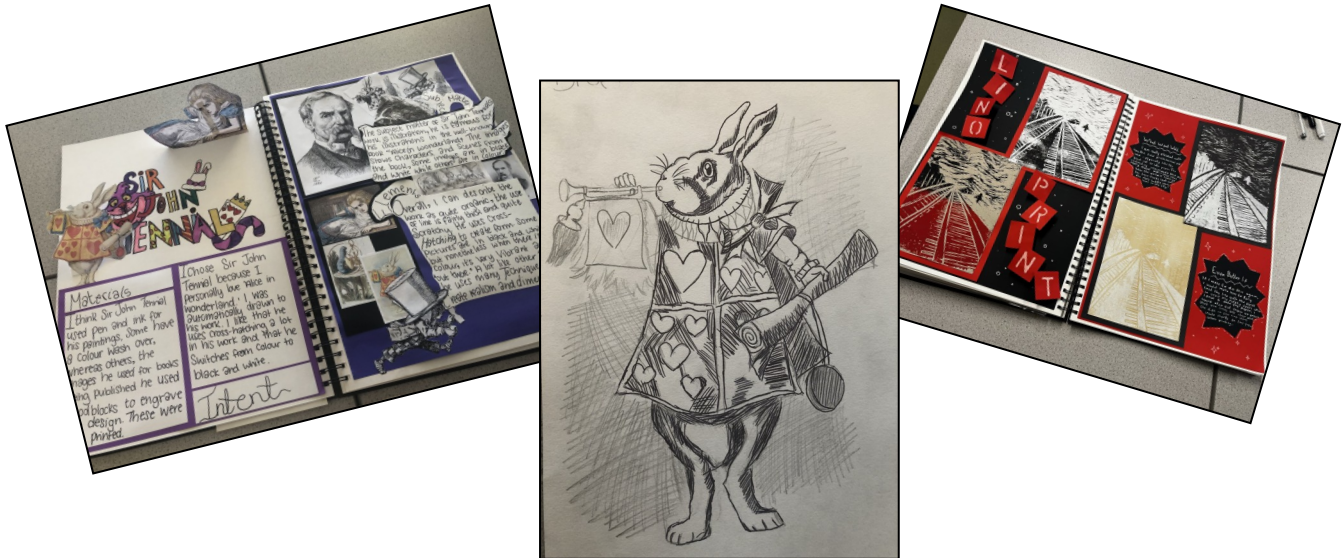
It's been a busy term in the catering department with some fantastic food being produced. The students enjoy cooking a variety of sweet and savoury dishes and they are always really keen to let their friends (and staff!) taste their food. The students gain confidence whilst in the kitchen environment and the increase in their abilities and skills is always really encouraging to see. They are learning a valuable life skill and are producing some excellent food at the same time, here are some examples:

Catherine



ART NEWS

Year 11 GCSE Art students are currently working on a sustained coursework project on their own themes, such as *Storytelling*, *Landscapes* and *Travel and Transport*. They have produced some amazing work which is presented to a high standard. The students will complete a mock exam in the new year to create a final artistic response to their project. In February the themes for Component 2 - Externally Set Assignment will be released by the exam board.



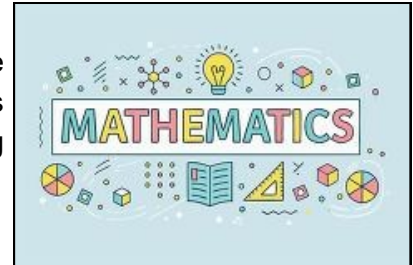
The Year 11 Arts Award students have been making sweet and cake sculptures based on 3D Artists'. **Sian**



MATHS NEWS

Year 11 students have completed their controlled assessment and as we move closer to their exams, they have impressed me with their diligence and resilience working through the exam papers. As we approach the mocks in January, I'll take this opportunity to remind them of the importance of writing down the calculations including when they have used a calculator. This year we are running both higher tier and foundation tier as well as putting some students through their entry level qualification and GCSE statistics.

Students in Year 10 have grappled with some algebra and more recently have been working on converting between fractions, decimals and percentages, as well as calculating percentages for increasing and decreasing.



Year 9 students have risen to the challenge of dealing with data and some algebra. During the course of the year we will cover topics that they have both seen before and new concepts aimed at developing their confidence with maths and building their bank of knowledge. **Alison**

NEWS FROM KEY STAGE 3

Key Stage 3 students have enjoyed a successful first term, and after many different experiences as a group and working as a team, are ending the term as a cohesive unit.

We have been out and about for our Outdoor Education provision, specifically going to local points of interest such as Swanage, Bowleaze Cove, and the beach.



We have also been visiting the Seal Cove Climbing Centre in Bridport this term to try our hand at indoor climbing and we are pleased to report that it has been a huge success. All students have been able to scale heights they previously thought impossible and in some cases overcome their fear of heights to reach the top of the wall. It takes an amazing amount of courage to push themselves forward in activities that they are not already competent in, and in doing so they develop greater resilience and confidence to try to get better in other challenges they may face in the future. We are all extremely proud of them and their positive attitudes.

Well done KS3 climbers!

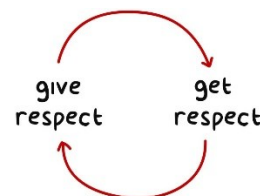
We have been learning about WWII in English, and this has allowed for some wonderful opportunities for discussion and prompted mature responses to some tricky topics.

In our People and Places lessons, we have been learning about the Civil Rights movement, in which we have covered slavery, colonialism and segregation in America. It has been a great opportunity for some healthy debates and for the students to learn how to share their opinions in a healthy and respectful way.

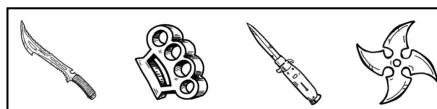
Lucy & Craig

LIFESKILLS NEWS

Respect As a school we started off our year of learning in Life Skills by looking at RESPECT: What it means, who we should respect, respecting ourselves and how to be respectful to others. We looked at our behaviours and the language we use and we discussed why flag waving has been controversial this year.



Dorset Police Armed Response Team visited Compass to deliver their FAKE session to students in Years 9, 10 and 11 about the dangers of carrying knives and other weapons when



out and about especially the potential consequences of carrying replica guns. They shared information with us about updated laws for knife crime including knives which are now illegal to carry and what to do if you are concerned. Our young people enjoyed the talk and found it informative. Thanks for your time Dorset Police. Further information and a full list of the items that are illegal to carry can be found here; [Offensive Weapons Act \(nbcc.police.uk\)](https://www.nbcc.police.uk/offensive-weapons-act). Dorset police can be contacted with any questions here Surrender@dorset.pnn.police.uk

Drugs Education The **Targeted Youth team** and **Reach** came in to talk to Year 9 groups this term. The aim of both sessions was to help students understand the risks involved with taking illegal drugs and where to access support if they need it. Students responded well to the informal nature of both talks. For more information and support, please see <https://www.edasuk.org/support/yp/>



Antibullying week 2025 The focus this year was using your power for good. We talked about power that young people do have, 5 ways we can all tackle bullying and created some art work on the theme of superheroes and antibullying powers and slogans.

5 WAYS TO TACKLE BULLYING

- Speak Up,
- Have Courage,
- Show Kindness,
- Show Teamwork,
- Ask for Help.

Remembrance Day 2025 This Remembrance Day we focused on two important symbols of remembrance – the poppy and the two minute silence. Students made origami poppies.

January Term in Life Skills

Year	Topic area	Includes
KS3	Living in the Wider World	We will be working on being good citizens, rights and responsibilities, human rights, identity, protected characteristics, discrimination, keeping safe out in the community and online and knife crime.
Y9	Health and Wellbeing	We are working towards the RSPH Young Health Champion Certificate in partnership with Weymouth College. This is a level 2 qualification which teaches young people about managing their own health and wellbeing.
Y10	Living in the Wider World	Year 10 will be moving onto the 2 nd unit of the BTEC in Personal Growth and Wellbeing. This focuses on careers and planning for their futures and includes choosing different jobs and careers, where to find career and job information, setting goals for the future, writing CVs and interview techniques.
Y11	Health and Wellbeing	Year 11 will be completing their final unit of the BTEC in Personal Growth and Wellbeing with a focus on relationships and wellbeing. This includes: Healthy relationships, sexual health, consent, exploitation, victim blaming, contraception, STIs, pregnancy, LGBT+ issues and violence in relationships.

If you have any questions or comments about the content of our Life-Skills curriculum don't hesitate to contact us.

Kate J

CAREERS NEWS

We have been busy in careers and future skills work this term. Thank you to all the local businesses and Post-16 providers who have given up their time to inspire and encourage our young people this term. If you feel like you can help us with our Careers work either by coming in to talk to students or by having us visit your workplace, please contact Kate at -

office@compass.dorset.sch.uk

Post-16 Placements Year 11 students have been busy applying for Post-16 placements at college and for apprenticeships and students have gone out of the comfort zone to visit Coastland College (at Weymouth and at Kingston Maurward) and to Bournemouth and Poole college. Students on visits have all been respectful, interested and asked excellent questions about the colleges and the courses.

Please follow the links below for future open events:

[Open Days and Interview Evenings - Weymouth College](#)

[College Open Events - Grow Your Career - Kingston Maurward College \(kmc.ac.uk\)](#)

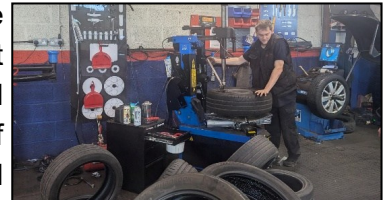
Budmouth College 6th Form <https://www.budmouth-aspirations.org/sixth-form/opening-evenings/>

Thomas Hardy School <https://sixthform.thomas-hardye.net/apply>

Yeovil College [Events Archive - Yeovil College](#) [Yeovil College](#)

Wiltshire (Salisbury) College <https://www.wiltshire.ac.uk/events/>

Experience of Work The team at **BATHWICK TYRES** were extremely kind to Year 10 students who went to visit to find out about careers as mechanics. The staff were friendly, supportive and encouraging to our students who were very well prepared with lots of excellent questions to ask. We learnt how to complete an MOT and what to look for in a tyre to check if it needs changing.



Year 10 students also went to the **Ship Inn in Wool** to see what it might be like to work in hospitality. Students were able to ask questions to the chef, the kitchen team, the managers and the front of house team who were all very patient with us. We learnt a lot about the skills required to work in a busy, successful pub and what managers are looking for in young people.

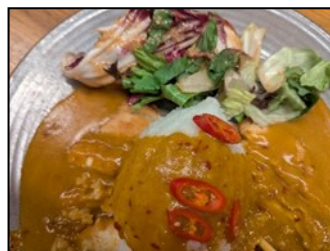
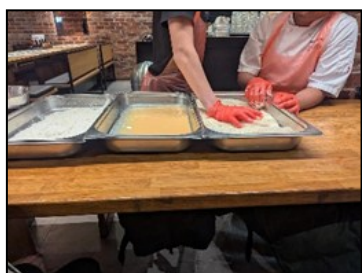
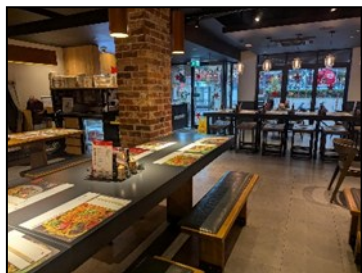
Conifers School kindly allowed a student to spend some time seeing what it would be like to work in reception class. The student was clearly a natural at working with young children who enjoyed having her in the classroom so much they have invited her back to work with them on the Christmas Crafts day.



/continued

Careers News cont.

WAGAMAMA Wagamama hosted our Year 9 students for a catering and careers event at their restaurant in Dorchester. We made Katsu Curry, designed juices and learnt the best way to use chopsticks. Manager Adam talked us through the health benefits of key ingredients which we could then choose from to make our own juice. Chef Joey then helped us to prepare Katsu curry which we then used chopsticks to eat. Yum! Thanks to Adam and Joey and the Dorchester Wagamama team for looking after us and educating us about careers in cooking. Students who attended will be sharing their new skills in Compass' kitchen after Christmas as Catherine will be adding Katsu Curry to the plan for the new term.



TILBURY DOUGLAS Dorchester Hospital Site Tilbury Douglas have invited us again to see the progress made in the site at Dorchester hospital. We put on PPE and had a look around the site to find out about the different jobs on site, their earning potential and to inspire Year 10 students with an interest in construction. Students then used Tilbury

Douglas architecture software to design their own buildings meeting the strict green criteria as part of the brief from Phoebe.

Careers Information If you would like to discuss future skills and career options with your child, there are lots of useful websites that help with this. We have been using these in school with Year 9 students this term:

<https://www.lmiforall.org.uk/cm2/> = comparing jobs

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/buzzquiz> = personality quiz and career match up

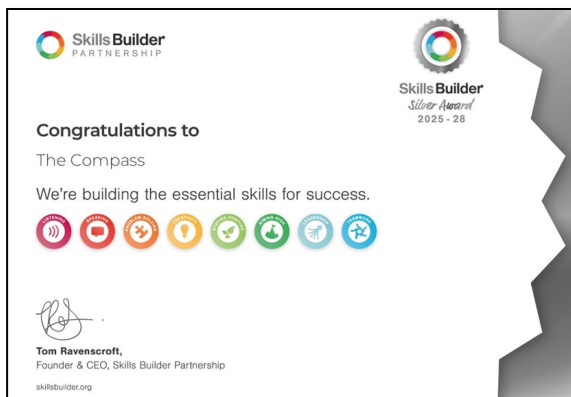
There are other useful websites on our website:

<https://www.compass.dorset.sch.uk/gatsby-career-benchmarks>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> = Apprenticeships

Careers cont

Skills Builder We are proud to share that we have achieved **SILVER AWARD** for our work with Skills Builder.



We introduced **Skills Builder** last school year to help our students prepare for the world of work. Skills Builder focuses on 8 core skills that all employers are looking for in young people. In Life Skills we learn about one of these skills each half term and teachers look for examples when our students are using these skills in their lessons and off-site activities so that when students leave Compass they will have a portfolio of evidence of skills they have.

This half term we have been focusing on **creativity** (using our imagination for new ideas and new ways of working).
Kate J.



ENGLISH MOCK EXAMS

Due to mocks taking place in January, students have been encouraged to take home their GCSE English Language textbooks for revision, these can be completed both outside of school or in any free time at school, returned and then marked by myself.

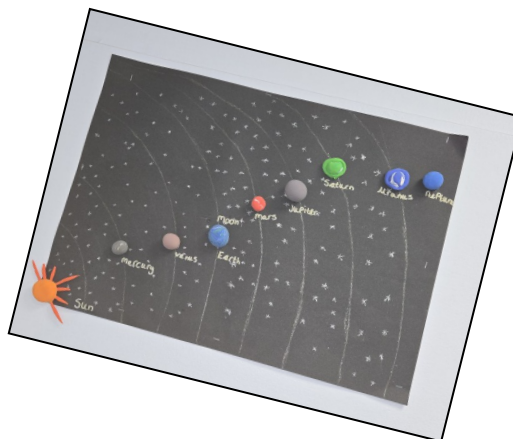
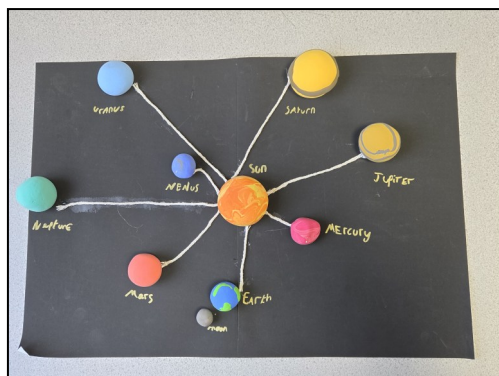
This will help our students gain a real understanding of the AQA GCSE English Language paper.

Holli

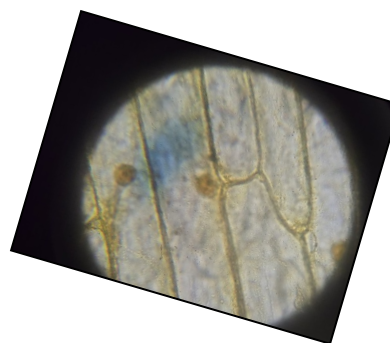
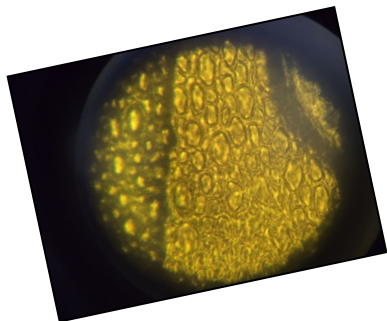
SCIENCE NEWS

It's been an exciting and productive term in the Science Department, with students across all year groups demonstrating curiosity, creativity and resilience in their learning.

Students in **Key Stage 3** have been exploring the wonders of *space and our solar system*. As part of their studies, they have created impressive 3D models of the planets, showcasing both their scientific understanding and artistic flair.



In **Year 9**, students have been delving into the world of *microscopy*. They've been learning about the structure of cells and, most importantly, how to use microscopes effectively to observe them. Their growing confidence with practical skills has been fantastic to see.



Our **Year 10** students have been investigating *homeostasis* - the body's ability to maintain internal balance. They've explored how we respond to different stimuli and why these processes are vital for survival.



Finally, **Year 11** began the term with learning about the water cycle, and have since been working incredibly hard preparing for their upcoming mock exams. Their determination and focus in lessons and revision sessions have been truly commendable.

As their science teacher, I am extremely proud of every student for their dedication, hard work, and resilience.

Bex

COMPASS WOODLAND SCHOOL

Students have had a fantastic term at the Woodland School and have learned lots of new skills which will stay with them into the future.

Year 9 students have been focussed on skill development and small projects to learn how to use tools effectively and safely

Students in Year 10 are working on developing their camp and building a bird hide at the pond for students to use in studying ecology and the environment

Year 11 students are developing the landscape and learning environment for all students. Putting all the skills learned so far into good practice.

Mark



SORA ONLINE READING

All students at Compass have access to the **SORA Online reading portal** which can be accessed on phones, tablets and computers.

There are thousands of e-books, magazines and audio books with titles for everyone to enjoy.



For details of how to log on ask your child to talk to their Teacher / TA or contact the school.



TERM DATES & INSET DAY 2026/27

Please see below the Term Dates and INSET days for 2026/27. These are also available on the school website - www.compass.dorset.sch.uk



Compass Learning Centre School Terms and Holidays 2026 – 2027 Academic Year

September 2026							October 2026							November 2026						
M			7	14	21	28	M			5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23	30
Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu		3	10	17	24	
W		2	9	16	23	30	W			7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25	
Th			3	10	17	24	Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26	
F			4	11	18	25	F		2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27	
Sa			5	12	19	26	Sa		3	10	17	24	31	Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su			6	13	20	27	Su		4	11	18	25		Su	1	8	15	22	29	
December 2026							January 2027							February 2027						
M			7	14	21	28	M			4	11	18	25	M		1	8	15	22	
Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			5	12	19	26	Tu		2	9	16	23	
W		2	9	16	23	30	W			6	13	20	27	W		3	10	17	24	
Th		3	10	17	24	31	Th			7	14	21	28	Th		4	11	18	25	
F		4	11	18	25		F		1	8	15	22	29	F		5	12	19	26	
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		2	9	16	23	30	Sa		6	13	20	27	
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		3	10	17	24	31	Su		7	14	21	28	
March 2027							April 2027							May 2027						
M		1	8	15	22	29	M			5	12	19	26	M		3	10	17	24	31
Tu		2	9	16	23	30	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu		4	11	18	25	
W		3	10	17	24	31	W			7	14	21	28	W		5	12	19	26	
Th		4	11	18	25		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		6	13	20	27	
F		5	12	19	26		F		2	9	16	23	30	F		7	14	21	28	
Sa		6	13	20	27		Sa		3	10	17	24		Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su		7	14	21	28		Su		4	11	18	25		Su	2	9	16	23	30	
June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
M			7	14	21	28	M			5	12	19	26	M		2	9	16	23	30
Tu		1	8	15	22	29	Tu			6	13	20	27	Tu		3	10	17	24	31
W		2	9	16	23	30	W			7	14	21	28	W		4	11	18	25	
Th		3	10	17	24		Th		1	8	15	22	29	Th		5	12	19	26	
F		4	11	18	25		F		2	9	16	23	30	F		6	13	20	27	
Sa		5	12	19	26		Sa		3	10	17	24	31	Sa		7	14	21	28	
Su		6	13	20	27		Su		4	11	18	25		Su	1	8	15	22	29	

Key:

	School Holiday
	Bank Holiday
	Term Time
	Inset Days

Compass Learning Centre INSET Days 2026-27

INSET Day No: 1 – 1 September 2026
 INSET Day No: 2 – 2 September 2026
 INSET Day No: 3 – 23 October 2026
 INSET Day No: 4 – 2 November 2026
 INSET Day No: 5 – 30 April 2027

Bank and Public Holidays 2026-27

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	25 December 2026	May Day Bank Holiday	3 May 2027
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	26 December 2026	Spring Bank Holiday	31 May 2027
New Year's Day Holiday	01 January 2027	Summer Bank Holiday	30 August 2027
Good Friday	26 March 2027		
Easter Monday	29 March 2027		

**magic
breakfast**
fuel for learning



Magic Breakfast supports your child's school to provide nutritious breakfasts each morning.

We're pleased to let you know that your child can enjoy a free, healthy breakfast at school every day.

A well-balanced breakfast can positively impact learning, well-being, concentration, friendships and much more.

And with breakfast on offer each morning, you can be confident your child has access to the food they need to start their day fuelled and ready to learn.

Ask at school how your child can access their ~~free~~ Magic Breakfast!

Did you know?

Young people who regularly consume breakfast each morning achieve nearly two exam grades higher than those who don't.*

*Based on research carried out by the University of Leeds

**Find out
more**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TRACKING DEVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

TOOLS FOR BULLYING

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

INVASION OF PRIVACY

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, packets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

USE DETECTION APPS

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.



The National College®

Merry
Christmas

