

**16th May 2025**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. It has been a purposeful and energising week here in school as we continue to move through the summer term; I have a Friday update as always.

Our Year 11 students have now begun their GCSE examinations in earnest; we are incredibly proud of how hard they have worked to prepare. This is a demanding time, but also an opportunity for them to showcase everything they have learned and practised. We encourage them to keep focused, look after their wellbeing, and support each other through the coming weeks. Exams can be a stressful time for both students and their families. While some pressure is normal, there are practical ways parents and carers can help reduce anxiety and support their child's wellbeing. Some helpful tips for parents to support their children may be viewed [here](#).

We have taken the decision once again **not to offer study leave to Year 11 students until after May half-term break**, and instead, to keep them with us in school for as long as possible during the exam season. This is a deliberate choice, rooted in both our experience and national research. Evidence from organisations such as the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and Ofsted suggests that structured revision in a school environment, with access to expert teaching and targeted support, is more effective than students revising alone at home. Remaining in school helps students maintain routine, focus, and access to high-quality resources and staff guidance right up to their final exams. Our aim is simple: to give every student the very best chance of success by making sure they are supported academically and emotionally throughout this critical period.

A reminder to all families of students in Year 11: the JCQ contingency day is scheduled for Wednesday 25th June. This is a national requirement and is in place in case an exam has to be rescheduled due to an unforeseen emergency. As such, students must be available until this date and we strongly advise families not to book any holidays or travel before then.

**Two career opportunities now that may be of particular interest to our Year 11 students:**

**Finance and wealth management;** St. James's Place, a FTSE 100 company, is offering an exclusive full-day virtual work experience on Thursday, 29th May from 10:00am – 3:00pm. For more information and to apply please see [here](#).

**Young Professionals Summer Conference Work Experience Day** in London and the O2 on Tuesday 15th July 2025 1:30pm-5pm. With the focus at this event on Business and Entrepreneurship, there will be a step-by-step guide on how to start a business, raise finance, and market brands on a global scale. This year's event will feature representatives from some of the biggest names in business, banking, finance, law, engineering, and technology. Some of the employers attending include; Goldman Sachs, BDO, Lloyds Banking Group, Rothschild & Co Legal & General, Grant Thornton, UBS, Linklaters, Farrer & Co, Charles Russell Speechlys, and Browne Jacobson. For more information and to apply, please see [here](#).

On Thursday, we took time to mark VE Day across the school with form-based reflections and activities following the assembly at the start of the week. It remains an important moment in our national calendar, one that allows our young people to learn about the sacrifices of those who came before them and to reflect on themes of peace and reconciliation.

### Visit from Calvin Bailey MBE, MP



On Monday 12th May, the school was visited by Calvin Bailey MP, who was in to see the school and meet with senior leaders and a governor, Bushra Nazir.

It was great to have the opportunity to talk with Calvin about strengthening links between our local MP and the school. During the visit, we talked about the school and the vision for the future and our desire to be able to offer the very best possible education for the students of our community. We discussed the school development plans, and we were able to introduce the new therapy dog in training, Teddy.

### Teddy Team

The students have been sent a link to an application form if they want to be in a new club that will have the primary student responsibility of looking after and working with Teddy, the school dog. We have asked for the students to write a short application if they want to have a role this side of the summer, working with Teddy while he is a puppy, and being able to spend time with him, help to socialise him and be a part of the team looking after him while he grows up ready to be the therapy dog. The Google Form has been put in the student's Google Classrooms, but it can also be accessed [here](#).

For them to be able to be part of the group, they must have parental consent to work with the dog. This form has already been shared, but you can access it again [here](#) to fill out the form to give consent. As per the risk assessment, Mr Silk or Ms Massella will **ALWAYS** be present in **EVERY** interaction between students and the school's dog, Teddy.

**The assembly next week:**

The assembly next week will be celebrating the United Nations World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

**Attendance:**

Congratulations to 9G have exceeded our school attendance target again this week with 98.6%! Year 9 continue to be at the top of the leaderboard, with Year 7 very close behind! Well done to all students who are maintaining excellent attendance or who are working hard to improve.

**Extra Curricular clubs timetable this week**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Before school</b>	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET	Library Club 7:50-8:20 Library ET
	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall DIA/PET	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall DIA/PET	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall DIA/PET	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall DIA/PET	Breakfast Club 7:40-8:20 Dining hall DIA/PET
				Year 11 Maths revision 7:30- 8:20 Room 2 HUS (Week B only)	
<b>Lunch time</b>	Homework Support Room 20 RIC	Homework Support Room 20	Homework Support Room 20	Homework Support Room 20	Homework Support Room 20
	GCSE Art and Photography Club Room 17 ELB	Year 11 Maths revision Room 3 RGN (Week A only)	KS3 Badminton AGI (Week A only)	Board Game Club Room 42 ELK (Week A only)	KS3 Royal Academy Young Artists Club Room 17 ELB
	Citizens UK Club Room 8 PHI	KS3 Multi skills sports AGI (Week A only)	Geography Video Club Room 7 DES	Year 11 Maths revision Room 3 RGN (Week B only)	KS3 History Film Club Room 6 KLE
	KS4 Textiles Club Room H2 RAN	KS3 Textiles Club Room H2 RAN	KS3 Crochet Club Room H2 RAN	Year 11 French intervention (by invitation) Room 41 FER	Year 11 Biology Intervention (by invitation) Lab 1 AMR
	Computing Club Room 33 LAK	Year 11 Geography Drop In Club Room 7 DES	Computing Club Room 33 ALK	KS3 Dodgeball AGI (Week A only)	Year 11 Chemistry Intervention (by invitation) Lab 4 IQB

	Year 11 Biology Intervention (by invitation) Lab 2 SIQ	Year 11 History intervention (by invitation) Room 6 KLE	Year 11 Sociology intervention (by invitation) Room 5 KAD	Eco Club Room 7 DES	Year 11 Physics Intervention (by invitation) Lab 3 MUJ
	Year 11 Geography Revision Room 39 KHL	Year 8 and 9 Science Cinema Club Room 8 AMR	Mentoring SAI HoY8 office	KS3 Humanities Homework Catch Up Room 7 DES	Year 11 Science Revision Lab 5 ALI
	Year 11 Geography Intervention (by invitation) Room 7 DES	Year 11 Study Space Room 32 WAL	Music Club Room 28 HEA	Mindfulness Club Room 10 GAH (Week A only)	Peer mentoring (by invitation) Room 5 KAD
	KS3 Music Club Room 28 HEA	Mindfulness Club Room 10 GAH (Week B only)		Year 7 Film Club Room 8 IZO	Year 7 and 8 Maths Club Room 4 SW 11C and PET
		Year 10 Homework Club Room 36 RAH			Year 7 Connections Club Library ALI
					KS4 Music Club Room 28 HEA
After school	Year 11 Maths revision 15:30-16:30 Room 1 AUL	Football 15:30-16:30 Playground Leyton Orient/AGI	Basketball Club 15:30-16:30 Sports Hall AGI	Year 11 Maths revision 15:30-16:30 Room 4 LAB	
	Year 7 English Action Tutoring (by invitation) Room 4 CAR	Year 10 Maths Action Tutoring (by invitation) Room 4 LAB			
	Boxing 15:30-16:30 Main Hall DIA	Year 11 Art Club 15:30-16:30			

### National Portrait Gallery Schools Pilot Project with Year 10 GCSE Photography

Photography students have been involved in trips and workshops with the National Portrait Gallery this year, and I am delighted to share that photographic portraits created by Year 10 students from Connaught School for Girls have been selected to be on Display in the NPG Studio Gallery from June 27<sup>th</sup> until late September.

The portraits that have been selected are:

Alexis by Hafsa Hussain

Auntie Sophia by Fiza Imran

Caitlin and Nia by Mashaal Maniar

Dayana by Asma Mirzanan

Eliza and Is-haq by Khalisa Ali

Faiza by Khalisa Ali

Malek and Zakeera by Hibah Afzal

Renae by Demie Bromfield Duval

Thaslima by Arwa Alloune

The opening event at the gallery and celebration will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June afternoon-evening: times to be confirmed!

Ms Broadway

### **Parent Volunteers in the school**

We are still looking for several parent volunteers to help us develop the garden spaces around the school, working alongside the caretakers to make the school areas nicer for students and to get them using the green spaces more. If there are any 'green-fingered' parents out there willing to help, please use [THIS FORM](#) and we will contact you to see if there are times when we can arrange for parents to come in and help us. I have said we will ask one last time to see if we can get any additional help and volunteers before contacting anyone willing to help next week. A huge 'thank you' from the school in advance to anyone who can give up any time to help us make the site more appealing for the students.

### **InCommon Age-Friendly Award**

A group of our Year 10 students took part in an intergenerational film project last year as part of the Global Girl Leading Campaign; a changemaker programme for girls 11 - 18 that is dedicated to promoting equality for girls. The film was done in collaboration with Magic Me. Recently the film was nominated for Best Media and Best Intergenerational Work with under-20s at the InCommon Age-Friendly Awards, and won in the second category. We are very proud of our students and the part they played in creating the film and helping to make it such a success.



## **Careers Section**

### **Yr7 Assembly & Workshop with Royal Navy**

On Thursday, our Year 7 cohort were treated to a wonderful visit from the Royal Navy. The purpose of the visit was to provide an insight into what 'Life in the Royal Navy is like; the initial assembly was delivered to the year group in which they learned about the various jobs and experiences attached to working in the Royal Navy.

A small-group of Year 7s were then able to experience a breakout workshop that focused on team-building, problem solving and communication skills. The highlight was seeing the girls collaborate on building a tower utilising their STEM (Engineering) skills! It was a fantastic experience and left all of our students inspired, and fully engaged. Several have now expressed an interest in joining the local Cadets!

### **Year 8 15-minute community geography trip**

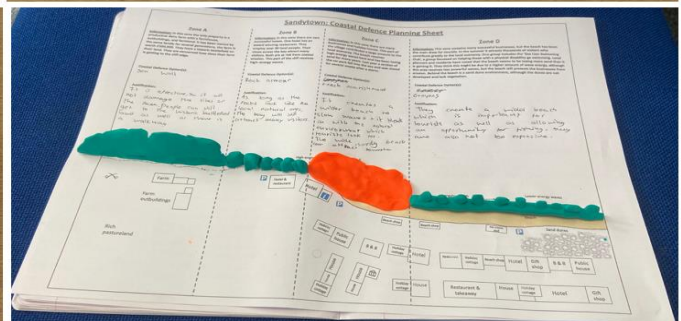
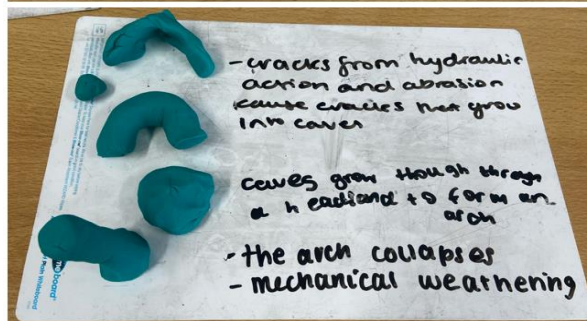
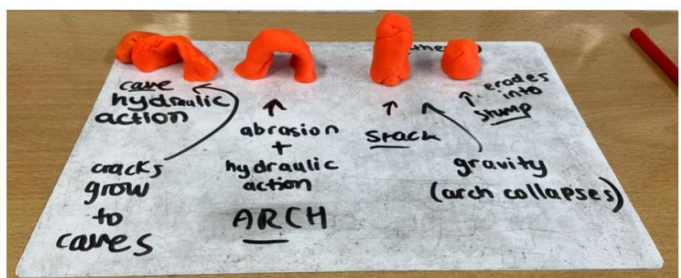
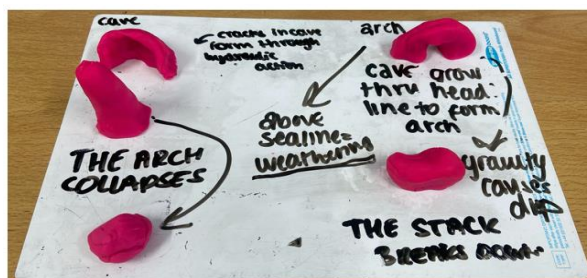
This half term, our Year 8 students ventured out to explore the concept of the "15-minute community"— an urban planning idea where residents can access most of their daily needs within a 15-minute walk or cycle from their homes. Pupils visited four different locations to assess whether each could be classified as a 15-minute community. At each site, they carried out an environmental quality survey, a traffic count, and an emotional mapping survey to collect data on accessibility, liveability, and overall atmosphere. The fieldwork provided a valuable opportunity to apply geographical skills in a real-world context, while gaining insight into the importance of sustainable and inclusive urban design.





## Year 10 Geography coastal landform modelling

Over the last seven weeks, our GCSE Geography students have been exploring the range of processes that shape coastal landscapes. To bring these concepts to life, pupils took a hands-on approach by modelling erosion at cliffs. Working in teams, students created the landforms and identified the processes at work in creating them. Subsequently, students designed shoreline management plans (SMPs), a strategic document that outlines a long-term approach to managing coastal flood and erosion risk, for a fictional seaside resort based on the unique landscape and needs of local residents. These activities not only helped to reinforce key terminology and processes through memorable challenges, important preparation for students' fieldwork in Walton-on-the-Naze next year, but also encouraged collaboration, creativity, and decision-making, fundamental to the Geography GCSE



I want to say thank you for your continued support, as always.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Silk', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr. Silk  
Headteacher