

# THE YARDLEIAN



SPRING 2026 ISSUE

## THE SPRING TERM ROUNDUP

### SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCHOOL VALUES

**Curiosity** and **reflection** are key for students, shaping their academic journey and lifelong learning habits making them core values at Yardleys School.

As we reach the midway point of this academic year, it's important to take time to reflect on our progress identifying areas of success and areas for continued development so we can make positive changes, altering habits to build success. With Year 11 students taking their final mock exams this term in preparation for their GCSEs, now is a perfect time to reflect on how they can learn from these assessments and build good habits that will help prepare them for their summer exams.



**Reflection**



**Curiosity**

For many staff and students too, this term has also marked a period of Ramadan or Lent, both of which are a time of reflection and gratitude, demonstrating how such values can extend beyond our school life and encourage us to take time to reflect on our behaviours and lifestyles beyond school. For those celebrating we wish you a Happy Easter and Eid Mubarak!

As well as reflection, curiosity can also help our students go beyond rote learning, seeking deeper understanding. And, outside of the classroom, taking an interest in enrichment opportunities helps the curious mind to discover new interests. This issue reflects on many such opportunities from the Term that students are encouraged to get involved in.

Together, curiosity and reflection empower students to control their learning, fostering a proactive mindset beneficial in school and life.



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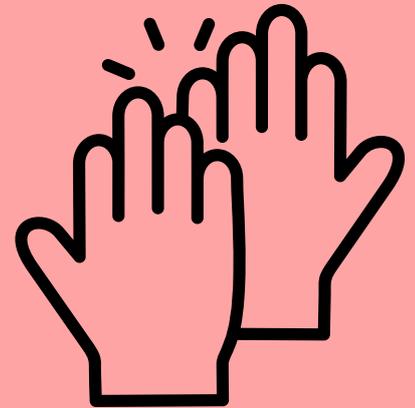
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## PASTORAL CHANGES FOR YEAR 7

For the final term of this academic year, Mr. Buckley will be on parental leave; after the Easter holidays, he will not be returning to school until September, when your child starts Year 8.

Pastoral support plays a significant role in everything we do at Yardleys, so we have appointed Ms Khan as Acting Head of Year 7 for the Summer Term, this means that parents and students will continue to receive the pastoral support they are used to and there will be a named point of contact when any assistance is needed. Ms Khan is currently an Assistant Head of Year at Yardleys School and as such knows our students, our school community and the systems, processes and expectations of the school.

If you wish to contact Ms Khan for any Pastoral support, please email: [sarah.khan@yardleys.bham.sch.uk](mailto:sarah.khan@yardleys.bham.sch.uk) or call **Ms Khan on 0121 464 5616**



## GOODBYE MR TILLEY

As we approach the end of the Easter Term, we must also bid farewell to Mr. Tilley, our Head of Year 11.

After 19 years of dedicated service, Mr. Tilley is leaving Yardleys School. Throughout his tenure, he has tirelessly supported both the pastoral and academic needs of our students, leaving an indelible mark on our school community.



His commitment and passion have made a lasting impact, ensuring that every student felt valued and supported. Mr. Tilley's contributions have been pivotal in shaping the nurturing environment we cherish at Yardleys.

We wish him all the best in his future endeavors and express our deepest gratitude for his unwavering dedication and service.

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## YARDLEYS WAY DAY

Our students stepped off timetable to focus on something that truly matters. Equality and the ongoing fight against misogyny. We explored what it means to respect and value the women in our lives: our mums, sisters, friends, teachers, and every woman in our community.

We were honoured to welcome Minister for Safeguarding Jess Phillips MP who delivered an inspiring talk to our girls. At the same time, Mr Basra, Mr Sohal, Mr Webb, Mr Mjanja and Mr Ziebeck spoke with our boys about responsibility, respect, and rejecting toxic masculinity.

At Yardleys, we stand firm: misogyny has no place here. Our young men and women are determined to help build a community where women feel safe, valued, and empowered.



## MALMAISON CHEF VISITS YARDLEYS



This term, our Catering students had a truly memorable experience thanks to the fantastic team at Malmaison Hotels. We were delighted to welcome one of their skilled catering professionals into Yardleys for a hands-on workshop that brought industry expertise straight into our classrooms.

The session gave students the chance to explore advanced culinary techniques, including creating fresh squid-ink pasta paired with prawns and sweet chilli, a dish that pushed their creativity and technical skills to new heights. Watching our students take on the challenge with enthusiasm and confidence was a proud moment for everyone involved.

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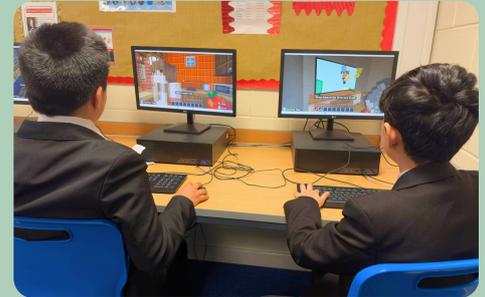
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## YEAR 7 DIVE INTO LEARNING WITH CADENT GAS MINECRAFT WORKSHOP

We welcomed Cadent Gas into school to host an exciting Minecraft workshop with our Year 7 students!

During the session, students explored important topics such as home safety and energy efficiency while building and problem-solving in the Minecraft world. They learned how to make safer choices at home and how small changes can help save energy and protect the environment.

It was fantastic to see such great teamwork, creativity, and engagement from our students throughout the workshop.



## YEAR 10 INSPIRED BY WORLD-CLASS SCIENCE SPEAKERS

Twenty of our top Year 10 GCSE Science students enjoyed an inspiring visit to Symphony Hall, where they heard from renowned scientists Professor Robert Winston and Professor Jim Al-Khalili. Their engaging talks on the origins of the universe, time travel, and IVF sparked curiosity and plenty of big questions. A fantastic opportunity that left our young scientists buzzing with inspiration!



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## AUTHOR SERENA PATEL VISITS

We were delighted to welcome award-winning children's author Serena Patel to Yardleys this term. She captivated students with stories about her writing journey, her creative process, and the joy of reading.

Our pupils asked brilliant questions during a lively Q&A session and left feeling excited about storytelling and full of fresh creative ideas. A wonderful visit all round!



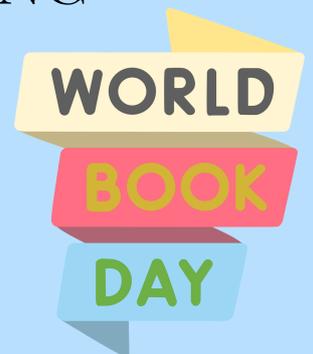
## YEAR 8 DISCOVER THE JOY OF READING WITH MATILDA

Our Year 8 EAL students have been diving into Matilda by Roald Dahl—and they've been absolutely loving it. The class has been growing in confidence with their reading while enjoying the book's humour, characters and memorable moments.

Here's what some of our students had to say:

- "I think this is the best book I have ever read because it's really interesting and funny, and I love how it is really easy to read when you understand the meaning."
- "I am enjoying reading the book Matilda because it is fun and funny."
- "The book Matilda by Roald Dahl is amazing because it is interesting and beautiful."
- "This is the first time I am enjoying reading this book a lot because it is so funny."

It's wonderful to see their enthusiasm for reading grow as they connect with such a beloved story.



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## CARNEGIE BOOK AWARD SHADOWING

Carnegie book shadowing is a program where students participate in reading and discussing books shortlisted for the prestigious Carnegie Medal. This initiative allows students to engage deeply with literature by reading a selection of high-quality books, often spanning various genres and themes.

Led by Ms Gould and Ms Austin, students have started reading the shortlisted books. Students have a choice of books to read over a fortnight long window, and then meet to discuss the books, exchange perspectives and vote on their favourites.

The aim is to develop and share a love for reading and inspire students to explore new authors and genres. Moreover, it provides a platform where students can voice their opinions and engage in meaningful discussions, boosting their confidence and communication skills. Overall, Carnegie book shadowing is an enriching experience that benefits students both academically. Students can join the club or read along at home using the 'Sora' app - just see Ms Gould or Ms Austin for details.

This year's shortlist includes: 'Birdie' by J.P. Rose, 'Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody' by Patrick Ness, 'Ghostlines' by Katya Balen, 'Not Going to Plan' by Tia Fisher, 'Popcorn' by Rob Harrell, 'The Boy I love' by William Hussey and 'Twenty Four Seconds From Now' by Jason Reynolds.





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## YEAR 9 DISCOVER ENGINEERING PATHWAYS

Our Year 9 students visited Warwick Manufacturing Group for an inspiring careers experience. They took part in workshops delivered by leading companies including JLR and Capgemini, gaining valuable insight into future pathways in engineering, technology and innovation.



## YEAR 10 BRILLIANT CLUB STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR GRADUATION



Our fantastic Year 10 Brilliant Club students attended their graduation ceremony last week, marking the end of a challenging and rewarding programme led by PhD tutor Tina Hofman on Art History: Reimagining Reality.

Throughout the programme, students have shown dedication, curiosity, and real academic growth. Their hard work has paid off, and they can be incredibly proud of the high-quality outcomes they achieved.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON ENRICHMENT



Thursday afternoons at Yardleys are dedicated to enrichment—a chance for students to step beyond their usual lessons and take part in activities that broaden their skills, interests, and confidence.

These sessions are an important part of the Yardleys experience, helping students develop resilience, curiosity, independence, and a sense of community—all key elements of The Yardleys Way.

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## DONATION TO ACORNS HOSPICE

A cheque for £300 was proudly presented to Acorns Children's Hospice by Mr Basra and Mr Thornton.

Acorns is a deeply valued charity that provides vital palliative nursing care and support for local children and their families. The cause is especially close to the hearts of Yardleys staff and our wider school community, making this donation particularly meaningful.



## NCCE SUCCESS FOR COMPUTING

We're delighted to announce that the Computing Department has been awarded the NCCE Quality Computing Framework status. This recognition reflects the department's strong commitment to delivering high-quality computing education, striving for continuous improvement, and fostering excellence in teaching and learning.

A huge well done to everyone involved. Your hard work, dedication, and passion for computing have truly paid off, this is an achievement the whole school can be proud of!



## BCM THANKS OUR COMMUNITY



**BIRMINGHAM CITY MISSION**

*Proclaiming the Gospel, helping the needy*

Dear Yardleys School

A big thank you to everyone who donated items to your recent collection for BCM's food bank.

Donations like these help us to keep providing our service to people who are referred to us for support.

Every month we give out over 200 food parcels, each with a value of around £40 – it's a lot of groceries!

Happy New Year to you all.

Mrs Coghlan  
BCM Office Manager



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## SPORTS

### YEAR 7 & 8 NETBALL SHOW GREAT PROGRESS AGAINST BOA



Our Year 7 & 8 netball girls played with determination and teamwork throughout. Their skills are developing with every match, and they're clearly on the road to improvement!

Well done, girls—great effort and great attitude!

### YEAR 11 GIRLS ROUND OFF FIVE GREAT YEARS OF BASKETBALL

The Year 11 girls rounded off their five fantastic years of basketball at Yardleys with a brilliant final week of games. Although they weren't successful overall, they played some excellent basketball and narrowly lost their last match by just one basket.

They have been a pleasure to coach—determined, resilient, and always tough competition. Their commitment over the years has been outstanding.

A big thank you to Kayden, Zaidan, Mr Mjanja and Mr Brady for officiating and supporting the team.

A great end to an impressive journey!



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## YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS EVENING

*THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS*

- ✓ Speak with subject teachers
- ✓ Get your questions answered
- ✓ Discuss important information
- ✓ Guidance on future pathways

*PRESENTATION BEGINS AT 4.00PM IN  
THE MAIN HALL*



**THURSDAY  
16TH APRIL 2026  
4.00PM - 5.30PM**

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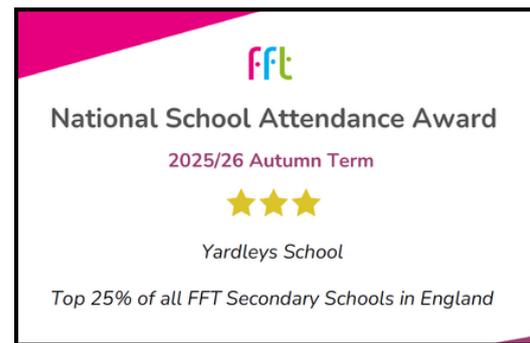
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## ATTENDANCE UPDATE

At Yardleys School, we know that excellent school attendance is necessary if students are to achieve their academic potential and develop the characteristics needed to succeed after Year 11.

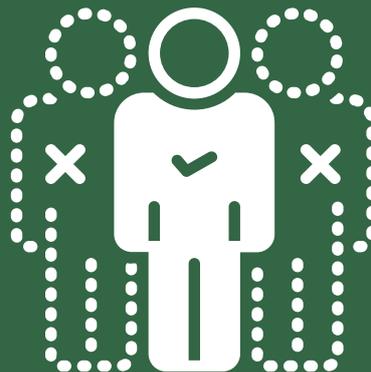
For this reason, we are very proud to have been awarded FFT attendance awards once again this academic year. We were recently awarded certificates for:

- Top 25% attendance - all secondary schools
- Top 10% attendance – all similar secondary schools



As a school, we can only receive these awards and ensure that our students achieve their academic potential if we work in partnership with parents and carers to make sure that we maintain and further improve the attendance of our students – we greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school everyday, on time.

Should you require any support around attendance or if you struggling to ensure your child attends school due to barriers of any kind, please contact your child's Head of Year or Ms Akhtar (Attendance and Welfare Officer) – we want to help!



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## MOBILE PHONE POLICY – KEY POINTS

**Pupils must not bring mobile phones onto the school site. This includes all areas such as the driveway and car park.**

### **If a phone is seen or heard**

- It will be confiscated by staff and stored securely.
- Refusal to hand it over will be treated as defiance and sanctioned.
- Inappropriate use (e.g., filming others) will result in additional sanctions.

### **Required hand-ins**

- In isolation and exam venues, all phones must be handed in to meet regulations.
- These phones are returned to pupils later the same day.

### **Trips**

- Phones may be allowed on some trips (e.g., DofE) if needed for safety. Parents will be informed in advance.

### **Medical exemptions**

- Pupils needing a phone for medical reasons (e.g., Type 1 diabetes monitoring) may carry it.
- They will be issued a medical exemption card and must show this to staff if asked.

## PARENT/CARER EXPECTATIONS

- **Encourage your child to leave their phone at home.**
- **If a phone is needed for travel, parents must understand it can still be confiscated.**
- **Do not contact pupils directly during the day—please phone school reception.**

### **If a phone is confiscated**

- The priority 1 contact will receive a text.
- Phones can be collected from reception:
  - Mon–Thu: 8:30am–4:00pm
  - Fri: 8:30am–3:30pm
- The phone must leave the site with the adult collecting it.
- School cannot accept responsibility for lost or stolen phones.



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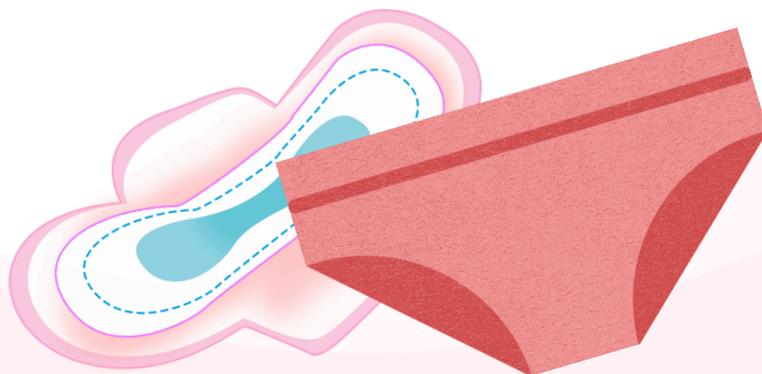


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FEMININE  
HYGIENE  
SHOULD  
BE FREE

PADS AND PERIOD PANTS AVAILABLE  
AT STUDENT RECEPTION

If you would like to take home pads or try period pants, please visit the Lead First Aider located at Student Reception or in the Medical Room.



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The Student Leadership Team

**Skips** Safety Net

Keeping children safe online



## When Something Goes Wrong Online — A Simple Action Plan for Parents

### 1. Stay Calm First

If your child tells you something worrying:

- Thank them for telling you
- Avoid blaming or panicking
- Reassure them: "We'll deal with this together."

### 2. Keep the Evidence

- Take screenshots (include usernames and dates)
- Save messages
- Keep profile links



### 3. Use Official Reporting Routes

Grooming or exploitation – CEOP: [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)

Illegal images – Internet Watch Foundation: [www.iwf.org.uk/report](http://www.iwf.org.uk/report)

Nude images shared (under 18s) – Report Remove: [www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove](http://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove)

If in immediate danger, call 999.

### 4. If You Feel Overwhelmed - Use Structured Support

You can use free ChatGPT to help structure next steps.  ChatGPT

Free access: <https://chat.openai.com> Example prompts:

- My child received inappropriate messages. What steps should I take in the UK?
- How do I report online grooming?
- What should I say to my child after cyberbullying?

**Important:** ChatGPT is a support tool and does NOT replace official reporting or police action.

### 5. Ongoing Protection at Home

- Keep regular, calm conversations
- Review privacy settings together
- Monitor gaming contacts
- Encourage early disclosure

Children will make mistakes online, just as they do offline.

Trust and communication protect them more than punishment.



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

**Skips Educational** Email: [info@skipsed.com](mailto:info@skipsed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

**Skips**

[www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)

Developed in partnership with



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## KEY DATES/EVENTS



**26.03.26:** Y9 PARENTS' EVENING

**16.04.26:** Y9 OPTIONS EVENING

**23.04.26:** Y11 ALTON TOWERS REWARD TRIP

**04.05.26: MAY BANK HOLIDAY:** SCHOOL CLOSED

**05.05.26:** SCHOOL REMAINS CLOSED TO **STUDENT**  
**AND REOPENS ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY.**

**07.05.26:** Y7 PARENTS' EVENING

**11.05.26-15.05.26:** Y10 WORK EXPERIENCE

**FULL ACADEMIC YEAR INFORMATION & TERM DATES**

**IMPORTANT LINKS AND LETTERS**

**HOME LEARNING SUPPORT &**

**INDEPENDANT LEARNING**

