BRISTOL CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL

"Gathered together that all may thrive"

Termly Communication to Parents/Carers
Michaelmas Term 2 2026

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to our MichaelmasTerm 2 half termly newsletter. I hope that you find it helpful and informative.

Upcoming dates

Tuesday 3rd November	Start of Term 2
Tuesday 3rd November	UCAS Evening Y13
Thursday 12th November	SEND Coffee Afternoon
Thursday 26th November	Y13 Parents Evening
Friday 27th November	Inset Day 4 (School Closed to All Students)
Thursday 3rd December	Flu Vaccinations Y7-Y11
Thursday 10th December	End of Term 2
Tuesday 5th January	Start of Term 3

Helpful Links

School Website

Parent/ Carers Calendar

Timings of the School Day

Term Dates

Our Curriculum

Futures careers bulletin

Co-Curricular

Homework Timetables

Contacting Us

Whole School Messages

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Whole School Messages</th></tr>
<tr><td>Equipment</td><td>
Bringing all of the correct equipment to school each day is a crucial foundation to your child's educational success. We want to encourage students to take responsibility for their stationary which is why bringing the correct equipment for learning is one of our new school rules.

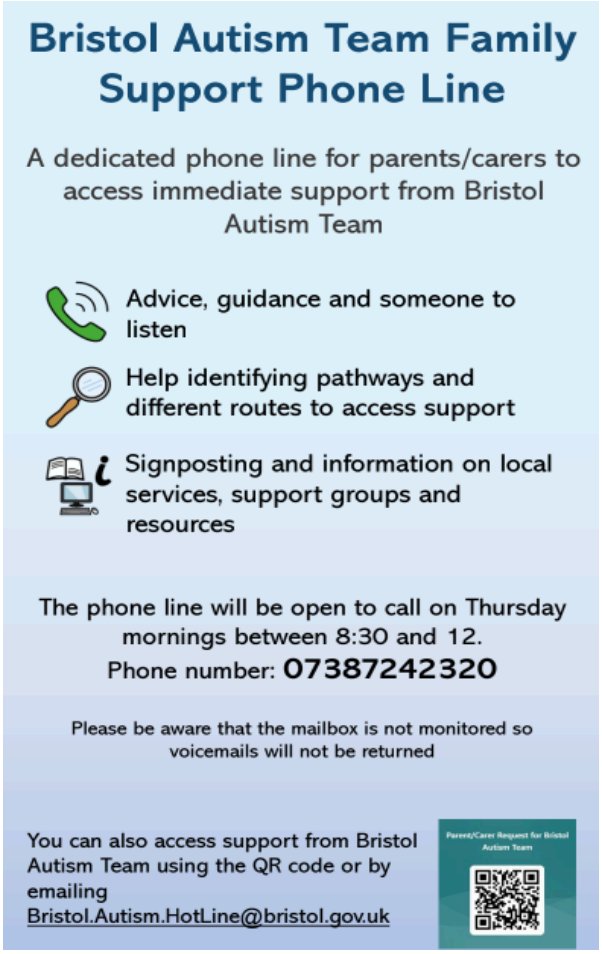
If your child arrives at school without their pencil case they can collect a pen, pencil and ruler from the Cresswell Doors from 8.00am until the start of school without any sanction. As long as they look after this equipment throughout the day they will not be given any behaviour points for equipment. If you notice that your child is receiving behaviour points for lack of equipment please support them with their organisation and remind them to take up this offer on the Cresswell doors.

We ask all students to bring the following equipment to school:

• A pencil case
• At least 2 black or blue pens
• A pencil
• A sharpener
• A rubber
• A ruler
• A scientific calculator
• A reading book
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<tr><td>Year Teams 2026/27</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Year Group</th><th>Head of Year</th><th>Pastoral Support Leader</th></tr>
<tr><td>11</td><td>Mr Welch
ewelch@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td><td>Mr Donoghue
jdonoghue@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td></tr>
<tr><td>10</td><td>Mr Frost
jfrost@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td><td>Ms Walker
kwalkler@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td></tr>
<tr><td>9</td><td>Mr Murphy
kmurphy@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td><td>Mr Darlington
zdarlington@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td></tr>
<tr><td>8</td><td>Mrs Saunders
msaunders@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td><td>Mr Gibson
sgibson@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td></tr>
<tr><td>7</td><td>Ms Brewer
abrewer@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td><td>Ms Louise
llouise@bristolcathedral.org.uk</td></tr>
</table>
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Arbor Pay 	From September we will no longer be using ParentPay*. Instead, all school payments will be set up and paid for via Arbor. New year 7 students have been sent login details at the start of September. All existing families should already be able to access Arbor, but please contact the data team if you need help logging in. *Y11 and Y13 leavers will be able to make payments for GCSE re-takes, if required, via ParentPay.
Lanyards	Lanyards must be worn by students on site as part of their uniform. Replacement lanyards are available and can be ordered via Arbor - if you add the lanyard card and strap to your basket and pay for this then our reception team will print a new lanyard ready for your child to collect at break or lunchtime. Please remember to add funds to the card via Arbor Pay. Please contact your child's tutor in the first instance if you have any queries.
Important Medical information requested	In the final week of last academic year all parents and carers were sent an email asking for updated medical information in relation to severe allergic reactions/**anaphylaxis** - in line with **Benedict's Law.** This is a reminder to submit an allergy plan to school if your child suffers from a **life threatening allergy** and/or they carry an auto injector such as an EpiPen. The letter is linked here for your convenience and has been emailed to all new starters in Years 7 and 8. Please return allergy forms at your earliest convenience. Additionally, we remind you, it is safest not to allow your child to bring nut products to school.
Science	The new year means some curriculum changes, particularly for year 9, who are now starting their GCSEs in Science. Please see the links below for more information on Science Pathways and how you can support your child in Science at BCCS. Year 9 Science Year 10 Science Year 11 Science
Science Educake Homework	Educake quizzes are set to help students revisit and strengthen their prior Science knowledge and build their recall skills. All Educake homework is due at 9am on a Monday. They should take up to 30min. Please give your child a quick reminder over the weekend so they can complete it on time and make the most of these planned opportunities for review. Many thanks. **Educake for children with SEND** **Improving the display:** You can find some additional information for supporting your child here. The article is directed at teachers, but really useful for parents and carers supporting their child too. **Spelling**: It may be useful for you to know that when a student types a response, Educake is programmed to accept 2 incorrect characters. If your child has received 'incorrect' but they are sure the answer is right, they can click on the purple question mark and their response goes to their teacher to check. Teachers can manually over-ride to accept correct answers that are spelt incorrectly. **Duration**: Educake quizzes are intended to take up to 30 minutes for children in year 7 and year 8. If your child has spent 30min on their homework and has still not finished, please ask them to leave the remainder of the questions. The quiz will show as incomplete on our records, but we can check how long a student has spent working through it.

	Year 9: *Interested in DofE?* sign up has been sent out to all parents - Students can start planning activities to fulfil the Physical, Skill and Volunteering section of the award - all advice needed on the BCCS DofE Website. Letter HERE. https://sites.google.com/bristolcathedral.org.uk/dofebccs/
BCCS Class Charts Reward Store *We need your help.*	We're excited to be restocking and relaunching the **BCCS Reward Store** - and we'd love support from our parent and carer community. The store allows students to exchange their hard-earned rewards for meaningful treats and experiences, and we're looking for donations or offers to help us stock the shelves. Suggested ideas include tickets to events or activities, money-off vouchers for local eateries or shops, sports equipment, books, stationery, or other useful resources. If you, your business, or someone you know would be willing to contribute, please get in touch at **info@bristolcathedral.org.uk**. Your generosity helps us celebrate effort, kindness, and commitment - and makes a real difference to our students. Thank you for supporting our community!
Supporting a Healthy Learning Environment	We want our students to have the best possible environment for learning. To help with this, please remember that chewing gum and fizzy/energy drinks are not permitted on site. Gum causes lasting damage to our school carpets, and high-sugar drinks can make it difficult for students to stay focused in class. We appreciate your support in encouraging water or healthy alternatives to keep our school clean and our students ready to learn.

BAT New Parent/carer support phone line	
Y8, 9, 10 and 11 Maths and Science Homework	Regular Maths and Science homework provides students with valuable opportunities to reinforce their learning, practise key skills and develop confidence in applying their knowledge independently. Students will receive weekly Maths and Science homework through Sparx*. Students can log in using their school login details and should already be familiar with the process, as the Maths department has been using Sparx for homework for a number of years. New homework tasks will be set each **Friday** and should be completed by the following **Friday**. **The Science department has now moved away from using Educake and will use Sparx for Science homework.*

All Years - Futures Careers Bulletin	The weekly Futures careers bulletin has lots of amazing opportunities for students including university open days and tasters along with live apprenticeships starting in Sept 2026. Please feedback if any of the opportunities have been useful. Any questions please contact Roz Keir, (BCCS Careers Lead) , careersadvisor@bristolcathedral.org.uk
Post-16 Careers Personal Guidance	All Year 12 students will see one of our L7 Qualified Careers Advisers, Ms Keir or Mr Phelps for a 1:1 guidance appointment. To ensure students get the most from this process they should register with Careerpilot and complete the Pathway Planner quiz - please encourage your son/daughter to complete these tasks. All students have been allocated an appointment but if they want to bring this forward please let Ms Keir know ASAP.

Y10 & Y12 Work Experience (WEX)	Alex Fey (WEX Coordinator) has launched work experience to both year 10 and 12 WEX dates: **Year 12 - 26th - 30th April 2027** **Year 10 - 21st - 25th June 2027.** A WEX Google Classroom has been set up and all students are expected to join this so they can access important resources and weekly WEX opportunities. Mrs Fey will include weekly WEX opportunities in the parent newsletter. Please encourage your child to start reaching out to employers **as soon as possible**, it's so important to secure a placement early on as they book up fast. The **deadlines** for students to find a placement and add it to Unifrog are: **Year 12 - 5th January 2027** **Year 10 - 23rd February 2027** If you have any questions about WEX please see the WEX FAQ or contact Mrs Fey - afey@cathedralschoolstrust.org
Co-curricular	***Updated*** Please click here to see a list of clubs on offer at BCCS this term
Science Curriculum	The new year means some curriculum changes, particularly for year 9, who are now starting their GCSEs in Science. Please see the links below for more information on Science Pathways and how you can support your child in Science at BCCS. Year 9 Science Year 10 Science Year 11 Science

Music

Music	A reminder that students need to check their music lesson timetables at home before coming to school. It is their responsibility to know when they have a lesson. We have had an increasing number of students coming to the office to ask, some more frequently than others. All instruments must be kept in the instrument storage by the practice rooms on the top floor of the rectory. There have been an increasing number of instruments being left in the Cresswell lobby. This looks very unsightly, can be a trip hazard and it is not a secure location. School is not responsible for instruments that are left here. If the instrument cupboard is full there are shelves on the upper floors of the Cresswell by the theatre.
PE Extra-curricular Teams and Events - November - Christmas	In Term 2, we have opportunities for students to participate in and represent the school in a number of fixtures, tournaments and events. These will include: • Continued fixtures in Year 7-13 Girls Netball within Bristol School leagues • Continued fixtures in Year 7-13 Boys Netball within Bristol School leagues • Area tournaments for Year 7 and 8 Boys Rugby • Area tournaments for Year 7 and 8 Girls Netball • Sports Hall Athletics - Years 7&8 and 9&10 events • Year 7-9 Girls Rugby tournaments - development and competitive • Year 7+8 Girls Football Tournament via Bristol Rovers. • Bristol Schools Cross Country - Round 2 Qualifiers for Avon Schools • U16 Competitive and Emerging Basketball league fixtures • U14 Competitive and Emerging Basketball league fixtures Students have shown interest via the sign up form in Term 1 and can also visit the PE

	team or speak to their teacher in lessons if they want to show their interest in being selected. Please note that these are not clubs but opportunities to compete and represent the school in external competitions.
PE Kit to be worn on PE days	**Students will wear their PE kit + lanyards to school on their PE day. They will remain in their kit after their PE lessons.** Mondays = Year 10; Tuesdays = Year 7; Wednesdays = Year 8; Thursdays = Year 9;Fridays = Year 11 and Sixth Form This means students can come to school in kit and stay in PE kit all day if they want to. If they would prefer to wear your uniform and change at Failand, that is fine. The PE kit expectations: ○ BCCS PE top (Polo or Rugby) and BCCS all weather top as required. ○ Plain black joggers, leggings, skort or shorts. ○ Sports trainers/school shoes. ○ Lanyard ○ Sport specific equipment as required (boots, gum shield, shin pads etc.) ○ Long hair is tied back and all jewellery is removed/taped. The PE team needs your support to make this work and to maximise lesson time. ● Students must wear the **correct PE kit for the full day.** ● Students must also wear their lanyards throughout the day. ● If it is a rainy day, students must either bring an extra pair of black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms or their uniform to change into after the lesson and wear their all weather tops! ● If it is a cold day, we encourage students to wear additional layers underneath their BCCS PE top, bring gloves, hat etc as appropriate for participating in PE. ● We will give students time to change after the lesson before we head back to school on cold/wet days.
Kinship Care	**Are you a kinship carer?** Kinship carers are friends or family who step in to raise a child when their parents may not be able to. This may be temporary or long term. You might be a grandparent whose grandchild has come to live with you or perhaps you are taking care of a younger sibling or niece. There are more than 141,000 children living in kinship care in England and Wales (source: Kinship care charity) and so you are certainly not alone. If you are a kinship carer, please let us know. This will help us to better support you and your child,and we will be able to signpost you to further help and advice. We will handle any information shared sensitively. Our Kinship Lead is Michael Brodie and you can contact them by mbrodie@bristolcathedral.org.uk. Our Kinship Lead has awareness of the particular needs of children in kinship care and the support available for children, carers and families. You can also access information via: · The HOPE Virtual School Kinship care · Kinship: Home | The Kinship care charity | England and Wales The Kinship care charity offer a wide variety of support for kinship carers including online workshops on a range of relevant topics and local coffee mornings.