



Week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we reach the important milestone of saying goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 students as they begin their study leave.

It has been a privilege to watch them grow over the last 4 and a half years that I have been here, starting when they were in Year 7. Over this time, they have shown, amongst other things, determination, kindness, and a willingness to rise to every challenge placed before them.

We are all incredibly proud of all they have achieved, both in and out of the classroom, and we know they are ready to take this next step with confidence. As they now focus on their upcoming exams and look towards the future, we want to wish them the very best of luck.

Please know that although they may be leaving the day-to-day school routine, they are not leaving our support. We remain here for them—and for you—should you need guidance, reassurance, or a helping hand in the coming weeks.

Thank you for the continued support you have shown throughout their time with us. We hope to see many of them return in September, and we look forward to celebrating their successes together in the near future.

Mr Farrer

## Key dates for your diary - Week B

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y10 &amp; Y12 Drama Exam</li></ul>
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Y10 Food Mock Exam</li><li>• Y9 DofE Briefing</li><li>• Y9 County Cup Football Final</li></ul>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Y12 Trip to Imperial War Museum – this is now 18<sup>th</sup> June</b></li></ul>
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cricket Leaders Training</li><li>• <b>TERM 5 ENDS AT 3:00PM</b></li></ul>

## Week A

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS</b></li><li>● Y12 WEX week starts</li></ul>
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Black Rock (Grp 1) Trip</li><li>● Y8 STEM Trip</li></ul>
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Y7 Super 8's Athletics</li></ul>

### In this week's bulletin:

- Key Diary Dates
- Drama – exams and rehearsal schedule and update
- Survey for parents/carers of Y7 students
- Careers news
- Summer Festival of Music
- Online Safety – what you need to know about Minecraft

.... And lots more!

### Amendment to Date of Museum Visit

#### **Y12 Trip to Imperial War Museum:**

**This trip will be taking place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June.**

### To Parents of Year 7 students

We would be very grateful if you would take 2 minutes to complete a short survey on the use of Knowledge Organisers with Year 7. This is so that we can evaluate our current provision.

The survey will be open from 3:00pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May: <https://forms.office.com/e/7hSs9Zic89>

Thank you.

## From: Drama Department

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May is the Year 10 and 12 drama devising exam.

Students will be off timetable all day rehearsing with the performance at 6:00pm in the Drama Studio.

Students involved will also be needed after school so should ensure that they have food and drink for the afternoon.

Family and friends are invited to attend, and we would encourage any Year 9 who are taking GCSE Drama next year to also come and watch.

It is anticipated that the evening will last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. We look forward to seeing you there.

## From: Miss Davies - Teacher of Drama

We Will Rock You- Updates and Rehearsal Schedule.


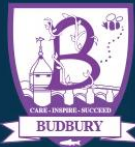



Below is the rehearsal schedule for the week beginning Monday 19th May 2025. It will also be posted on the drama notice board Monday morning. Please remind your child to check it daily.

Tuesday 20/05 Trinity Hall	<b>Dance and Drama</b> Ms Eyles and Miss Davies	A Kind of Magic	Killer Queen Electric Voice Khashoggi Ensemble (Super Yuppies) Dancers
Wednesday 21/05 Trinity Hall	<b>Drama and Music</b> Miss Davies and Dr Barclay	Act 1 Songs	WHOLE CAST
Thursday 22/05 Trinity Hall	<b>Drama and Music</b> Miss Davies and Dr Barclay	Act 2 Songs	WHOLE CAST

Videos of the dances and backing tracks are available in the student curriculum folder to support your child's practice.

By now, students should be off script for Act 1 scenes and songs and should begin working towards the same for Act 2 after the half-term break.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

House Points				
Ashley	Budbury	Conigre	Huntingdon	Westfield
				
121558	121168	122472	124920	119985

To report a student absence please ring the Attendance Line by 8:30am on 01225 309501

## **From: Careers Team**

### **Year 11 and Year 13**

All students in both year groups have received links to the forms required for their next steps.

The **Future Skills Questionnaire** has been emailed directly to students and supports us to develop and enhance our Careers programme within the school.

The **Destinations form** is an MS form which has been circulated via Bromcom; the information here is a **legal requirement** and is passed on to Wiltshire Council from where they can arrange their provision and financial support for students.

Please remind your child that these are important documents that need to be completed - they should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

### **Year 10 and Year 12 WEX**

We are now very close to finalising all WEX placements in both year groups. **If there are any outstanding forms, these now need to be brought in as a matter of urgency.**

Students without a placement will be expected in school and will work on exercises set by the Careers Team. Clearly this will not be as stimulating nor as educational as a week within the world of work and we would therefore encourage all students to continue looking - there is still time and we will still accept late applications on an individual basis if needed. Further details will be sent at the start of next week to those students for whom this is a concern.

## **Free Period Products Available at School**

The period product scheme is available to all state-maintained schools in England. It provides free period products to girls and women who need them in their place of study.

Period products, such as pads and tampons, should be available for all who need them, when they need them, in order to access education.

Having periods should not be a barrier to education for anyone. Making girls and women aware of the scheme is vital to making sure they can access period products when they are needed and to reduce the stigma surrounding periods.

This may include, for example, where students:

- have forgotten their own period products
- cannot afford period products
- have started their period unexpectedly

Currently in school we have a range of free sanitary products available in the following locations for students to access:

- Student Reception & Medical Room
- PE Department Office
- 6<sup>th</sup> Form Office - from Mrs Brown & Mrs Chatfield
- Fitzmaurice Toilets - **available during break and lunch**

## Hydrate! Hydrate! Hydrate!



As the warmer weather is here, we kindly remind you that students should arrive at school with an appropriate refillable water bottle.

There are several free refill stations available throughout the school and free water stations in the main restaurant.

## New Menu



Click the link to our Catering page for information on all the different ways our students can enjoy healthy and nutritious meals at school:

[Catering | St Laurence School \(st-laurence.com\)](https://st-laurence.com)



To report a student absence please ring the Attendance Line by 8:30am on 01225 309501



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**PEGI 7**

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

### GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

### PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms, Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

### PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.

**#WakeUpWednesday**

**The National College**



**Share@Repair** 

## Bradford on Avon's Repair Cafe

Around the back at  
**The Masonic Hall ~ Wallington Hall**  
Church Street, Bradford on Avon  
Please park responsibly and legally

**Saturday 17th May**  
**1000 - 1230**

**Saturday 21st June**  
**1000 - 1230**

**Saturday 19th July**  
**1000 - 1230**

Refreshments available

Donations are welcome and needed to cover costs. Repairs are limited to 2 items per person due to high demand. Simple sewing repairs only, not alterations.

General enquires: [boa@shareandrepair.org.uk](mailto:boa@shareandrepair.org.uk)  
For specific questions about what can be repaired phone: 07963 878319  
Facebook Group: "BoA Share and Repair"



CIO reg.no. 1189015



**VOLUNTEERS' WEEK**  
40th Anniversary

## Volunteer Open Afternoon

**Tuesday, 3 June from 2.30 - 8pm**  
**Dorothy House, Winsley**

Drop in to find out about all our wonderful volunteering opportunities.

A short talk will be given at 3.30pm and 7pm.

Refreshments available.



**LIONS CLUB OF BRADFORD ON AVON**  
Charity Number 1195385

# CRAFTS CHOIRS COFFEE AND CAKES

Live music all day!  
Free admission!

Holy Trinity Church, Saturday 14th June  
**10.30 - 4.00** [boalions.org.uk](http://boalions.org.uk)

Want a craft stall?  
Ring Lynn on 07872 920004

The Lions Club of Bradford on Avon are holding a fundraising event and are seeking local crafters to book tables, for the sale of your locally made products.

Tables will be available from 10:00am – 4:00pm and cost £15.00 each.

### Admission FREE!

Visitors can buy Crafts, listen to the Choirs while enjoying coffee and homemade cakes – and you'll be supporting local good causes at the same time.





It's a real privilege that these speakers are willing to give presentations and take questions at our webinar. We hope that participants from a wide range of interests will be able to join us.

For full details and to register to secure a place, please go to  
[https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/earth-air-and-water-farming-for-the-future-](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/earth-air-and-water-farming-for-the-future-tickets-1335232258629?aff=oddtcreator)

[tickets-1335232258629?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/earth-air-and-water-farming-for-the-future-tickets-1335232258629?aff=oddtcreator)

Event details can also be accessed via <https://climatefriendlybradfordonavon.co.uk/wednesday-4th-june-7-8-30pm/>



## **Earth, Air and Water (Farming for the Future)**

Webinar with expert speakers.  
Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon

**Wed, 4 June 7-8.30pm (on Zoom)**

Research is emerging which is revealing more of earth's secrets.  
Join us for talks and discussion on sustainable farming practices, linking  
earth, air, water, nutrient-rich food and biodiversity

### **OUR CHAIR:**

**Helen Taylor**, CFBoA member, Founder of One Blue Marble

### **OUR EXPERT SPEAKERS:**

**Professor Andrew Neal**, Rothamsted Research

**Emeritus Professor Karl Ritz**, University of Nottingham

**Professor Nicola Cannon**, Royal Agricultural University

**Joanna Lewis**, Chief Executive, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust