



# Spotlight

Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form magazine ● September 2013

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**Cover: Metallic fabric laser-cut detail corset dress by Maisha Rahman, A level textiles**

# Letter from the headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

I am delighted to give you and the students great news about our summer examination results. Congratulations are due to all from last year’s cohorts in years 11, 12 and 13 who have done so well. There are many individual successes to celebrate – too many for me to mention – please see the headlines on the facing page.

Aside from the pride we have taken in the achievements of students and staff, as shown by the results we have overseen much building work in school this summer holiday. The final touches are being put to the athletics facility and the refurbishment of the science laboratories – these will be ready for our students from the start of term. I am very pleased that we will be able to benefit from these enhancements.

I am also looking forward to the whole school taking forward our school values which were discussed last year with the students. These updated values are:

All together:

- Achieving excellence
- Understanding each other
- Always learning
- Enjoying our creativity
- Committing fully

I think these succinctly sum up our underpinning values and identity as a whole school community.

I look forward to welcoming you to school at some time during the coming year.

● **Annie Gammon**



## 80% top grades at A level, plus best ever GCSEs

**Annie Gammon**, Headteacher

At A level, over 80% of our students at Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form have achieved top grades – A\*, A, B or C – in their exams this year – well above national average. Our ALPS score puts us firmly in the “excellent” category for value added in the sixth form – for the third year running.

The school’s sixth form has thus continued the strong progress it has made since it was established in 2006. We are all very excited to see the new sixth form study block being constructed - with completion due this term.

I am delighted and proud to see that all our sixth form students in both A level, AS level and vocational courses have done so well. They, and their teachers, have worked hard and deserve this success. I am sure we all wish our students who are moving on from Year 13 the very best in the future whether they are going to university, taking up apprenticeships or taking a gap year. This year we have three Stoke Newington students going to Oxford or Cambridge – an upward trend which we expect to continue.

Our year 12 students at AS level also have achieved very pleasing results, with all measures up from previous years. This is a very positive indicator of these students’ likely successes in their final examinations.

Our year 11 students too have gained the school’s best-ever GCSE results this year, with the number of students getting five A\* to C grades including English and maths rising by 7%.

Over three years the school’s headline figure for this measure has risen by 18% (national rates have risen by just 4% in the same period).

More than 70 percent of our students gained A\* to C grades in each of the core subjects of maths, English and science – a rise on last year’s figures. In particular, Maths GCSE results were up by over 10% from last year’s strong results and Science GCSE results were up by over 15%. Well over a quarter of our students’ grades were at A or A\*. I am pleased that so many of our students from Year 11 are continuing with us into our sixth form.





# Great new space open for diverse and independent readers and learners

**Julie Loy**, Resource Centre Manager

We are delighted to announce that the school library has been refurbished and relaunched. Stoke Newington School highly values reading. We aim to have a well resourced school library which provides a calm yet stimulating environment for supporting study, reading and reader development. The library has now been majorly refurbished over the Easter holiday and summer term with new shelving, furniture (including the extremely popular bean bags!) computers and, of course, books! As well as replacing and updating the current fiction collection, there is now a wider range of reading material for 6th formers and challenging reads for all. The World Literature section has been developed to include more books in original language, or in translation, particularly those that reflect



the range of different cultures in our school community. The library was officially (and most enthusiastically!) opened on July 4th 2013 by Alan Gibbons - author, library campaigner and organiser of the Campaign for the Book. There was also a short performance inspired by the book 'The Weight of Water' by a small group of students all of whom speak one or more additional languages. The school library aims to support students to become truly independent readers to improve their chances at school, and beyond and we especially look forward to welcoming all new Year 7s in September and encouraging them to make full use of our great new space! The library is always open at break time, lunchtime and after school and we encourage all our students to visit and use this lovely study space.

# Boys perform against cricketing pedigree



**Matthew Medway**, PE Dept.

The yr 7 boys cricket team came runners up in both the London region of the National U12 Cup and the U12 London Cup. We were through to the finals day for both competitions where the boys played a semi final which they won against St Pauls and Langdon School. They were beaten by Dulwich College and Alleyns School respectively, these are

both private schools with a strong cricketing pedigree so it is an extremely impressive performance for SNS. Cricket team members: Mr Medway (Coach), Sal Whitehead (Captain), Umair Lacewala, Dillon Singh, Saihaan Zabir, Stan Billson Smith, Thomas O'Shea, Daniel Evans, Jamal Yahya Pratley, Marlais Brown, Finally Macnab, Ekow Coker, Cal Fitzgerald.

# 5 x Champions = another SNS Hackney Maths Challenge win

**Daniel Anfossy**, Maths Dept.

The annual Hackney Maths Challenge is a borough-wide, between-school competition that combines mathematical and problem solving skills, as well as teamwork and communication. SNS students have been crowned Hackney maths champions for the 5th consecutive

year! Congratulations to the teams: Year 7: Spike Richards, Martha French, Cal Fitzgerald McShane, Fatima Moobe (2nd place) Year 8: Grace Dick-Oakley, Berfin Pirbudak, Jed Newman, Michael Achilleos (1st). Year 9: Bob Tarrant, William Owen, Anna Yeats, Ziska McManus (2nd).



# Careers speed dating event: a perfect match



**Barbara Bouman**, Careers, Work, Related Learning and Enterprise

On 5th July 54 professionals were in school for year 10 Careers Speed Dating, where they met students for informal chats about careers. The visitors were mightily impressed with the warm welcome. Well done to the visitor coordinators Grace, Oleksandra, Rahme, Memuna, Horia and Josh. The catering assistants made sure there was plenty to eat and impressed with their excellent serving skills. Well done to Ricky, Jordan and Fahmida.

Our two news teams made videos for broadcast at the end of the day. Well done to Ibrahim, Owen, Hassan and Jordan Moses. Special congratulations to Hal, James, Sammy and Finn for meeting the deadline (the results are on the website). We also set all students a challenge to test their Enterprise skills in creativity, problem solving and communication. Congratulations to Humaira Rawat who won £10 in gift vouchers! Most of all, huge thanks to the visiting professionals – the school is very grateful for your support.

# Duke of Edinburgh bronze expedition: year 11s walk it

**John Barrett**, DoFE Manager

On Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th July, 15 amazing year 11 students set off for Forty Hall in Enfield to research local history for their Duke of Edinburgh Final Expedition Bronze Adventure. Early on the Sunday morning the external DoFE assessor arrived to inspect the site and interview our students before monitoring their progress throughout the day on their planned routes in the countryside. All students were successful in orientating two 12 mile walks and being self-sufficient throughout the weekend. The students are: Calum Dick-Oakley, Clemence Ashton, Dan McAteer, Ellis Southgate-Wilkinson, Eve Dixon, Georgina Joseph, Jack Forey, Jessica Burley, Leah Jones, Lucas Truman, Luke McMahon, Maisie Leddy, Rivka Cocker, Rwyby Tucker and Sam Mathais-Stanley. Well done to them all and Silver here they come!



# Cowboy flick rides off with Best Film at BFI national shoot-out

**Victoria Emes**, Creative Media and Community Specialist

On the 10th July, 17 students from the SNS after school film making club attended the annual Cineclub awards ceremony at the BFI Southbank. Two of the club's films were nominated in different categories, one from the beginners group and one from the advanced group, and the films were shown to an audience of students and teachers from across the country, as well as industry professionals and film makers. The beginners group won Best

Film with their pseudo western 'Juice', a homage to silent movies complete with tumbleweed, a piano score, a saloon and a last gasp shoot-out. The YR 7 students involved in making the film were Teddy, Shea, Stella, Max and Charlie and were awarded a silver star and film review written by the editor of Empire Magazine. To view the winning film and to see examples of the work created through cineclub, please visit the SNS Cineclub youtube page at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/SNSCineclub>



# Artwords Cube unveiled at the 2013 Summer Fair



Chris Cullingford, Head of Expressive Arts

Children happily interacted, making words from the year nine sculptures whilst Adisa, our resident performance poet, was there delivering spoken word poems (and announcing the raffle!)

There were art, craft and bookstalls, a well stocked bar, Turkish and Caribbean food and, in complete contrast to last year, there was sunshine!

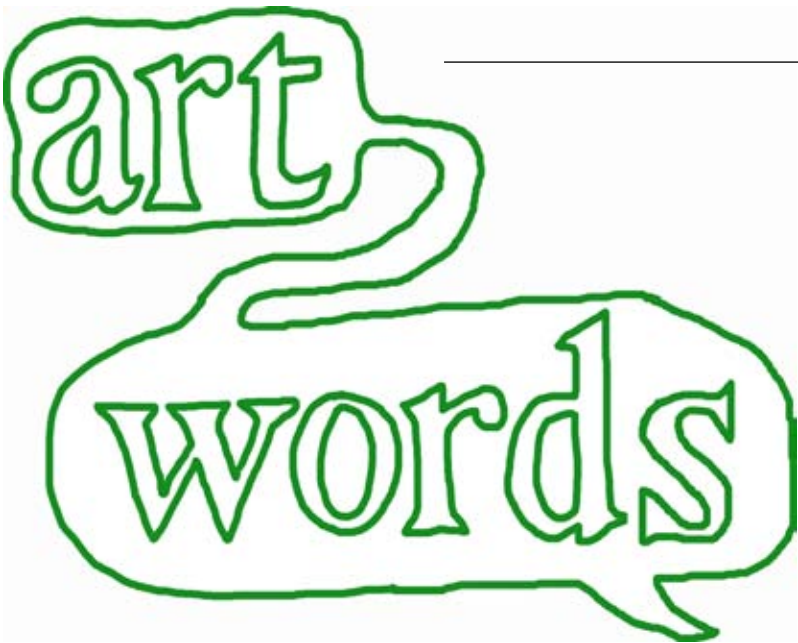
Adisa and all our visitors were extremely impressed with the installation and the jazz band who played in searing heat.

## It was a wordy themed Arts Fair with Artwords and spoken word poetry

All in all it was a relaxing, fun and artsy, bookish day. Thanks should go to staff, students and parents who helped out.

There are already plans for a similar event on 5th July 2014 so if you want to get involved please contact the PTA who did a brilliant job organising the fair this year.

Email: [parents@sns.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:parents@sns.hackney.sch.uk) for more info.



Chris Cullingford, Head of Expressive Arts

The British artist, Tom Phillips, went out and bought the first book he could find for 6d. He shortened the name of it from the 'Human Document' to the 'Humument' and drew on the pages outlining particular words, creating a new narrative.

Year 9 followed the same process in English. All of them were given a free book to read and then use as the basis for their own 'Humuments'. They worked with graphic novelist Marcus and Performance Poet Adisa, extending their writing. In art this work was used for colourful graphic design and printmaking.

Students also made giant 3D letters. They studied the work of artists who use text such as Javier Mariscal and Jamie Reid.

Speech bubbles containing students' work and their letter sculptures now float in the net adorning our giant cube. A select group of year 9 also made 'Artwords' animations with Victoria Emes. These can be viewed on the website. We hope to repeat the project next year with year 9.

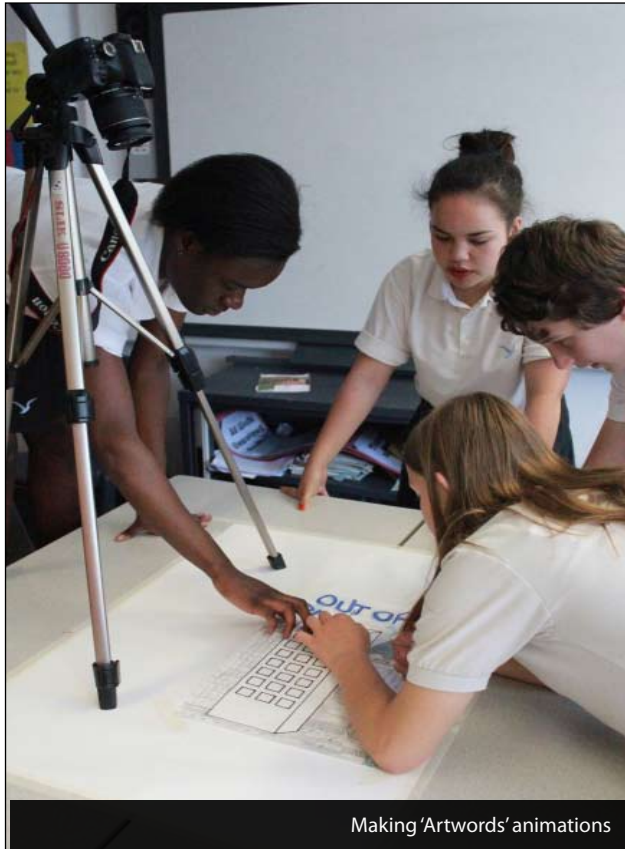
The project was funded by the Clore Duffield Foundation



Creating humuments using printing techniques and mixed media



Student 'humuments' adorn the cube



Making 'Artwords' animations



# 2013 fashion forecast: frocks & (punk) rocks

Veronica Flavell, Textiles

A level and GCSE Textiles designed and made an inspirational collection of garments and accessories.

GCSE themes included punk rock, 1960s and a "cultural influence".

A level garments were inspired by historical corsetry and construction techniques . . .



Tie-die corset top  
flared mini-skirt  
Ruby Tucker, GCSE



Corset dress  
with overskirt  
& laser-cut butterflies:  
Marina Harris, A level

Models: A level and GCSE  
students with Jason Steele

Photography: Victoria Enes &  
Marina Harris

Prices on application



Corset: Dienga Difka, GCSE  
Skirt: Sakia Krut Powel, GCSE



Skirt & top:  
Jessica Ofori-Forbes, GCSE



Dress: Stephanie  
Vazquez De Jesus, GCSE



Printed T-shirt:  
Mateusz Ciolka, GCSE  
Denim studded jacket  
with tie-die lining:  
Lucas Drummond, GCSE





# Art Show: high quality, creative and original ...

Audrey Mullins, Head of Art

Creative, original and high quality work was once again in evidence at the annual Art and Photography BTEC, GCSE and A Level Exhibition, held in the theatre in June. We were delighted to see so many students at the opening night along with their friends and families, celebrating their hard work and talent.

This year was particularly exciting as it was the first time we showed the work of BTEC students. Ceramic glazed African masks and Alberto Giacometti inspired sculptures made an impressive entrance. Prints by GCSE students were influenced by a trip to the Bauhaus exhibition at the Barbican. Exam board assessors commented on the 'Truly outstanding, individual, final pieces.'



*The artwork on display was a true testament to the skilled, artistic students our school encourages...*

The popularity of Art and Photography at Stoke Newington School attracts large numbers at GCSE and generates an exciting mix of talents of both SNS students and students new to the sixth form at A Level. Every year about half our cohort progress to study Art Foundation courses, mainly in London.



The art and photography department has led many residential trips abroad and this coming Easter we will be travelling to New York again for our biannual trip.

All our students are to be congratulated on a stunning exhibition. We are already looking forward to next year when we hope to extend the A Level show to the local area.





# Record times and record temperatures!



Despite searing temperatures 13 records were shattered at the SNS 2013 Sports Days . . .



**Tom Philips**, Head of PE / Associate Senior Leader

As always, our sports days proved to be successful and enjoyable events. In searing heat, our pupils gave great performances and conducted themselves well. On Friday the year 7 and 9 sports day saw temperatures of up to 30 degrees, with the year 8 and 10 sports day hitting a scorching 33 degrees! All pupils performed well in the morning field events, not forgetting the staff who showed off their sporting prowess as usual. The afternoon track events had a more competitive edge, with

pupils representing their groups in a variety of races, from 100 to 1500 meters. Despite finishing slightly early because of the heat there were excellent performances by all our pupils. On Friday five track records were broken, and on Monday eight, showing just how high the standard of competition was. Well done to all pupils and staff who took part in all events. It is your effort that ensures our sports days remain the best in Hackney!



# Arcola Executive Producer talks to year 11 student Gamze Oz about her journey into theatre and being a Turkish writer in Britain

**Gamze Oz**, Year 11 (graduated in 2013)

I wanted to interview Leyla Nazli, the Executive Producer of award winning local artistic venue, Arcola Theatre for a number of reasons. She is a playwright from Turkey living in London and also founded the theatre with the Artistic Director Mehmet Ergen in 2000. I also enjoy performing so I am curious about what it is like to work in a theatre.

I began by introducing myself and talking about my ambitions to go to Turkey to explore my chances of becoming an actress and singer. I'm also considering studying Business as well. So I asked Leyla what her thoughts were on my dilemma.

**Leyla Nazli:** I would advise you to do what you enjoy. The acting profession is difficult and you have to be very good. So, in the UK, people in this profession are freelance and are employed on how good they are. If you want to work in theatre, there are other jobs other than acting, such as theatre administration, producer, director, fundraising, house manager, etc.

**Gamze:** Were you interested in becoming a writer when you were at Secondary School?

Leyla Nazli: No not really, but I knew I wanted to work in the arts sector; I wanted to be a singer, like you. My brother is almost like my father - the age gap is quite big. He said, 'No, don't become a singer, there are no jobs in it, and it's a tough world.' So I said, okay, I won't be a singer, I'll be a doctor, so I kind of slashed that idea—one of the worst mistakes I made.

**Gamze:** What message do you try to give to your audience with your writing?

**Leyla Nazli:** My experiences really. Every writer has their own voice, and this is my voice. My voice comes from the stories I grew up with. My journey in life: coming from Turkey; being a migrant here; surviving in London as a bilingual person.

**Gamze:** How does being a Turkish woman living in London affect your writing?

**Leyla Nazli:** I think it affects it both negatively and positively. I get amazing critiques, I get 4 stars, I have never had bad reviews, but it's still not enough to be a mainstream writer. I'm an 'ethnic' writer. I don't have to be that and probably if I work hard, if I was just to write I would be one of them [a mainstream writer] but because I manage a theatre, work full time, writing becomes my hobby in a way.

**Gamze:** What advice would you give to a young person who is interested in working in theatre as a director, actor or writer?

**Leyla Nazli:** You have to be focused. If you're not then no one is going to give you a job. You have to know exactly you want to do and what you want from people. If you want to be a director and you come to Arcola Theatre and you say I want to direct a play, and we say very well come and direct: what is your play? You have to convince me that that play is relevant today and right for this theatre, because you did your research about the theatre, the play is timely, and it's a beautiful play. You also have to have a creative team, which means you have a lighting designer and a producer. So you have to be ready for all those things. And if I see that, I will think, 'She knows her job! I should give her a job.' It also helps if you have experience working at other theatres.



Gamze interviewing Leyla Nazli

Do you want the chance to perform at an award winning theatre? To find out more about the Arcola Youth Theatre (for anyone aged 12-16 years) and Arcola Academy (for 16-25 year olds) visit: [www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)



## Sporting dedication recognised

**Tom Philips**, Head of PE

July 4th saw SNS host its sixth annual Sports Presentation Evening. The night is a celebration of not only some exceptional performers who have succeeded at school, county and national level, but of all pupils who have taken part in school sport this academic year.

Attendance to after school clubs has again been high and we try to make sure all participants are appreciated. Our teams have represented SNS in a wide range of sports from netball and football, through to cricket and cheer leading, with numerous successes.

Each year we identify one pupil who has surpassed others in relation to dedication, effort and achievement.

The winner receives the Fiona Hughes Award. Fiona was a PE teacher at the school who bravely fought cancer for years before sadly passing away. We wanted an award that encompassed Fiona and all the

qualities she possessed. Her award this year was won by Lucas Oriogun in year 10.

He was part of the year 10 Athletics team, who won team of the year. He achieved highly in sprint events, both individual and relay at local, and London level.

There were many winners both on the night and throughout the year, too many to mention! We'd like to extend a huge thank you to all pupils, staff and parents who made such a brilliant contribution to school sport last year. Next year we're hoping for an even better year, especially with our new Athletics Facility!



Lucas receiving the Fiona Hughes Award

## Impeccable French trip

**Murat Kara**, Head of French

63 pupils accompanied by 7 teachers and fantastic sunny weather had the privilege to visit the Opal Coast region in Northern France.

Many French locals in Boulogne were touched by our pupils' successful attempts to speak French to them during the exciting town trail activity and the quiz, to name but a few!

On our way back, pupils applied their linguistic skills, during an hour at a shopping centre called Lille Europe.

Our pupils conducted themselves impeccably and positively at all times, and were great ambassadors of our school.

I look forward to seeing you many of you, on our extremely popular Year 8 French Exchange Programme, next year.

## Dalston Rio showcases Primary Transitions project

**Victoria Emes**, Creative Media & Community Specialist

The Rio Cinema in Dalston was the setting for the first annual Primary Transitional Media Project showcase.

The Friday morning event showed the films made by over 120 Year Six students from across the Hackney Borough. The ten films on show were the end product of the inaugural Primary Transitional Media Project, which aims to ease the transition process between primary and secondary schools.

Students are given a theme surrounding the issues of the traditionally demanding move from Year 6 to 7. Children from William Patten, Grazebrook and Jubilee primary schools were placed into groups of six then they brainstormed themes ranging from anti-bullying to taking responsibility. Next, they planned and shot a two-minute short film on their chosen theme.

Head of the project, Victoria Emes, Creative Media & Community Specialist at SNS, said: "The project and

final screenings were extremely successful. The move to secondary school can often be stressful and the scheme aims to help kids deal with this in a fun, positive and creative way. We hope to expand the project next year to more schools and also involve the wider community."



William Patten friendship video

## Letter champions Black Caribbean community

**Betsy Campbell-Craig**, English Department



After studying the poem "Stereotype" by John Agard we decided that writing a letter to a conservative newspaper would be a good platform for championing the causes of our Black Caribbean Community. Here is a letter written by Year 9 student Jada Tuitt:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you that the newspaper article you wrote this week was very stereotypical and I did not like it.

In the article you claimed that "most Caribbean boys are in gangs and they are mostly the reason for all the shootings and stabbings". Everybody has the right to their own opinion

but what you've written is not true.

I want to stress that so many people from the Caribbean want a good education and are studying hard to get a university degree so that they can get a good job to provide for their family; they don't have time to be out on the street involved in crime and gangs.

Unemployment among young black men has doubled in three years rising from 28.8% in 2008 to 55.9% in the last three months of 2011. One of the main reasons why people won't hire young black men is because they assume them to be untrustworthy.

Barak Obama is a good role model because he showed black people that they can achieve their dream. Even if someone tells you that you can't achieve your goal, keep trying, because they don't know what you're capable of!

Yours faithfully,  
Jada Tuitt, 9K

## Staff and year 9 students humbled by WW1 sites

**Annie Morgan**, Head of History

At 5:30am on Friday 21st June 82 excited (but tired!) Year 9 students and 9 staff departed for Belgium to tour the battlefield sites of WW1. Our journey took us past occasional clusters of white crosses. At Lijssenthoek Commonwealth military cemetery we learnt that there were 9,901 Commonwealth burials and 883 graves of other nationalities, mostly French and German. We were shocked at just how young many of the soldiers were.

At the Bayernwald German Trench system we explored preserved trenches. Learning about the daily routine of trench life and the horrors of 'going over the top' helped us to reflect on the realities of life on the Western Front.

In complete contrast to Lijssenthoek we visited the German military cemetery of Langemark. Here the differences between the Commonwealth graves and German graves were marked; each flat gravestone in Langemark represented six soldiers. One section of the cemetery contained the graves of 3,000 'student soldiers'.

We finished our tour of the Ypres area by visiting the largest Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in the World. Seeing the rows upon rows of white crosses was overwhelming; it brought home the scale of the conflict. One of our students, Jamie Noel was able to locate the name of his great, great Uncle on the Tynecot Memorial Wall.

In the evening we walked through the historic town of

Ypres, which had been rebuilt after the war. We went to the famous Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, which lists 54,896 soldiers whose bodies have never been identified or found. Two of our students – Aliyah Bin Dawood and Jamie Noel – laid a wreath in memory of all those who lost their lives in the conflict.

We travelled home tired, emotional but glad that we had the opportunity to visit the sites of WW1. It was a unique and humbling experience for students and staff.





# Diary

Monday 9 September	Clubs fair
Tuesday 10 September	Secondary school fair
Friday 13 September	Yr 12 induction trip
Monday 16 & Tuesday 17 September	Prospective parents' open evening
Monday 23 to Thursday 26 September	Prospective parents' open morning
Tuesday 24 September	Yr 12 & 13 parent support evening
Tuesday 1 October	Start of Black History Month
Thursday 3 October	National Poetry Day
Friday 4 October	INSET
Monday 7 October	Yr 7 parent support meeting
Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 October	Prospective parents' open morning
Wednesday 16 October	Diversity and inclusion evening
Monday 21 October	Yr 11 parents' evening
Tuesday 22 October	Late start
Friday 25 October	KS3 creative day
Friday 25 October	Yr 10 Science / Yr 11 maths study day
Friday 25 October	KS5 personal development day
<b>Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November</b>	<b>Half term holiday</b>
Wednesday 6 November	Yr 13 parents' evening
Thursday 7 November	Late start
Monday 25 to Friday 29 November	Inclusion week
Thursday 28 November	Yr 10 parents' eveing
Friday 29 November	Late start
Wednesday 4 December	Progress review day
Thursday 12 December	School concert
Wednesday 18 December	Take over day
<b>Thursday 19 December</b>	<b>Last day of term (half day)</b>

# Contacts

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**Auditions for whole school  
drama production coming  
soon! Keep an eye on the  
Drama notice board for dates.  
*Don't miss out!***

