

A message from the Headteacher...

With the later January start combined with an early Easter, the Spring Term 2024 has been a very short one. That said, we have packed in so much over the last 10 weeks and we haven't really been put off by the rain! Our Spring Newsletter provides an overview of some of the achievements and activities that have taken place.

Jude Craddock, who has worked at Bredon for over 20 years, will be retiring at the end of April. For many of these years, Jude has been our much-loved catering manager and has worked tirelessly to feed us all. She has provided meals even when there have been power cuts and flooding. We will say a proper goodbye later next month.

We say a fond farewell to Mr Bishop who has been teaching Computing at Bredon since 2015. As well as being a great teacher, Mr Bishop played an integral role in setting up Teams during COVID and helped us to carry on teaching during lockdown. I know the pupils, particularly 7 Avon, will miss him. We wish him well in his Head of Computing role at another Worcestershire middle school.

Thank you to Mr Graham and to our own Mr Horton, who have taught PE over the last few months. We say thank you and goodbye to Mr Graham at Easter – although we may see him at Bredon again. Mr Horton will continue to teach English – and I think he is quite happy about that! After Easter, we welcome Mr Bristowe as Head of Boys' PE and Mr Glynn as Head of Computing to our BHA family.

Congratulations to Ms Mann who married Mr Sheridan during the term. I'm sure many of you will remember Mr Sheridan, a former member of the BHA staff. We wish them a very happy life together.

Please visit our school website and for current news, please follow us on X or Facebook (@BredonHAcademy). We break up on Thursday 21st March and return on Monday 8th April (a blue week).

Once again, thank you so much for all of your support and have a lovely Easter break.

Debbie West



Celebrating and Rewarding Achievement

Over three hundred and fifty pupils have been rewarded this week for being 'Zero Heroes' with a certificate, cookie and drink celebration. This praised nearly three quarters of our school community who have gone throughout the whole spring term without receiving any sanctions —a big 'well done' to all who managed this notable achievement.

Next term offers a clean slate and we look forward to even greater numbers maintaining our high expectations of conduct. We will also reward those who manage a whole

year without receiving a single sanction with an extra special treat, and perhaps something even more significant for the current year 8s, who are seeking to achieve three years of Zero Hero status!

Pupils have been searching high and low across the school buildings as part of our egg-citing Easter egg hunt this week—thank you to Mrs Sidney for organising this. We've seen the term out with our traditional inter-form Easter-themed quiz courtesy of Miss Lloyd and Mrs Dunkley and further awards were handed out during our end of term assemblies, including our coveted Pupil of The Term awards, house point awards, house competition winners, subject commendations and learning journal awards. Congratulations to all our award winners—over 800 certificates were handed out this week alone— the perfect way to end





the term and show how our pupils consistently demonstrate Belief, Honesty and Aspiration in their learning and within the BHA community.

















Focus on Food Preparation and Nutrition

Mrs Parkinson has once again been busy with year 8 creating some teacake masterpieces as part of this year's Tunnock's Teacake Challenge. The theme for this year was 'the four elements' and this enabled our pupils to show off an array of their food presentation skills in lessons, including spinning sugar, icing work, layers and textures.

The standards were high across the whole cohort, so a big 'well done' to the winners and overall winner,

who will go forward to the national competition, Mya P.

8 Avon—1st Ekaterina L; 2nd Robbie B (on next page)

8 Brook—1st Olivia K; 2nd Valentino P

8 Castle—1st Kitty E; 2nd Poppy A

8 Hill- 1st Freddie R; 2nd Noah H

8 Tower— 1st Ella T; 2nd Hebe G

8 Vale—1st Mya P; 2nd Eliza H (pictured above)



Commendations also go to to Isla C and Freddie I for applying a range of skills taught to create their masterpieces! (pictured below) The overall winners for our House Competition were 8 Brook, who consistently showed a wide range of skills and creativity in their individual approaches to the task.

























Focus on Science

Close to thirty year 6 pupils took part in the Year 6 STEM Challenge through Worcestershire STEMWorks during February. The pupils used K'nex to produce a design according to a brief. We look forward to hearing if any of our pupils have got through to the next round.

More recently, BHA celebrated British Science Week in several ways. On the Monday there was a whole school assembly, where pupils were told about the science week national competition as well as other aspects of Science Week and a reminder about STEM club. Six posters will be entered into the national com-

petition as the winning designs from our House competition.

STEM club continues to run at the beginning of Wednesday lunch. A range of different experiments (one-off and ongoing) run across our three laboratories. During Science Week, we enjoyed dissecting chicken wings and making ping pong ball catapults.

Fifteen year 6 pupils made the journey to Malvern St James School to take part in a mechanical engineering workshop. Pupils were placed into groups with other pupils from different schools. Ava and Crystal's group gained an award for cooperation and collaboration.









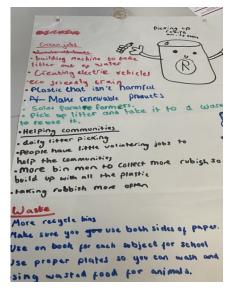


Focus on Careers and PSHE

We had a very successful National Careers Week from 4th - 8th March 2024. Our pupils attended various assemblies and had fun finding out about different skills needed for different jobs and careers. Many lessons over the course of the week also had a careers-focused link to help provide context and long-term aspirations linked to specific skills and subject content. Thank you to so many parents for sharing their experiences of their very diverse jobs and careers. We have really enjoyed reading about these in our PSHE lessons and using them as a springboard for discussions about future opportunities.

Careers learning was also boosted for a group of Year 8 pupils who enjoyed a day out at PwC's beautiful Birmingham offices. Here pupils learned about the different ways of entering a career for an international financial services organisation as well as attending skills workshops. Our pupils represented BHA superbly and worked collaboratively to produce some very impressive and mature presentations.







Focus on Music



All pupils have been developing their performing skills this term in music lessons, working individually and in groups.

Year 6 focused on keyboard skills; learning about the correct keyboard performing technique and having a chance to put their knowledge to the test when deciphering musical notation. They have been performing short song melodies and sea shanties.

Year 7 began this term with the ukuleles. They have been learning to read and understand tab notation, as well as performing chord patterns

and progressions on the ukulele. When feeling confident with the chords learnt, Year 7 then used their skills to create their own chord pattern for 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star'. Year 7 have recently been working on a performance of Alan Walker's 'Faded' melody and accompaniment - working in small groups to recreate these melody and accompaniment lines.

Year 8 performance skills has had a focus on songs—firstly exploring the elements that make songs successful before working in groups to create their own song arrangements, and more recently exploring ways that basslines can be created from chords in interesting ways.

Our musical groups have been busy, too. Our BHA Singers have given a fantastic performance in three parts to Year 6 pupils in their assembly. Meanwhile, woodwind and percussion musicians from BHA, St Egwin's and Prince Henry's High School were able to join together and take part in an instrumental workshop, where they learnt and performed two pieces of music. It was such a positive experience for our players to hear and feel the power of a larger group of musicians working together.

Here is what Isla thought about this opportunity: "The music workshop at PHHS was absolutely wonderful. It was lovely how all the different people were playing the different instruments at the same time. I really enjoyed playing in a large band."

After the Easter break, we look forward to launching a new lunchtime club, the 'Bushwhacker Collective'! We are also continuing preparations and rehearsals for our school production, 'Mary Poppins' - more information about tickets will be



sent out next term. The pupils cannot wait to share their passions for music, dance and drama with you!

Focus on English

This term has been a lively, yet short one. Our pupils' learning has gone from strength to strength in English.

The year six cohort have immersed themselves in atmospheric story writing and refining their skills for reading through short stories and Walter de la Mare's classic poem, *The Listeners*. The pupils continued to develop their retrieval, comprehension, summary, questioning and inferring skills whilst reading the texts. In particular, pupils developed vocabulary choices, sentence structures and have been exploring the effect punctuation choices have. At present, Year 6 are also using the Spelling Frame website to consolidate spelling knowledge and https://www.yearsix.co.uk/ to help strengthen knowledge and skills. The year six cohort also behaved superbly during the March SATs experience and applied themselves diligently. Well done, year six.



Across all year groups, English teachers have been implementing a range of feedback and assessment strategies including snowballs, find it and fix it, the BMW process and WAGOLL Bingo and many more as a result of our whole staff CPD delivered by Claire Gadsby - https://www.clairegadsby.com/.

Year seven continue to explore the concepts of heroism and villainy. This time we have been exploring poetry: both modern and from the English canon of literature. The year group have continued to question: how do pupils use

quotations to support their opinions whilst exploring how writers construct continuous texts? They have been studying how persona comes across to a modern reader. They have had many varied thoughts and they have conveyed these through their written responses. We have enjoyed reading their carefully crafted writing too. Year seven are now moving to learning about how Shakespeare uses heroes and has become a hero to many over time.

Year eight learning continues to be based around the concept of 'conflict' in English. They have all been given the opportunity to learn about Aristotle's 'Art of Rhetoric' and were inspired by modern voices

such as Emma Watson, Greta Thunberg and the Obamas. The speeches that year 8 then crafted and delivered on a variety of personally selected topics were engaging, mature and emotional. The cohort will be moving to studying Shakespeare's final play, 'The Tempest' which focuses on conflict and how different characters manage these experiences. Some Year 8 pupils have also been involved in a drama workshop with Mrs Cook (Subject Lead for Drama at Prince Henry's High School).





The school took part in our 'World Book Day' competitions and we have enjoyed judging the entries. This gave pupils the opportunity to respond to reading personally, creatively and with pleasure. We wish we could showcase all of them. Congratulations to our winners and all who entered.



All pupils also received an extra World Book Day text, alongside their £1 voucher.

We wish you all a restful break and we are looking forward to our Summer Term of learning in English.

The English Department





Focus on French





Fifty five of our year 7 pupils recently had the fantastic opportunity to visit Saint-Leonard des Bois, in Normandie.

After a very early start and a long coach and train ride to their destination, the pupils soon settled into



their new surroundings and got stuck into some delicious food. Over the course of five days, the group spent a day at our partner school in Mamers, giving them the perfect opportunity to meet their penpals, exchange gifts and practise authentic French speaking skills. They also visited the Chateau de Fougeres, reinforcing history studies of medieval castles and a stunning abbey; explored the beautiful Mont-Saint-Michel and the village of St Ceneri; visited local shops and markets to sample local delicacies and purchase souvenirs and had a truly fantastic visit at Les Chèvres de la Saffrie, learning all about goats' cheese!

A huge thank you to Mme Amzallag and the accompanying staff who worked so hard to create such a memorable event.





Focus on History

In history, Year 6 have continued their studies on the Ancient Greeks. They have examined objects that they would have used (as shown in the image below), drawn detailed mind maps about ancient Greek daily life and have been comparing the most well-known city-states: Athens and Sparta.



Year 7 are continuing their studies on the Middle Ages. Having completed a piece of writing on the impact of the Norman invasion on England, they have moved onto to look at some of the medieval kings that struggled to rule England.

Year 8 have completed their studies on crime and punishment through time and moved onto American history. They have been looking at native American life and how their culture is very different to western culture. To support their learning on this subject they have made and brought into a school a model based on

something related to Native American culture. Some of 8 Hill's efforts are shown below. Pupils are currently comparing how life in America would have been very different to life in England at the end of the Middle Ages by revisiting Year 7 work on life in the Middle Ages to develop their comparative skills.

Our History Club continues to meet once a week and is a popular choice for pupils, giving them an opportunity to further their understanding of different time periods and research further using a wide range of resources with like-minded historians.



Focus on Geography

In the spring term, Year 6 have been looking at where they live and seeing how local towns like Evesham have changed. This has enabled them to use their map skills learnt in the autumn term and given them opportunities to describe in detail what places are like and how they have developed. They have also been creating maps of their own.

Year 7 have been finding out how the weather works which has involved them making observations of the weather based on what they have found out in class. They have also looked at the climate of the UK and can draw their own climate graphs.

Year 8 have been looking at the structure of the Earth and learning how what happens beneath our feet can lead to earthquakes in some areas. They have analysed the Turkish/Syrian earthquake of 2023 and made conclusions about why it was so devastating. Based on this knowledge, and having undertaken some research, they have designed a building that is earthquake resistant.

Focus on Art







Focus on Wellbeing

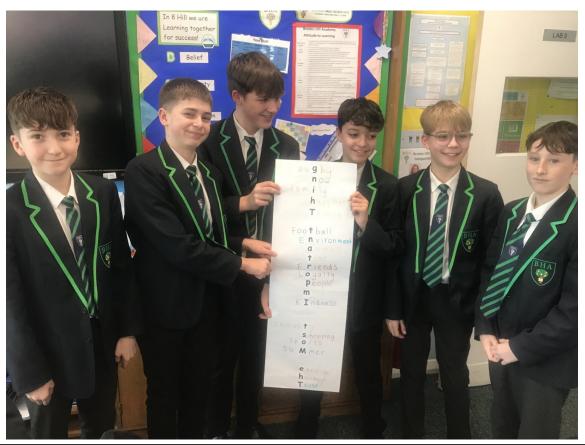
As part of Children's Mental Health Week, the BHA Community once again took part in the Taskmaster Education and Place2Be Challenges to encourage our pupils to connect with one another and explore different ways of thinking. Over the course of the week, Mr Horton and Mrs Dunkley set the school individual and tutor-based challenges, including: drawing 'the most important thing' upside down; recreating a moment from history using two items from the classroom pupils were based in; creating the 'biggest' circle and making the most 'dramatic' exit from school.

The pupils did really well in thinking laterally and, most importantly, had a great deal of fun! A special mention goes to 8 Hill, whose 'upside down' interpretation was credited with a commendation by Alex Horne as part of the nationwide Taskmaster Education competition.

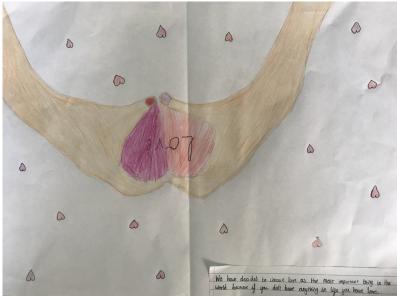


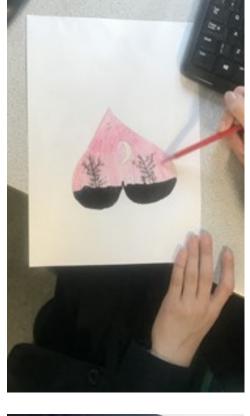












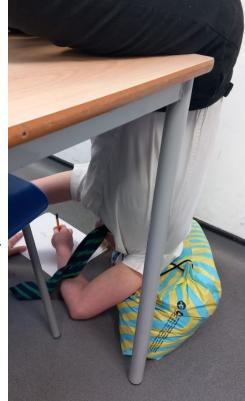
We are increasingly mindful of the national news stories surrounding young people's mental health. As well as supporting our pupils' wellbeing through a wide range of strategies in school, we would like to draw your attention to the following online workshop:

Boosting Children's Resilience and Mental Health, Tips for Parents and Educators. April 23rd from 7pm

In this webinar, Dr Weston of Tooled Up Education will share a raft of evidence-based tips that parents and teachers can use to good effect at home and at school. How can we boost children's resilience? What can we do to reduce anxiety? How can we keep them motivated? To what extent does sleep, nutrition and access to phones impact on children's ability to thrive? How can we work

optimally together in partnership to support all young learners?

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN DygabCfXSkOPBJ3mXnf5JQ



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Focus on Physical Education

With the high levels of rain we have encountered this term, sporting activity has sadly been restricted at times. Despite this, we have once again been thoroughly impressed by the levels of participation and achievement across a range of sports. As well as inter-house competitions, our pupils and sports teams have competed at local, district, county and national levels and enjoyed a great deal of success. Highlights included:

- In panathletics, we are the KS3 Year 7 County Champions—a
 great achievement following last year's successes too and the
 team now go onto represent the County in the national finals
 next term.
- Reuben J and Reece Y represented Worcestershire in the National Cross County Finals in Leicestershire. Reuben finished as the 2nd highest placed finisher in the Warwickshire and Worcestershire area in 77th place, whilst Reece finished 65th in his race.
- A group of year 6 girls took part in the #LetGirlsPlay football initiative—the biggest ever event of its kind. Well done to Ella W, who was voted by the Sports Leaders as Girl of the Festival.



- Within inter-house competitions, 6 Brook have been crowned netball champions. Well done to all those who were involved—it was lovely to see such high levels of participation and the year 8s and staff colleagues being on hand to support Miss Barber.
- Also in netball, our year 6 team finished first in the District Festival and our B team in third place. Our year 7
 team also finished first in their District Competition. Both teams will now represent South Worcestershire at
 the Spring School Games.
- In the much-postponed due to waterlogged pitches finals of the year 6 interhouse football, 6 Vale were crowned champions after a final minute goal saw them over the line,

narrowly beating Avon and Castle to the trophy.

- Archer P in year 6 competed in the Worcestershire Schools Individual Table Tennis Championship and finished a very impressive 3rd.
- Our girls' football team ended the season strongly with an 8-0 win over St Egwin's Middle. Well done to Lily R in particular, who was PoTM and bagged a hat-trick.
- Our Equestrian Team have been in action at the NSEA Arena Eventing Competition, with some great individual and team performances against challenging opposition. Well done to the whole team!







School Stationery Shop

A reminder that we have our own school stationery shop, which runs every Tuesday and Thursday breaktime outside the maths classrooms.

With items sold at cost price and from as little as 5p for a pencil or rubber, it's a great opportunity for pupils to top up on essentials without having to pop into town or make an online order. There's a wide range of items for sale, to cater for a range of budgets and often some seasonal products available too!



Focus on Attendance



We're very proud of our school attendance. Our consistently high levels have been rewarded by FFT, an organisation that supports a range of UK education projects, for being amongst the highest in the country. We believe our school community, positive relationships and our focus on our core values of Belief, Honesty and Aspiration make Bredon Hill Academy a great place to learn and work.

To create a little friendly competition amongst tutor groups, we continue to share successes with our Attendance Cup. Awarded on the steps every Friday, it's a positive celebration of our pupils' dedication and perseverance. The winning tutor group gets a little treat and to keep the attendance cup for the week. A special mention goes to 6 Avon, who have won the cup the most over the course of this term.

House Point Update

Our pupils continued to pick up significant numbers of house points this term for a wide range of reasons, from producing excellent work to improvements in attitude to learning; from helping towards supporting our BHA community to producing great pieces of home learning. So far the school staff have awarded well over 25,000 house points! We have also run a wide range of House competitions across a variety of subject areas—these points will be added to overall totals at the end of the year to identify the final standings. The overall House totals up to the end of this term are shown—below—can Vale remain in pole position throughout the summer term? Make sure you keep up to date with your own child's achievements through the My Child At School platform.

Avon	Brook	Castle	Hill	Tower	Vale
4139	3958	3442	4354	4698	5144



Our School Gardens

We will once again be opening our fabulous gardens in June as part of the Ashton under Hill Open Gardens weekend. The theme for this year is 'gardens for climate change' - highlighting the need to adapt our spaces for the future as we come to terms with increasingly more erratic weather patterns.

Miss Bankes works tirelessly to ensure our school grounds are a quiet space of tranquillity to support pupil wellbeing, learning and biodiversity. One of our Enrichment sessions on a Thursday afternoon focuses on using a range of strategies, including outdoor spaces, to support wellbeing. Additionally, every form group has its own planting patch within our 'Friendship Gardens' to enable a sense of pupil ownership of our grounds and to nurture a natural curiosity of gardening. The Eco-Council form an active part of our school life, meeting once a month to explore how we can best support eco-diversity and the environment by making small adaptations to our own lives or activities within school as well as weekly get-togethers to improve our school environment.



You can chart our journey through the grounds' own Twitter feed—@BHAPottingSheds.

Pupils are currently working with Miss Bankes to prepare for the Open Gardens event, including planting, tidying the gardens and caring for the wildlife. We hope you pop in and see us if you are planning to attend the Open Gardens.



Key Dates	
Start of Summer Term—Blue Week	
Year 7 (X Side) Parents' Evening—Virtual	Wednesday 10th April —3:30-6:30pm
Year 7 (Y Side) Parents' Evening—Virtual	Wednesday 17th April —3:30-6:30pm
Year 7 (X Side) Compton Verney Trip	Wednesday 10th April
Year 7 (Y Side) Compton Verney Trip	Wednesday 17th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May
Year 6 SATs Week	Monday 13th May—Thursday 16th May
Year 6 Hill Walk	Friday 17th May
Half Term	Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May
Year 8 York Residential	Wednesday 3rd July—Friday 5th July

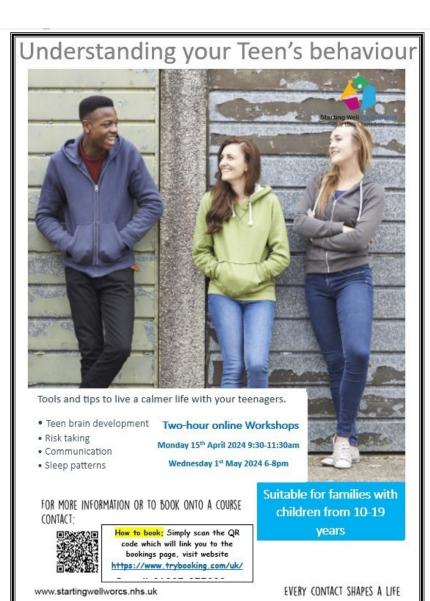
Some Reminders

As well as being able to follow our most recent news on Facebook and X (@BredonHAcademy), we also publish termly <u>safeguarding</u> and <u>reading</u> newsletters.

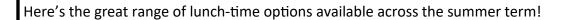
We absolutely love hearing about what your children have been getting up to out of school and share their successes within our school and on our social media. Please keep the great news coming in to us via the school office email!

(office@bredon.worcs.sch.uk)

We recently ran a parent/carer survey—the results are available to view here, together with some comments linked to actions we have already undertaken this year and our next steps. Overall, there is much to celebrate from the 115 responses we received. As a school, we always welcome and are open to feedback. Again, please contact the school office with any suggestions.



Focus on Extra-Curricular





Monday			
Tennis	Years 7 & 8	Mr Bristowe (Courts)	
Rounders	Year 6	Miss Barber (Field)	
Library	All years	Mrs Lawton (Library)	
Singing Club	Invitation Only	Mrs Pilling (Music Room)	
Quiet Room/Home Learning	All years	Mrs Campbell (Room 4)	
Gardening Club	All years	Miss Bankes (Friendship Garden) The Friendship Garden is a community area, managed, maintained and enjoyed by pupils.	

Tuesday			
Retro Video Game Club	All years	Mr Bailey (Lab 2)	
Softball	Year 8	Mr Bristowe (Field)	
Rounders	Year 7	Miss Barber (Field)	
Art	Year 7	Mr MacDonald (Art Room) – Green weeks only	
Quiet Room/Home Learning	All years	Mrs Oakley (Room 4)	
History Club	All years	Miss Durkin (Room 11)	
Library	All years	Mrs Lawton (Library)	
Band Practice	Invitation Only	Mrs Pilling (Music Room)	
Lunch Club	Invitation Only	Mrs Sidney (Lab 3)	
Gardening Club	All years	Miss Bankes (Friendship Garden)	
Science Clinic	All years	Mrs Huntly (Lab 1) - an opportunity for catch-up, home learning support or to revisit a topic you are not sure about.	

Wednesday			
Lego Club	All years	Miss Lloyd (Room 11)	
Tennis	Year 6	Miss Barber (Courts)	
Softball	Year 7	Mr Bristowe (Field)	
Library	All years	Mrs Lawton (Library)	
Quiet Room/Home Learning	All years	Mrs Organ (Room 4)	
Running Club	All years	Mrs Stevens (Field)	
Chess Club	Years 7 & 8	Mrs Campbell (Room 9)	
STEM Clubs	All years	Mrs Griffin, Mr Bailey and Mrs Huntly (Science Labs)	
Bird-Watching Club	All years	Ms Smith (Meet in the walled garden)	
French Club	All years	Mme Amzallag (Room 6) – Green weeks – playing games to consolidate learning and/or get extra help or support Blue weeks – for those who enjoy watching films in French	
Gardening Club	All years	Miss Bankes (Friendship Garden)	
Drop-In Music Session	All years	Mrs Pilling (Music Room)	
Boomwhacker Collective	All years	Mrs Pilling (Music Room)	

Thursday			
Rubik's Cube	All years	Mrs Dunkley (Room 2)	
Tennis	Year 6	Mr Bristowe (Courts)	
Rounders	Year 8	Miss Barber (Field)	
Art Club	Year 6	Mr MacDonald (Art Room) – Blue weeks only	
Library	All years	Mrs Lawton (Library)	
School Production Rehearsals	Scheduled Times	Mrs Pilling (Music Room) – see timetable for details	
Craft Club	Years 7 & 8	Mrs Dorrell (Room 7)	
Lego Club	All years	Miss Lloyd (Room 10)	
Maths Clinic	All years	A perfect opportunity to get help with maths home learning or catch up missed work. (Room 8)	
Athletics	All years	Miss Paish and Mrs Washbourne (Field)	
Gardening Club	All years	Miss Bankes (Friendship Garden)	
Girls' Maths Club	Year 6 Invitation	Mrs Campbell (Room 9)	
Maths Challenge Club	Year 6 Invitation Only	Miss Mann (Room 8)	
Quiet Room/Home Learning	All years	Mrs Kennedy (Room 4)	

		Friday
Softball	Year 6	Mr Bristowe (Field)
Ultimate Frisbee	All years	Miss Paish and Mrs Washbourne (Field)
Film Club	All years	Mrs Jessop (Room 2)
Tennis	Years 7 & 8	Miss Barber (Courts)
Book Talk	All years	Mrs Bartlett or Mrs Jessop (Library)
Art Club	Year 8	Mr MacDonald (Art Room) – Green weeks only
Portfolio Art Club	Invitation Only	Mr MacDonald (Art Room) – Blue weeks only
Textiles Club	All years	Mrs Bartlett (Room 2) – Green weeks only
Gardening Club	All years	Miss Bankes (Friendship Garden)
Talk for Learning	All years	Mrs Burrows (Hub) – specific sessions will be advertised through form trays
Quiet Room/Home Learning	All years	Mr Bailey (Room 4)

