Spring Term 1

News Magazine

February 2026





Principal's Message

Dear all,

It feels very strange to be opening my final news magazine as Executive Principal of CFS. As ever, I hope you enjoy the following pages packed full of just some of the exciting things that have taken place in the school since Christmas.

Firstly, I wanted to share with you some very happy news – Mrs Sammie Grace (Primary teacher) gave birth last week to a beautiful baby boy – Connie! We all wish the Grace family much love and happiness, and I know that Mrs Grace's class were very excited to see a picture of Connie in assembly this week.

This whole half term has been a time of real reflection for me, as I prepare to leave CFS. After seven years as Head and 12 years in the school, I think it is going to take quite a while to sink in that I am leaving. I first arrived at CFS in 2014, as Head of English. The school, of course, was still at the temporary site and we were only expecting to be there for one more year. Four more years came and went, with the Primary phase needing to move to North Bersted for a year, and then we finally moved to our forever home. Teaching English at CFS was some of the most rewarding teaching I have ever experienced, and I will forever look back on those days with such fondness and happy memories.

Having moved into Senior Leadership, I was then honoured to become Executive Principal in 2019. I wasn't quite expecting to go into lockdown six months in, mind you, but whilst the Covid era was so challenging I also look back on it with such pride. Pride in the spirit and team work of the CFS community. CFS is genuinely very special. I have taught in seven schools during my career, and CFS stands out as the most united and caring team I have ever known. And I mean the whole community when I refer to the team – the staff, the pupils and you, the parents. Thank you for being such a key part of what makes this school so special, and such a privilege to work in.

I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with all of the pupils this week – saying goodbye, celebrating their achievements and wishing them well for the future. In Secondary, I have led several assemblies, but assemblies that included cake! And in Primary, we had year group tea parties. Whilst 1065 Principal's Awards have been issued over the last seven years, I really wanted to take time today to celebrate with all the pupils. It was a lovely opportunity to wish them all the best for the future as well. In particular, it has been wonderful to have been with so many of our Year 11 cohort since they joined the school in Year R – we walked through the doors together for the first time in 2014. I wish them every happiness for life beyond CFS and of course the best of luck for their GCSEs exams!

I leave CFS so proud of the school. This is a school where the pupils are kind and respectful, where their voice helps initiate meaningful change. The pupils achieve well due to their talents and hard work, and of course the dedication and passion of the staff here. CFS is significantly over subscribed – both with pupils and staff; people want to learn and work here. It has become a leading voice in the area on pastoral initiatives and personal development opportunities. I leave CFS as a thriving community.



Principal's Message

Is the job done though? Of course not. Any strong school will be constantly reflecting, constantly evolving and constantly moving forward. Both challenging areas for development and responding to a changing local and national picture. CFS has always done this, and I know will continue to do so under James Garner's leadership. I cannot think of anyone better to be handing the reins over to. James has the wisdom, passion and tenacity to take CFS to even greater heights. I wish him, and the whole CFS community, the very best on the next steps of the journey.

I have never felt such a wave of emotions as I do this week. Sadness, pride, excitement, nostalgia, nerves. But I am in no doubt that now is the right time for me to be moving into a different area of education. To use my experience of the last 22 years in a wider reaching role. But my time at CFS will always be so special and will forever hold an important place in my heart. Thank you to you, as the parents, for all of your support and belief over the years. Also for the many kind words I have received this week, and for your continued support of CFS in years to come.

With very best wishes for the future,



Mrs Louise New
Executive Principal



EYFS

We've had an action-packed and inspiring time in EYFS as we embarked upon our **Helping Heroes** topic! The children have been learning all about real-life heroes and the important roles they play in our community, alongside exploring some of our favourite fictional superheroes. This has sparked lots of brilliant discussions, imaginative play, and super storytelling. We were especially excited when **Little City** came to visit — the children had a fantastic time exploring different role-play scenarios, confidently stepping into a range of community roles and showing great teamwork and creativity.

Our **Drawing Club** sessions have been full of enthusiasm, using a mix of storybooks and short animation clips, including much-loved favourites such as *Fireman Sam* and *Octonauts*. These sessions have really supported the children in expressing their ideas, developing vocabulary, and building confidence in literacy and drawing. In **phonics**, we have continued learning digraphs and the children are doing a wonderful job using these sounds in both their reading and writing.

In **maths**, we have been exploring numbers to 8 in depth, as well as investigating mass and capacity. The children have loved using balancing scales and experimenting with containers during water play, making predictions and developing their problem-solving skills. **Forest School** has been very cold and wet, but that hasn't stopped the fun! We've embraced the weather, explored the grounds, splashed in puddles, and enjoyed getting muddy. To keep ourselves warm, we even had delicious hot chocolate — a perfect ending to our outdoor adventures. What a super half term of learning it's been!

Miss Smith, Mrs Golby

and Mrs DeWitt









Key Stage 1

Year 1

This term, we have been diving into our *Under the Sea* topic, enjoying the book ***Dive, Dive into the Night Sea***. The children have been exploring verbs and adjectives to create their own poems, imagining themselves as scuba divers in the dark night sea, and developing their vocabulary beautifully. Our science and geography learning has been linked closely to the ocean theme. In geography, the children have been practising navigation with compasses, learning the cardinal points, and exploring the world's oceans. In science, the children have continued learning about materials, connecting this to pollution and recycling and understanding how waste impacts both our communities and marine wildlife.

In maths, Year 1 have focused on place value and addition and subtraction within 20. The children have been building confidence with these concepts, representing numbers in a variety of ways, and solving word problems to deepen understanding. This foundation will help as we progress to place value up to 50 later in the year. In design and technology, the children have been experimenting with dips and dippers, exploring flavour, texture, appearance, and smell while discussing a balanced diet. Oak Class enjoyed carrot and breadsticks with guacamole, while most of Beech Class preferred breadsticks and carrot with a sour cream and chive dip! The children have also practised their chopping skills to recreate these combinations safely. It has been a fantastic term of hands-on learning, creativity, and curiosity under the sea!

Thank you to all the parents and carers for your continued support with home learning. It has been wonderful to see so many children engaging with Numbots and Rainbow Readers and proudly receiving certificates and badges in our weekly celebrations. Your support at home truly makes a difference to your child's progress and confidence in their learning, and we are very grateful for the time and encouragement you provide.

Mr Cook and Miss Sparshott

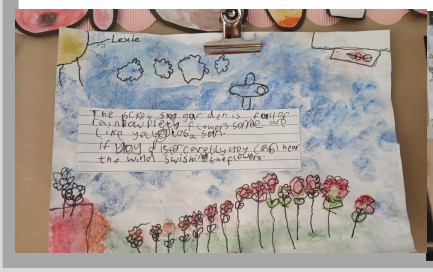
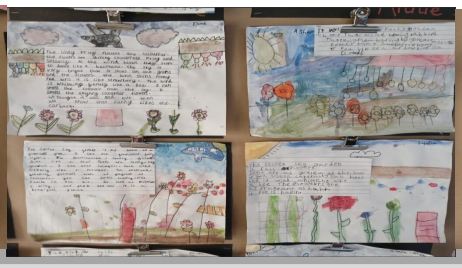
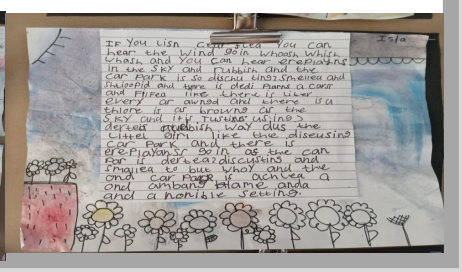





Year 2

Year 2 have made a bright and enthusiastic start to 2026, with plenty of opportunities to learn through creativity and exploration. The children began by investigating *Earth Heroes*, finding out about influential environmental champions such as David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg and considering how their actions help care for the world around us. In English, pupils focused on imaginative writing through *The Secret Sky Garden*, producing rich setting descriptions, creating watercolour backdrops, and using similes to paint vivid images with their words. Mathematical learning has been brought to life through practical activities, with children confidently working out totals and change while enjoying role-play shop scenarios. Geography lessons took learning outdoors, as pupils explored the school grounds to spot and discuss human and physical features. In computing, Year 2 developed their understanding of algorithms and debugging by programming Beebots and using Scratch Jr, with Chestnut class delighting in creating a carefully coordinated Beebot square dance. Science lessons rounded off the term as children explored animal life cycles, recording their learning through detailed drawings and well-structured non-chronological reports.

Mrs Bhutta and Mrs Grace

Key Stage 2

Year 3



Year 3 have had a busy and exciting half term! In English, the children have enjoyed debating whether retailers should ban single-use plastics from magazines, sharing thoughtful opinions and developing their persuasive skills. In maths, we have been exploring multiplication and have been learning how to multiply two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers with growing confidence.

Our geography lessons have taken us on a journey to study rivers across the UK and around the world, and the children particularly loved creating their own rivers in the classroom. In science, we have been exploring rocks and have been fascinated by learning about fossils. We have also continued to work hard on Rollama and TTRS, and the children are still thoroughly enjoying quizzing on Accelerated Reader. We are all looking forward to next half term when we will begin our exciting learning about the Egyptians!

Miss Beadle and Mrs Ubsdell

Year 4

Year 4 have had an interesting and engaging start to 2026, packed with learning both in and out of the classroom. One highlight was the unforgettable Novium sleepover, where the children spent the night immersed in Stone Age history, bringing their learning to life in a truly memorable way.

They have also been developing important life skills through swimming lessons, while in maths they have worked hard to strengthen their understanding of multiplication and division. Creativity has been in full flow as pupils auditioned for, and began rehearsals for, this year's performance of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, showing confidence and teamwork. In geography, they explored natural disasters from around the world, while English lessons focused on rich setting descriptions and non-chronological reports, culminating in the children creating their own webpages. Artistic talents have shone through their study of artist Chris Coady, experimenting with watercolour pencils, and in science they have been investigating the states of matter through hands-on activities. It has been a fantastic few months of curiosity, creativity and growth for Year 4.

Miss Morriss and Mr White







Key Stage 2

Year 5

Over the last half term, Year 5 have been learning all about the Vikings! They have enjoyed reading our class text, *How to Train your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell and have used it to inspire their writing. We have written a clear and well-structured set of instructions on how to catch a dragon, and an informative newspaper report detailing the attack of a dragon in the fictional village of Berk. Both pieces showcasing creativity and growing confidence in non-fiction writing skills and using a variety of grammatical skills such as using indirect and direct speech as well as imperative verbs.

In Forest School sessions, the children have worked collaboratively, demonstrating excellent teamwork while developing their outdoor cooking skills with cooking food over a fire, and learning how to build dens...as well as of course getting very muddy! In art, the children sketched and designed imaginative dragon eyes before creating them in clay, with a strong focus on texture and surface detail using a variety of tools and techniques. In addition, Birch Class performed their class assembly all about the Vikings, proudly presenting their knowledge of Norse Paganism and Viking daily life, and speaking clearly and confidently to an audience. Overall, pupils have demonstrated enthusiasm, resilience, and excellent learning behaviours across the curriculum and we cannot wait to see this continue after half term. Well done Year 5!

Miss Bigg and Mr Wilson



Year 6

Year 6 have had a very busy and productive term and we are incredibly proud of the effort they have shown across all areas of learning. A huge well done to all pupils for their hard work during the mock SATs. The children approached these with a positive attitude and real determination. We would also like to say a big *thank you* to parents and carers for your continued support at home, particularly with additional revision and homework – it truly makes a difference.

In science and geography, children explored the fascinating Galapagos Islands, learning how they were formed and why they are so unique. This linked perfectly with our science topic on Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution. Pupils learned about adaptation, inherited and acquired characteristics, and even took part in a fun role-play where they pretended to be finches! By investigating how different beak shapes helped finches survive on different islands, the children gained a deeper understanding of natural selection.

Year 6 also took part in Bikeability training, where they learned how to stay safe when cycling on the road. The children embraced the challenge brilliantly, showing great care, awareness and responsibility as they practised their skills. We hope this has given them confidence to cycle safely in the future – and a reminder to always wear a crash helmet when out on their bikes.



Miss Stapleton and Mrs Wilson

Key Stage 3

Year 7

It has been a busy half term and start to 2026 for Year 7. The pupils have:
- represented CFS in a number of sporting fixtures with more fixtures coming up in football, rugby and cross country.
- taken part in House events; Mario Kart tournament and football.
- started their maths enrichment.
- increased the number of Pupil leadership opportunities in Year 7, for example the Sport Leaders.
- continued with our Culture of Kindness and reflection.
- embraced our new Year 7 motto towards our learning, progression and behaviour – "Nothing but the Best."
- worked hard to gain their CFS Passport Bronze award - well done!

We have absolutely loved watching our Year 7 pupils develop their ability to reflect and build resilience this half term.

Miss Oxley and Miss Ireland

Year 8

This has been a very full half term and Year 8 have risen to the challenge admirably. It was lovely to write their reports and see how well so many students are doing and earning themselves large amounts of House points and positive comments - well done! Year 8 students are learning how to be independent and responsible, whether it's participating in lessons, joining clubs or supporting classmates. Everyday they are learning not only in the classroom but through teamwork, friendships and school activities helping them to prepare for the future. We're proud of you Year 8, keep up the good work!

Mrs Turnbull and Miss Ireland

Year 9

It has been a very busy half term, and we are now moving at pace as we head towards another. We have seen so many positive moments across the year group.

Dare to Dream is now up and running, with **Jack the Lad** coming in to work alongside **Rolls-Royce** and our Year 9s, with a specific focus on careers and making informed choices. Choices are very much at the forefront at the moment as students look ahead to their GCSE options. It is important to remember that time is still on your side — there is space to reflect, to change your mind, or simply to check that you feel confident in the choices you have made.

I have been hugely impressed with the maturity shown by our Year 9 students at this stage. It has been a pleasure to see them talking thoughtfully with one another about their futures.

We also have a number of sporting fixtures coming up that we will be supporting or leading. The football team is nearing the end of their league season, with cross country and the Corporate Challenge on the horizon, and the cricket league due to start soon. Bring on spring!

Mr Tilling and Miss Stanley

Key Stage 4

Year 10

Year 10 are now settled well into their GCSEs and it's been great to see so many fantastic progress reports. Particularly well done to: Freddie, Darcy, Lilyrose, Jonah, Lily, Esmee, Flint and Ted who got all 4s on their LPs.

Sam along with Jasmine, Mason, Harrison, Ethan, Evie, Rocco, Flint and Amy also has the distinction of all greens and purples for on track colours. And Freddie, Sam, Tristan, Ewan, Raf, Zach and Esmee for 100% attendance.

What an achievement for these students. For anyone struggling with their subjects, please consider spending more time on homework, getting a revision guide or attending one of our revision clubs.

Ms Crebbin and Mrs Ashcroft

Year 11

Year 11 are truly stepping up and embracing our mantra: **"If it's not excellent, it's not finished!"** This drive for high expectations is becoming part of who they are, and it's paying off. Their latest reports and mock exam results show real momentum, with many pupils demonstrating impressive progress and a renewed determination to secure the very best outcomes.

After-school revision sessions are busier than ever, as pupils recognise that the short term effort they invest now will lead to long term success. As you read this over the half term break, Year 11 have just completed their final round of mock exams and are heading into the last stretch—**just over 10 weeks until GCSEs begin in the hall.** The countdown is well and truly on.

Prom points are also building fast, with our top pupils already surpassing 50 points and securing their tickets. Keep an eye out for your invitation to purchase, and if you're able to offer any support, it's always greatly appreciated. Points continue to be awarded weekly for attendance, behaviour and punctuality, with bonus points available for revision boosters and exceptional work.

Year 11 are rising to the challenge—let's keep that momentum going as we head towards the finish line.

Mr Elliman and Miss Stanley

Maths

Primary

In Primary, our TTRS competitions have been fierce this half-term! Aside from Birch class winning the trophy once, Mr White's class – Sycamore – have remained the reigning champions for the entire half-term! Can the rest of the school step-up and beat them next half-term? It's been great to see some of our KS1 pupils receiving certificates in our celebration assembly for their great effort to learn and remember their times tables too – very well deserved!

Additionally, Year 1 and 2 have enjoyed playing 'Numbots' to secure their very important number bond facts! Their teachers have been proudly awarding certificates for these efforts too – well done to those using this platform at home to reinforce their number facts.

Elsewhere, some of our Year 6 high-attaining mathematicians have been planning and running some fun times tables games and activities for children in Year 4, who have their multiplication check coming up soon. It's been lovely to see children getting into school early, with enthusiasm, to participate in these groups. Well done these 'mini teachers' who are not only helping younger students with their learning but modelling a love for Maths too!

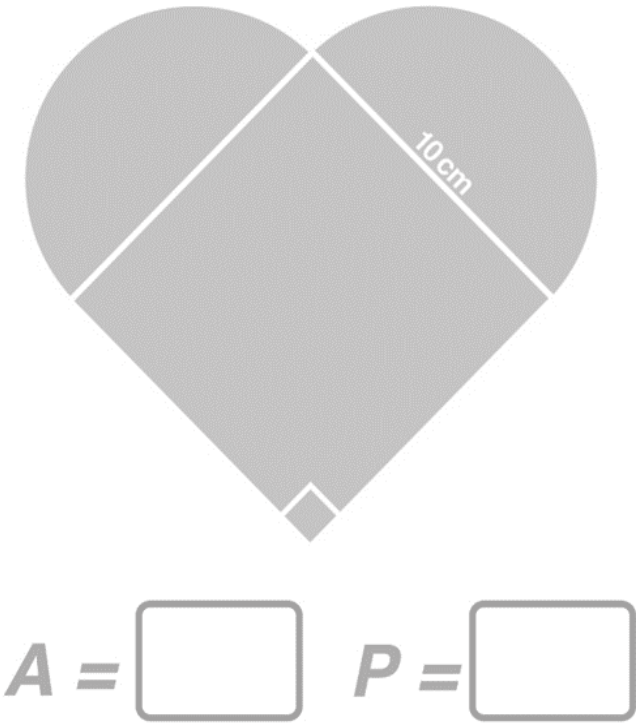
Secondary

We start with a plea; please can you remind your child that they need to bring a calculator in to every maths lesson. Students will need these regularly and having them in their bag makes it a lot easier for all.

Mr Green was given the task this year of organising the Maths Challenge. This is held across all schools around the Country. Given his expertise and knowledge of Cross Country running we knew Mr Green would be up for the task. The Challenge was very hard with Mr Blandford Davies having to take some extra time post challenge to figure out 'the big one'.

We are seeing some fantastic work with Year 9s at the moment exploring Pythagoras and looking into Trigonometry which has everyone engaged and answering some tricky questions.

Year 11 have just their next set of mocks and we wish them well when they receive their results.



February maths question
Can you find the area and perimeter of the heart shape?

English

Primary

It has been an eventful half term in Primary, with lots of exciting learning experiences taking place.

The Year 1 children have been diving deep into the night sea, writing free verse poems and experimenting with verbs and adjectives. Across the pond, the Year 2 children have been inspired by the book *Earth Heroes*, producing non-fiction writing, including some fascinating biographies. Changing pace, the children upstairs in Year 3 have been busy debating, writing about plastic pollution and creating poems to inspire others to make a positive change. The Year 4 children have been making ground-breaking web pages inspired by the book *Earth Shattering Events*, linking their work to their geography learning.

Time to scale things up! The Year 5 children have been enjoying the ever-popular story *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell. They have carefully crafted instructions and written their own newspaper articles about dragon attacks!

Finally, the Year 6 children have been exploring evolution, inspired by the book *Darwin's Dragons*. They have written narratives, magazine articles and balanced arguments about keeping animals in zoos.

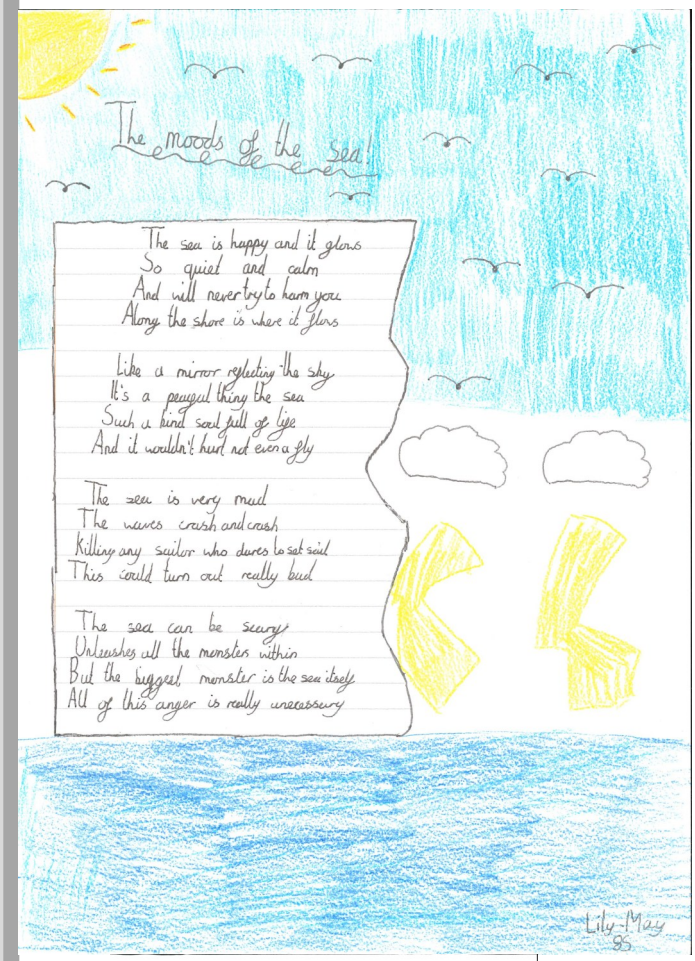
It has been a busy half term, and we are looking forward to even more exciting learning experiences next time. Don't forget that we have World Book Day coming up on Thursday 5th March – more information to follow shortly.



English

Secondary

Year 8 pupils have been reading and writing nature poetry this half term. Here are some of their endeavours.



The moods of the sea

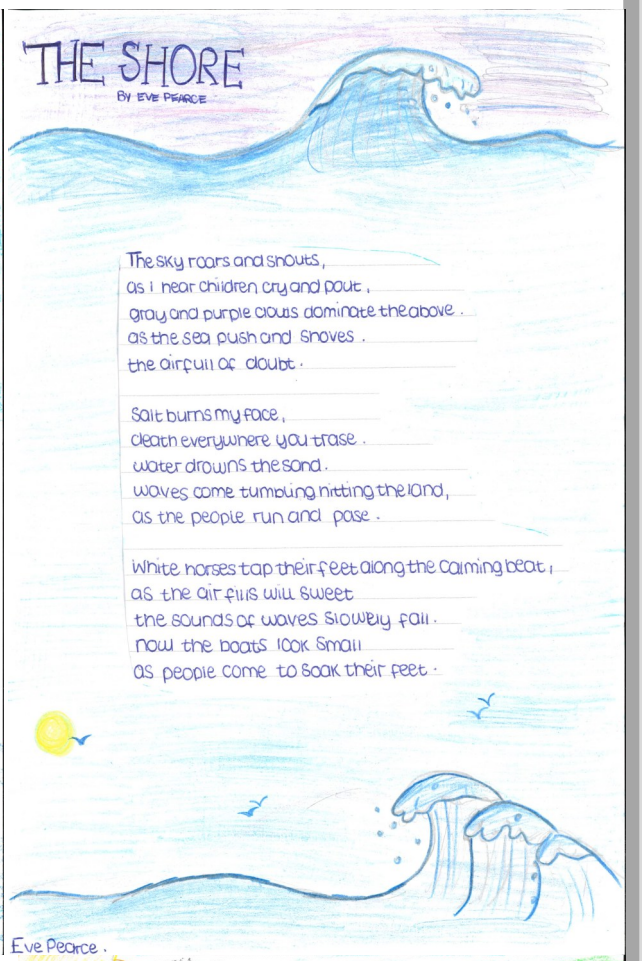
The sea is happy and it glows
So quiet and calm
And will never try to harm you
Along the shore is where it flows

Like a mirror reflecting the sky
It's a peaceful thing the sea
Such a kind soul full of life
And it wouldn't hurt not even a fly

The sea is very mad
The waves crash and crash
Killing any sailor who dares to set sail
This could turn out really bad

The sea can be scary
Unleashes all the monsters within
But the biggest monster is the sea itself
All of this anger is really unnecessary

Lily-May



THE SHORE

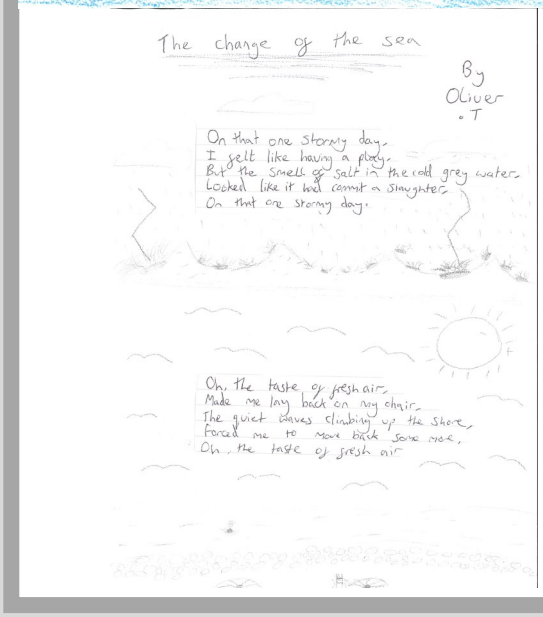
BY EVE PEARCE

The sky roars and shouts,
as i hear children cry and pout.
gray and purple clouds dominate the above.
as the sea push and shoves.
the air full of doubt.

Salt burns my face,
death everywhere you trase.
water drowns the sand.
waves come tumbling hitting the land,
as the people run and pase.

White horses tap their feet along the calming beat,
as the air fills will sweet
the sounds of waves slowly fall.
now the boats look small
as people come to soak their feet.

Eve Pearce.

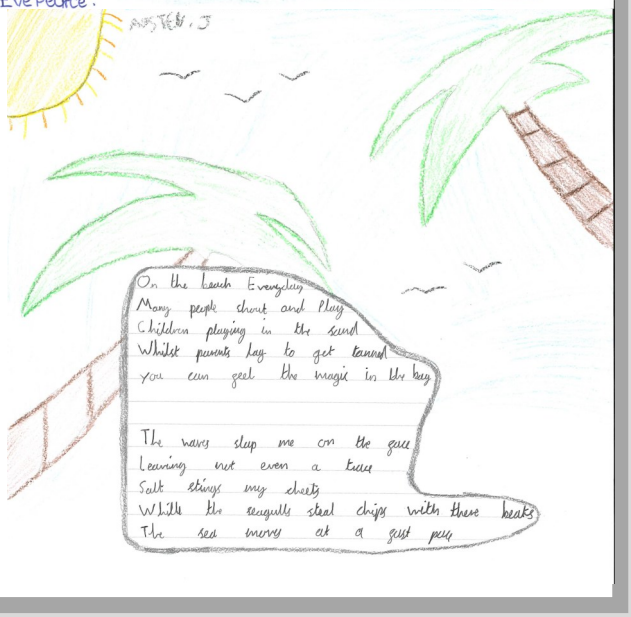


The change of the sea

By Oliver .T

On that one stormy day,
I felt like having a play,
But the smell of salt in the cold grey water,
Looked like it had carnt a slaughter,
On that one stormy day.

Oh, the taste of fresh air,
Made me lay back on my chair,
The quiet waves climbing up the shore,
Forced me to move back some more,
Oh, the taste of fresh air.



On the beach Everyday
Many people shout and Play
Children playing in the sand
Whilst parents lay to get tanned
you can feel the magic in the bay

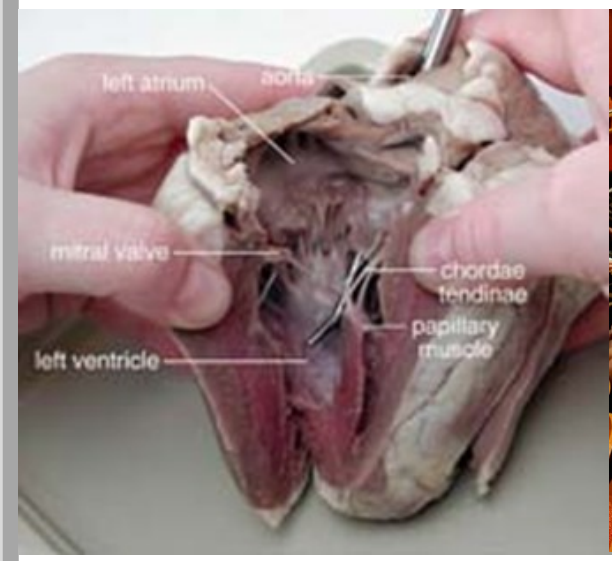
The waves slap me on the face
Leaving not even a trace
Salt stings my cheeks
While the seagulls steal chips with there beaks
The sea moves at a gust pace

Science

A Busy and Brilliant Spring Term 1 in Science

This term has been packed with exciting opportunities across the year groups, giving pupils the chance to explore science beyond the classroom. Year 9 kicked things off with a hands-on forensics event, where pupils stepped into the role of investigators. They analysed evidence, used scientific reasoning, and learned how real-world forensic science helps solve crimes — a challenging and memorable experience that sparked plenty of curiosity.

Year 9 also took part in heart dissections as part of their biology studies. This practical lesson allowed pupils to examine the structure of the heart up close, helping them deepen their understanding of how this vital organ works. The session was a great example of learning through doing, and pupils approached it with focus and enthusiasm.





Meanwhile, some Year 10 pupils travelled to Brighton to attend the **Science Live** event, where they heard from leading scientists and communicators from the field. The trip offered insight into cutting-edge research and future careers in science, inspiring many pupils to think big about where the subjects could take them.

Finally, Year 11 have been working hard preparing for their upcoming mock exams, showing real dedication and resilience as they revise key content and practise exam skills. It has been a busy but rewarding term, and we're proud of all that our pupils have achieved.

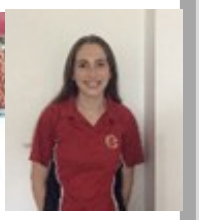
The Science Team

Media Studies

CFS Times Young Reporters are branching out and learning new and exciting ways to deliver the news by developing their interviewing, filming and editing skills.



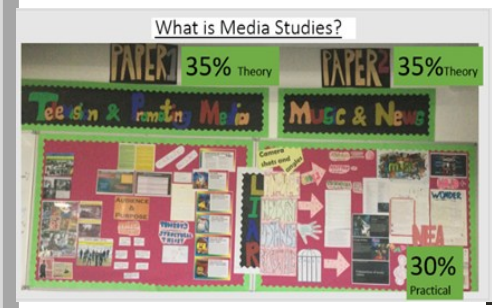




The Media Studies Year 10 pupils have been assisting the Trust with their creative talents and filmmaking skills producing short films for their social media platforms.

Year 9 pupils have been introduced to the Media Studies GCSE. An assembly helped inform the pupils about the expectations of the course alongside the Guided Choices opening evening. The feedback was amazing and it was wonderful to talk to so many parents and pupils who felt as excited as I do about the endless opportunities the subject has to offer.

Year 11 Media Studies pupils have been working hard on their NEAs and preparing for their mock exams.






The SHINE Media Award competition is open for submissions. Photography, Creative Writing, Business plans, Podcasts and Art work are proving very popular categories amongst the CFS pupils. Thank you for being such inspirational creative minds. See you next term.

Shine School Media Awards

Ms Edmans

Sport

PE Lessons – Skill, Creativity, and Confidence

This half term's PE lessons have been packed with variety and excitement. Pupils threw themselves into parkour, developing dynamic movement skills including vaults, parkour rolls, and wall-based techniques. Confidence, control, and creativity were evident as pupils challenged themselves to move efficiently and safely through the space.
Alongside this, gymnastics lessons focused on rhythmic and aesthetic movement, with pupils working under the guidance of Miss Oxley to refine flow, balance, and expression within routines.

Touch rugby also featured heavily, giving pupils a strong introduction to the game ahead of the upcoming Six Nations tournament. Lessons focused on rules, positioning, and teamwork, building understanding and enthusiasm for the sport.





Sports Leaders Training – A Brilliant Beginning
The first Sports Leaders training session of the year was a huge success, with 50 pupils from both Primary and Secondary coming together to explore the ethos and driving principles of the programme.
Leaders took part in a micro-teaching session, delivering short activities and receiving constructive feedback to help develop their leadership and coaching skills. It was a fantastic opportunity to see the quality, confidence, and potential of our Sports Leaders at CFS.

During the session, leaders formed their working groups and began planning their projects for the year. These will include running house events at lunchtime, raising the profile of sport across the school and promoting healthy, competitive participation for all pupils.

Cross Country – The Machines Out in Force
CFS is gearing up for a busy period of long-distance running, with targets set for the **largest corporate challenge running event**. We are looking forward to an excellent turnout from *The Machines*, as pupils continue to build endurance and resilience.

There is also an upcoming **area cross-country event at Christ's Hospital**. Any pupils interested in taking part should speak to **Mr Green** for further details. Below a photo of *The Machines* not fazed by a little mud on the cross country routes.



Sport

Netball – Success Continues

We are proud to celebrate the continued success of Sharon Nicholson, whose impact on netball at CFS has once again been clear to see.

This half term, the Year 7 netball team delivered an outstanding performance, defeating The Petersfield School 8–4. This is a particularly impressive result, as Petersfield are the only team to have beaten Coach Nicholson's club team at Year 9 level.

A fantastic achievement for the players and another example of the high standards, commitment, and belief that define netball at CFS. Well done to all involved!



Sport in the Primary Phase

This term has been an extremely busy and exciting one for sport in the Primary Phase. Our children have represented the school at a wide range of fixtures, demonstrating enthusiasm, resilience and excellent sportsmanship throughout.

Pupils have taken part in indoor sports hall athletics, gymnastics competitions, hockey quicksticks, and cross-country events. Across all of these activities, CFS has been making waves within our cluster of schools, with children showing great determination and pride when representing the school.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to the University of Chichester, who came in to support some of our children in developing their fundamental movement skills. As part of this partnership, pupils were introduced to the exciting new sport of handball. Over the course of five sessions, children built their skills, confidence and understanding of the game, with the programme culminating in a handball mini-tournament, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

In addition, we are pleased to share that a number of children have expressed interest in becoming Primary Sports Leaders. Following this enthusiasm, selections have now been made, and we look forward to these pupils supporting the promotion of sport, physical activity and positive leadership across the Primary Phase.

Thank you for your continued support in encouraging children to take part in sport and represent the school so positively.

CCF

Combined Cadet Force – Spring 1 Update
The Spring 1 half term has been a busy and successful one for CFS's Combined Cadet Force, with cadets at all levels demonstrating commitment, teamwork, and a strong sense of pride in their achievements.

Senior Cadets – 3 Star Military Knowledge
We are delighted to congratulate several of our senior cadets on successfully passing their 3 Star Military Knowledge qualification. As part of this assessment, cadets researched and delivered a presentation on a historical battle of their choice.
These presentations demonstrated excellent subject knowledge, confidence, and communication skills, with cadets analysing tactics, leadership, and outcomes to a very high standard. This qualification represents a significant milestone in a cadet's progression, and all involved should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Junior Cadets – Basic First Aid
Our newer cadets have also enjoyed a successful half term, with many completing and passing their Basic Level First Aid qualification. Cadets learned essential lifesaving skills, including casualty assessment, responding to emergencies, and administering basic first aid.
This qualification equips cadets with practical skills that are valuable not only within the CCF, but also in everyday life beyond school.





Royal Navy Section – Launching September 2026
After a very successful meeting with the OC CCF Royal Navy, Cmdr Haines, we are excited to announce that the opening of CFS's Royal Navy Section is being brought forward to September 2026. This expansion marks an exciting new chapter for the CCF and will provide cadets with an additional pathway focused on maritime skills, leadership, and adventure training.
From September 2026, our new Year 8 intake (current Year 7) will be able to choose whether they wish to join the Army Section or the Royal Navy Section. In addition, some existing cadets will have the opportunity to transfer to the Royal Navy Section should they wish to do so.

Royal Navy Training Syllabus Overview
Junior Cadet
Recruits will complete basic training during their first three terms, covering the aims and organisation of the CCF, security, RN ethos, correct wearing of uniform, rope work, basic squad drill, and an introduction to camps and courses. Cadets will also complete the Naval Cadet Force swimming test and learn about afloat equipment and clothing. Alongside classroom learning, cadets will spend time on the water, gaining experience at the helm of a powerboat, sailing a dinghy, or paddling a kayak. Upon completion, cadets are promoted to Junior Cadet.

CCF - Royal Naval Section

Royal Navy Training Syllabus Overview

Ordinary Cadet
After approximately one year, cadets progress to the Ordinary Cadet syllabus, developing their understanding of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Training includes RN ceremonial, ships, history and customs, buoyage, seamanship, communications, leadership tasks, and intermediate squad drill.
On-the-water training continues, allowing cadets to further develop their boating skills. Upon completion, cadets are promoted to Ordinary Cadet.

Able Cadet
This is the main training syllabus of the Royal Navy Section. Cadets receive advanced instruction in dinghy sailing, canoeing, power boating, aircraft and weapon recognition, IRPCS, weather, communications, advanced rope work, chart work, and VHF voice procedures.
Leadership development is a key focus, with cadets learning leadership styles, the power of command, lesson planning, instructional techniques, and practical leadership tasks.
Upon completion, cadets are promoted to Able Cadet.

Senior Cadets and NCOs
In their senior years, cadets of outstanding ability may be promoted to Non-Commissioned Officer roles. NCOs receive training in delivering lessons, leading teams, and taking command on parade.
Depending on performance and available positions, cadets may progress through the ranks of Leading Cadet, Petty Officer Cadet, Chief Petty Officer Cadet, and Warrant Officer Cadet (Class 2 or 1) .

Supporting the Growth of the Royal Navy Section
As we prepare for the launch of the Royal Navy Section, we are also seeking adult volunteers to help support and grow this exciting new opportunity.

We would love to welcome members of the wider school community who could support during our Thursday parade nights as Section Officers. They could have formally served with, or have links to, the Royal Navy (although this is not a requirement), or just have an interest. If you hold any RYA qualifications and may be able to support the section on the occasional weekend for on-the-water activities, we are also keen to hear from you. All training, including courses that to allow you to take cadets on the water, can be offered to you.

Anyone interested in volunteering or finding out more is encouraged to contact Captain Cook, Contingent Commander, at ccf@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk We are also keen to hear from current pupils who are members of Sea Scouts or Sea Cadets and may wish to join the Royal Navy Section as more experienced cadets or NCOs. Any rank achieved or syllabus passes gained through Sea Cadets or Scouts can be carried over into the CCF Royal Navy Section, and cadets are welcome to be members of both organisations.
A very exciting time for our CCF and the CFS community!

Futures and Enrichment

CFS pupils had an unforgettable ski trip to Sestriere, Italy. Over the week, they made fantastic progress on the slopes, pushing themselves outside their comfort zones and overcoming initial nerves about using chair lifts. Set against an incredible Alpine backdrop, the pupils embraced every moment of the experience, impressing the ski instructors with their determination and rapid improvement. Of course, no trip would be complete without plenty of fun too — sampling the finest hot chocolate, scoffing tasty crepes, and some very well-aimed snowballs thrown by both pupils and staff! A brilliant adventure full of confidence-building, teamwork and laughter.

Mrs Moon









Fundraising

Thank you so much to you all for supporting the fundraising and charity initiatives we have had taking place this half term:

Bags2School: It's our second collection after half term on Wednesday 25th February. Please start saving your unwanted items.

Items accepted are:

- shoes (tied together or with an elastic band around)
- clothes and accessories
- household linen, towels, curtains, bedding

Items not accepted are:

- duvets and blankets
- pillows and cushions
- school uniform

If you don't do the school run and still have a donation to make, it can be dropped to main reception anytime on the Monday or Tuesday before collection day. Thanks for your support with this important fundraiser.

Key fundraising dates for your diary for this academic year:

27th February 2026: Sibling Photos
6th March 2026: Primary Movie Night
3rd June 2026: Bag2School donation collection
3rd July 2026: Summer Fair

School Houses

House Points Total from Pupil Reward Points:

House Points have been awarded depending on each event's criteria. Below are the current House Points awarded and congratulations to all the pupils who have taken part! From all of us, The House Champions, Presidents, Ambassadors and Heroes, have a wonderful break; rest, relax and come back after the holidays ready to go!



Aquila 57325



Noctua 51792



Pegasus 51120



Phoenix 54829

House Champions Update

House Champions Update: Mario Kart Madness!

Engines have cooled and controllers are down as this term's **House Mario Kart Tournament** has officially wrapped up—and what a race it was! After weeks of intense competition, **Noctua** sped ahead to claim **first place**, with **Aquila** securing **second**, **Pegasus** racing into **third**, and **Phoenix** finishing a well-earned **fourth**.

The tournament was such a hit that it couldn't be contained to a single half term—we extended it by another half term due to overwhelming enthusiasm and participation. Throughout the competition, it was fantastic to see pupils from every year group in Secondary coming together, sharing laughs, rivalries, and a genuine spirit of friendly competition.

A huge thank you goes to Stanley B and Caesar T-C, whose hard work behind the scenes made the tournament run so smoothly. From helping to organise matches to designing clever software for score collation and analysis, their contribution was invaluable.

Congratulations to all who took part, and especially to **Noctua on becoming our latest House Champions**. We can't wait to see what the next competition brings—until then, keep practising that drifting!

Mrs Bodington-Howard, Mr Dean & Mr Angell

School Houses

House Competition Update

Interhouse Football Finals – Drama to the End

The interhouse football finals delivered exactly what everyone hoped for — end-to-end action, tight score lines, and no fixture where one team ran away with the result. Every House competed with intensity and pride, creating an electric atmosphere throughout the event.

A huge well done and thank you to Finn-Lee and Oscar, whose excellent organisation, leadership, and management ensured the finals ran smoothly and professionally from start to finish. Following the league stages, the final standings were confirmed:

1st place – Pegasus
2nd place – Phoenix
3rd place – Noctua
4th place – Aquila

The competition was superbly supported, with large crowds, loud encouragement, and a real sense of House pride felt across the school. The only minor incident came after Pegasus were crowned champions — when enthusiastic supporters briefly invaded the pitch in celebration!





Lunchtime House Events – Get Involved

House competition doesn't stop after lessons. Our **Sports Leaders** are now hosting a wide range of lunchtime activities on the Astro, including **girls' football**, **pentathlon-style challenges**, and other exciting sporting events.

Most House events are aimed at **Year 7 and 8**, but there are selected sessions open to all year groups — so keep an eye out. If you're keen to get involved, speak to one of the Sports Leaders at lunchtime and start earning points for your House in the race for that all-important **House Cup**!

Above is a photo of the Sports Leaders in training for their events in the upcoming half term.

Principal's Award

This term, the following pupils have received the Principal's Award. They have earned an R5 and enjoyed a celebratory tea party. Well done to everyone!

Lillia Ender	Reception	for SHINE behaviour
Viva Robertson	Reception	for a fantastic piece of writing in Drawing Club
Nellie-Rose Morey	Year 1	for always demonstrating SHINE values and setting the best example
Clara Chesworth	Year 2	for great mapwork in Geography
Isla Cunningham	Year 3	for always showing so much kindness
Finley Smith	Year 3	for working hard in class and demonstrating SHINE values
Marshall Wright	Year 3	for always demonstrating SHINE values
Alfie Zanelli	Year 3	for working hard in Maths and amazing knowledge of flags
Alexandrina Habashi	Year 4	for brilliant explanations of terminology in English
Reggie Ince	Year 4	for making amazing choices in class and showing great integrity on the playground
Ava Greenwell	Year 5	for always making the right choice
Grace Zwinkels	Year 5	for showing courage in the class assembly and being so positive with her learning
Cairo Hale-Reed	Year 6	for being more motivated, engaged with work and homework, and taking pride in himself and his progress
Beau Mills	Year 6	for always showing exemplary behaviour and displaying the SHINE values
Oliver Bate	Year 7	for incredible work in Maths
Belle Norris	Year 7	for incredible work in English
Arthur Turner	Year 7	for an incredible achievement in a swimming competition, achieving four new personal bests and two gold medals

Principal's Award

This term, the following pupils have received the Principal's Award. They have earned an R5 and enjoyed a celebratory tea party. Well done to everyone!

Sophia Walters	Year 7	for excellent effort in a speaking and listening assessment and amazing work in Spanish
Ellie Way	Year 7	for being an outstanding Pupil Receptionist
Isabel Cirss-Jones	Year 8	for spending her own weekend and hours making a presentation for assembly
Libby Duncan	Year 8	for gaining 15 House Points in one day
Shelbi Mitchell	Year 8	for working really well in History
Lucas Bulger	Year 9	for challenging himself to complete the inspire question in each French lesson
Bastiaan Hawley	Year 9	for an excellent performance in the Comedy assessment
Max Stringer	Year 9	for an excellent performance in the Comedy assessment
Freddie Allen	Year 10	for having both 100% attendance and all 4s for his Learning Profiles
Sam Barnetson	Year 10	for being a role model to others, having 100% attendance and being on track in all subjects
Flint Searle	Year 10	for being a role model to others, being on track in all subjects and having all 4s for Learning Profiles

February/March

Dates that are in red are either new events published since the first calendar was circulated, or dates that have had to move.

Monday 23 – Friday 27 February	House event: Easter bake off, charity, puzzle challenge	All
Monday 23 – Friday 27 February	Food practical examinations	11
Monday 23 February	Dentist visit	4
Tuesday 24 February	Teen booster vaccinations	9
Tuesday 24 February	Geography field trip	11C
Tuesday 24 February 1300 – 1500	Space dance workshop	2
Wednesday 25 February	Bag2School collections	All
Wednesday 25 February 1800 – 1900	Parent Ambassadors Meeting (virtual)	Parents
Wednesday 25 February	Dare to Dream day 2	9
Wednesday 25 February 1800	Corporate Challenge race 1	5 - 11
Thursday 26 February	Portals to the Past workshop	3
Friday 27 February	Sibling School Photos	All
Monday 2 – Friday 6 March	House event: Easter bake off, charity, puzzle challenge	All
Monday 2 – Friday 6 March	Hard to Human project	10
Monday 2 – Friday 6 March	World Book Week	All
Monday 2 March	Geography field trip	11A
Tuesday 3 March	Geography field trip	11D
Wednesday 4 March 1730	Bedtime story event	EYFS & parents
Wednesday 4 March	Spring Primary maths challenge	Primary
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day (Primary Dress Up day)	All
Thursday 5 March	BBC Young Reporters	6 - 9
Thursday 5 March 1700 - 2000	Pupil Progress Consultation Evening (virtual)	7
Friday 6 March	Movie Night	Primary
Monday 9 – Friday 13 March	House event: Easter bake off, charity, puzzle challenge	All
Monday 9 March 1700	Dance House performance, Worthing Pavilion	7 – 10
Tuesday 10 – Thursday 12 March 1800	Musical Production to parents	Secondary
Wednesday 11 March 1800	Corporate Challenge race 2	5 - 11
Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 March	D of E training walk	9-11
Monday 16 – Friday 20 March	House event: Easter bake off, charity, puzzle challenge	All
Monday 16 – Friday 20 March	House event: CFS Bake Off	Primary
Monday 16 – Friday 20 March	British Science Week	All
Tuesday 17 March	Easter Production dress rehearsal	3 & 4
Tuesday 17 March	Dare to Dream workplace visit – Rolls Royce (invite only)	9
Wednesday 18 March 1330	Easter Production to parents	3 & 4, YR 3 parents
Thursday 19 March 1330	Easter Production to parents	3 & 4, YR 4 parents
Thursday 19 March 1700 – 1830	Sciences Olympics	All
Friday 20 March	Red Nose Day – wear a red accessory	All

March

Dates that are in red are either new events published since the first calendar was circulated, or dates that have had to move.

Monday 23 – Friday 27 March	House event: Easter bake off, charity, puzzle challenge	All
Monday 23 March 1400	Open Classroom	EYFS & parents
Monday 23 March 1700 – 1800	GCSE Dance showcase	10 & 11 parents
Tuesday 24 March 1700 – 1915	Pupil Progress Consultation & 2nd hand uniform sale	Primary
Tuesday 24 March	NHS Diabetes clinic	
Tuesday 24 March 1400	Open Classroom	EYFS & parents
Wednesday 25 March	Dare to Dream day 3	9
Wednesday 25 March 1400	Open Classroom	EYFS & parents
Wednesday 25 March 1545 - 1745	Pupil Progress Consultation & 2nd hand uniform sale	Primary
Wednesday 25 March	Corporate Challenge race 3	5 - 11
Thursday 26 March 1400	Open Classroom	EYFS & parents
Thursday 26 March 1700 – 2000	Pupil Progress Consultation (virtual)	8 & parents
Thursday 26 March 1300 – 1530	Sparx Reader Trip (invite only)	7
Friday 27 March 1400	Open Classroom	EYFS & parents
Friday 27 March - END OF SPRING TERM **Year 11 revision sessions** **28 – 29 March DofE training walk** **7 – 9 April – Silver DofE Expedition**		