



THE YARDLEIAN



NOVEMBER 2025 EDITION

REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Yardleys has been actively engaged in reflection, remembrance, celebration and charity. This edition will provide you with insight into the events that demonstrate this. Several of our parents, students and staff have celebrated Diwali and Gurburab, whilst all our students took part in Remembrance Day and Children in Need activities. They have truly upheld the school's values and ethos.

I hope you enjoy reading and celebrating our achievements since the last edition. This issue also includes important notices regarding wintry weather and arrangements for the upcoming examinations towards the end of this term, as well as our usual key dates and events.

I look forward to sharing more of our achievements in the final edition before we break up for the Christmas holidays.

MR. G BASRA
HEADTEACHER

WINTERY WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

We are urgently asking all parents and carers to support us in ensuring the safety of our students and the wider school community during the start and end of the school day. The season of wintry weather is fast approaching. As you know, maintaining the safety of our students and staff is a top priority and the school will remain open if it is safe to do so.

If there is heavy snow or conditions on the school site are compromised, we may have to close the school or adjust the school day, with an earlier finish time. We will make such decisions as early as possible and inform parents/carers by text message and via our website homepage.

If there is heavy snow or severe inclement weather in the morning, please check our website before your child leaves home. We will aim to update our website by 7:30 am to inform you of any changes to our normal school arrangements.



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YEAR 10 GAIN INSPIRATION

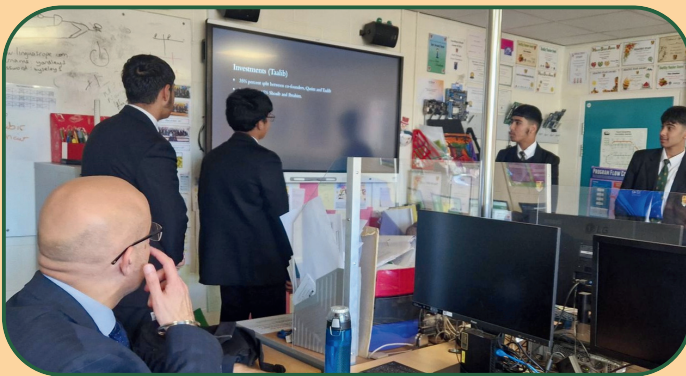
Year 10 students recently attended an engaging and thought-provoking presentation through the Speakers for Schools programme, delivered by Sufia Hussain, an accomplished professional in Marketing and a leading advocate for equality, diversity and inclusion.

During the session, students learned about Sufia's personal career journey, her experiences, and the achievements that shaped her success. She shared valuable insights into the world of marketing and highlighted the importance of ambition, resilience, and celebrating individuality.

The presentation encouraged students to think deeply about their own aspirations and future pathways, while reinforcing the message that embracing identity and diversity is key to success in any career.



BUSINESS STUDIES STUDENTS IMPRESS WITH PITCHES



Our Business Studies students delivered a series of fantastic business pitches, showcasing confidence, strong subject knowledge, and well-researched ideas. Their creativity and professionalism were truly outstanding.

It was a pleasure to have Head Teacher Mr Basra join the session and witness the brilliant talent on display. A huge well done to all involved!



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AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP TO THE RSC

Our EAL students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to the Royal Shakespeare Company, where they explored Shakespeare's house, the poppy avenue, and the theatre itself.

During the Student Insights session, they impressed everyone with their confidence and insight — Hashim's comment on Macbeth's power dynamics even left the Assistant Director speechless!

The RSC staff praised their behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the day. It was a magical experience filled with learning, laughter, and lasting memories.



YEAR 8 GIRLS AT BT TOWER

Our Year 8 girls had an amazing day at the CYBERMEGA event at the iconic BT Tower, exploring the world of cybersecurity and digital futures.

They took part in interactive workshops, met tech experts, and discovered exciting career opportunities. A special well done to Evie May, who won a prize for her fantastic performance!





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EXPLORING FUTURES AT NSCL FEST

Our Year 11 students had an incredible opportunity to attend NSCL Fest, the UK's largest national careers and skills event, held at the NEC Birmingham. This event brought together employers, training providers, and industry experts from across the country, offering students a unique chance to explore the world of work and education beyond school.

Throughout the day, students engaged in interactive workshops, discovered a wide range of career pathways, and learned about apprenticeships, university courses, and vocational training. They also had the chance to speak directly with professionals, gaining valuable insights into the skills and qualifications needed for future success.

Experiences like this are all about shaping aspirations and inspiring confidence. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and curiosity shown by our students as they embraced this opportunity to plan for their future.



REMEMBRANCE DAY BAKING SHOWCASE

To mark Remembrance Day, our students demonstrated their incredible creativity and baking skills by crafting beautiful loaves entirely from scratch. This thoughtful activity was a wonderful way to honour the occasion and showcase the talent and dedication of our young bakers.





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CONGRATULATIONS TO GRACE!

We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Grace, who has been awarded a Distinction in her Piano Initial ABRSM Exam. This remarkable success reflects her dedication, perseverance, and passion for music. Grace has embraced every challenge with a positive attitude. We're excited to support her as she sets new goals and prepares for future exams and performances. Well done, Grace – a fantastic achievement!



The Associated Board
of the Royal Schools of Music

ALUMNI SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

We are proud to share the outstanding achievement of former Yardleys student Zahid Elboshra.

After completing his A Levels in July 2025, Zahid achieved an incredible set of results:

A* A* A* A

Zahid is now studying Engineering at the University of Cambridge, a remarkable accomplishment that reflects his hard work and ambition. This success is an inspiration to our current students and a reminder of what can be achieved through dedication and perseverance.



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



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EAL STUDENTS GAIN LIFE-SAVING SKILLS

Our EAL students recently participated in a Youth First Aid event delivered by the British Red Cross. This practical and engaging session equipped students with essential first aid knowledge and gave them the confidence to respond effectively in emergency situations.

Through hands-on activities and expert guidance, students learned how to manage common injuries, provide basic care, and stay calm under pressure. These vital skills not only prepare them for unexpected situations but also help build resilience and responsibility.

A huge well done to all students for embracing this important training and showing such enthusiasm throughout the event!



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Year 11 students attended a Taster Day at Matthew Boulton College, giving them the opportunity to explore post-16 options and experience college life first-hand.

The day included subject tasters, interactive sessions, and guidance on future pathways, helping students make informed decisions about their next steps in education.



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SPORTS



YEAR 11 TRIUMPH

Our Year 11 students showcased incredible teamwork and determination at the Collegiate Tournament, hosted by Small Heath School. Competing against Small Heath, Holy Trinity, and St Albans, Yardleys delivered an outstanding performance and secured first place!

The team proudly brought home medals and the coveted trophy, marking a fantastic achievement for our school. Congratulations to all involved – a brilliant effort and a moment to celebrate

BUILDING SKILLS, INSPIRING LEADERS

Yardleys recently hosted a Primary Basketball Tournament, welcoming teams from local primary schools. The event was a fantastic success, thanks to the dedication and professionalism of our Sports Leaders, who officiated throughout the day.

The tournament was supported by our School Games Organisers, creating a positive and enjoyable experience for all participants. A big thank you to everyone involved for making this event such a memorable occasion!





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WHOLE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT WEEK

Dates: Monday 15th December – Thursday 18th December 2025

Details: Exams will take place for all year groups during this period.

- Monday 15th – Wednesday 17th December: School will finish at 2:30 PM
- Thursday 18th December: School will finish at 12:05 PM

Assessment Timetables:

- Click the icon to the right to access Year 7–9 Assessment Timetables.
- Year 10 and 11 Mock Exam Timetables are also available here.



[CLICK HERE](#)

SAFEGUARDING AT YARDLEYS

The safety and well-being of all students is Yardleys' highest priority. The school has a dedicated Safeguarding Team, led by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), Mr S Sohal, who oversees all matters relating to child protection and safeguarding.

The role of the DSL includes:

- Ensuring staff follow safeguarding policies and procedures
- Working with external agencies when necessary
- Providing guidance on issues such as online safety, mental health, and emotional well-being

Parents and carers are encouraged to raise any concerns—no matter how small—about a child's safety. Working together as a community is the most effective way to protect students.

A comprehensive Safeguarding and Well-being Hub is available on the school website:
yardleys-vle.com/safeguarding

This page includes:

- The school's Safeguarding Policy
- Online safety guides
- Mental health resources
- Contact details for the safeguarding team



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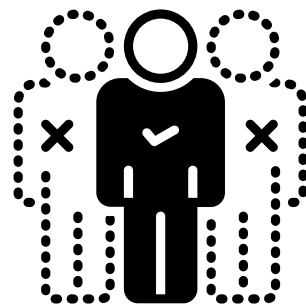


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SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND THE LAW

Students should not be absent from school for the following reasons:

- A headache.
- Stomach pains.
- A cold, runny nose, temperature of below 38C or sore throat.
- Toothache.
- A sports injury that has not required medical attention.
- Going on a school trip or educational visit the previous day.
- Any other ailment that is non-contagious and is not sufficient to prevent your child's learning at school.



If students are in school, even when they are not feeling 100%, they will still be learning.

Leave of absence during term time, e.g. holidays during term time

Referrals to Birmingham City Council will be made for any student who misses 10 or more continuous sessions (equivalent to five days) of school due to a leave of absence during term time. ***Such a referral is likely to lead to a Penalty Notice of £160 per student, per parent.***

Unsatisfactory attendance

Referrals to Birmingham City Council will be made to address concerning levels of attendance. On the first and second occasions this process is utilised, parents are likely to receive a ***£160 penalty notice***, per parent, per student. Under new government legislation, a third penalty notice will not be issued and instead, Birmingham City Council can utilise one of the following processes at this stage:

- Taking parents to court for unauthorised absence: ***Education Act 1996 Section 444(1) – court can fine each parent up to £1,000 per child, order payment of prosecution costs and/or impose a Community Order.***
- Taking parents to court for persistent unauthorised absence: ***Education Act 1996 Section 444(1A) – court can fine each parent up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Community Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months.***

LAST ACADEMIC YEAR WE ISSUED 69 ATTENDANCE RELATED FINES
WITH TWO CASES ESCALATING TO COURT.



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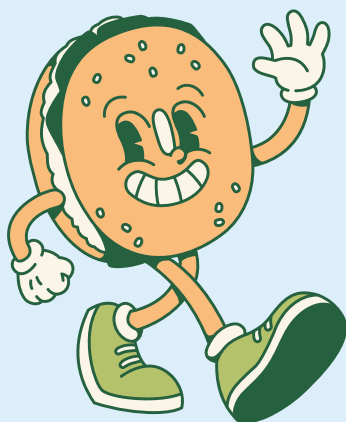
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FREE BAGELS EVERY MORNING

The school continues to participate in the National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP), with free toasted bagels offered every morning for students. Evidence has shown that students benefit from having a healthy, nutritious breakfast each morning to enable them to access learning. Bagels are available from the Cooper Hall from 8:20am. Please encourage your child to take up this offer.



FREE BAGELS!
Get your free breakfast bagel
EVERY MORNING!



IN THE COOPER HALL
FROM 8:20AM

REMINDER

HOMEWORK IS LIVE ON SACHEL ONE

To support your child's learning journey, all relevant information, including assignment details and submission deadlines, can be accessed through the Homework and Independent Learning section of our website.

We encourage you to regularly check this section to stay updated on your child's academic responsibilities.





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KEY DATES/EVENTS



Thursday 27th November 2025 - Year 8 Parents Evening. School closes to students at 2:15pm

Friday 28th November 2025 - Training Day – school closed to students

Monday 8th December – Thursday 18th December 2025 - Year 11 Mock Exams

Monday 15th December – Thursday 18th December 2025 - Whole School Assessment Week
Exams for all year groups

*Please note that school finishes at the following times during this week (Monday 15th -Wednesday
17th December at 2:30pm and on Thursday 18th December at 12:05pm)

Friday 19th December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026 - Christmas Holidays

Monday 5th January 2026 - Training Day – school closed to students

Tuesday 6th January 2026 - School open to all students

Thursday 22nd January 2026 - Year 11 Parents Evening. School closes to students at 2:15pm

Thursday 5th February 2026 - Year 10 Parents Evening. School closes to students at 2:15pm

Friday 6th February 2026 - Training Day – School closed to students

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026 - Half Term Holidays

Monday 23rd February 2026 - School open to all students

FULL ACADEMIC YEAR INFORMATION & TERM DATES

IMPORTANT LINKS AND LETTERS
HOME LEARNING SUPPORT &
INDEPENDANT LEARNING

