



# THE LOOK AHEAD

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to a special edition of the The Look Ahead.

The academic year has started exceptionally well, with another set of strong examination results. It was wonderful to see so many Year 11 students celebrating their achievements with staff on Results Day. There were some outstanding individual performances that deserve special mention: Alisha Zafar achieved seven Grade 9s and two Grade 8s, Mehrunisa Mahmood achieved six Grade 9s and three Grade 8s, and Temiloluwa Kalejaiye achieved six Grade 9s, one Grade 8 and one Grade 7.

The excellent results achieved by Year 11 are a testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment of our students and staff, as well as the continued support of families. Congratulations to all of our Year 11 students. We wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their education and life beyond Yardleys.

Our current students have also made a great start to the academic year. Our new Year 7 students have settled in well and made a smooth transition to secondary school. I was particularly pleased to see so many students from across all year groups volunteering to showcase our school during Open Week either by taking prospective students and their parents on tours of the school or supporting in subject teams. They are clearly proud to be part of the Yardleys community and received many positive comments from visitors. They are a real credit to the school.

We have also enjoyed our first Big Learning Day of the year. Despite the weather, it was a huge success, with students taking part in a wide range of enrichment activities organised by staff. There was a real buzz around the school, and it was fantastic to see students enjoying new experiences and opportunities. We are already looking forward to the next one!

This edition provides a snapshot of these events, along with other achievements from the academic year so far. It has truly been a very positive start to the year.

**GURPREET BASRA - HEADTEACHER**





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR VISIT

We are delighted to welcome multi-award-winning Azerbaijani-British author Fidan Meikle to school next Wednesday afternoon. Fidan will be joined by Pat Tate and Phyllis Gaunt from the Federation of Children's Book Groups for what promises to be an inspiring visit.

Students will have the opportunity to hear about Fidan's journey as a writer, learn more about her books, and gain valuable insight into the world of storytelling and publishing. We look forward to an engaging afternoon that will encourage a love of reading and creative writing across our school community.



### APPRECIATION WEEK IS COMING!

During Appreciation Week, we will be taking time to recognise and celebrate the positive contributions of our students and staff. We look forward to a week of appreciation, reflection and celebration.

### YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Year 11 Geography students will be taking part in fieldwork activities at Curzon Street. Students will have the opportunity to collect and analyse real-world geographical data, developing key fieldwork and enquiry skills to support their GCSE studies. We wish them an enjoyable and successful day.



## IMPORTANT DATES

- Thursday 22nd October 2026 - Attitude to Learning Day
- Friday 23rd October – Friday 30th (October Half Term)
- Monday 2nd November 2026 - School open to all students
- Thursday 26th November 2026 - Year 8 Parents Evening
- Friday 27th November 2026 - Training Day (school closed)



## EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD

### EXPLORING THE VALLEY

Earlier this half term, Year 10 geographers embarked on an exciting adventure to Carding Mill Valley to explore the Ashbrook River. They navigated through the valley, explored the old reservoir, tackled the famous pipewalk, and even dodged a few sheep!

An exhilarating day of hands-on discovery in one of the UK's most stunning landscapes!



### A CURIOUS TRIP!

Our school recently enjoyed a remarkable trip to the city to attend a performance of *"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time."* The show was met with glowing reviews, providing a brilliant performance and an unforgettable theater experience for everyone!

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR FAIR

The Extra-Curricular Fair was a resounding success, offering students the opportunity to explore a wide range of activities, including sports, fitness, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, TT Rockstars, and a library showcase. This event provided a valuable platform for students to discover new passions, hone their skills, and engage more deeply in school life.



### A WALK THROUGH HISTORY

Our Year 11 History students had an unforgettable opportunity to experience history beyond the classroom walls when they visited Kenilworth Castle.

The students were captivated by the rich stories of the past and everyone left with a deeper appreciation and knowledge of history.



# REVISION GUIDES AND STUDY SKILLS

At Yardleys, we recognise that alongside great quality lessons, it's also important for pupils to continue their learning at home in order to both deepen your understanding of what you have learned and to make it easier to recall in the future. That's why we have created a number of resources to support our pupils in their study at home, helping them on their journey of academic success.

## SUPPORTING LEARNING AT HOME

Accessible via the 'Home Learning Support' section of the VLE, are the 'Supporting Learning At Home Letters'. Available for all KS4 students and targeted at our HPA students in KS3, these aim to provide parents and students with suggestions for additional materials they can watch, listen to and discuss to further their understanding of topics currently being taught in English, Maths and Science Lessons.

## REVISION GUIDES

We also want to ensure that pupils at Yardleys feel ready and prepared for their assessments and are supported in their revision at home. In response to pupil voice, we will be launching Subject Revision Guides at the end of Autumn 1.

Students will be provided with a hard copy of these w/b 19<sup>th</sup> October. The Revision Guides are a starting point for revision; they outline foundational substantive knowledge for each subject and provide past paper questions for students to attempt at home, applying disciplinary knowledge.

We will also be running two parent events on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November to advise parents on how they can support children with revision at home – please look out for an invitation via EduLink.

Until then, there are some effective revision strategies to get you started on the next page





# REVISION GUIDES AND STUDY SKILLS

| Strategy                                      | Will Help You to:                                                                                                                                                                                                            | How To Do It:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Prepare:</b><br>Mind Maps                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organise your ideas around a central concept</li> <li>identify links between ideas</li> <li>condense information into colour coded summaries</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>write down your core topic in the middle of a page</li> <li>create branches of major ideas that relate to the core topic</li> <li>create sub-branches which add more specific details to major ideas</li> </ul>                                                                     |
| <b>Prepare &amp; Retrieve:</b><br>Flashcards  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>learning topic specific vocabulary or a new language</li> <li>memorizing facts and definitions</li> <li>self-assessment and identifying weak spots to target your revision</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use one flashcard to summarise one piece of information (you could do this as a Q&amp;A).</li> <li>Use the prompt/question on one side of the flashcard to test yourself.</li> <li>Separate cards into two piles testing yourself more regularly on those you got wrong.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Retrieve:</b><br>Look, Cover, Write, Check | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>learn how to spell topic vocabulary</li> <li>learn quotations/facts/dates</li> </ul>                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>read the information, cover it, write it from memory, check for accuracy and repeat is necessary.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Apply:</b><br>Timed Writing                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>apply substantive knowledge</li> <li>build stamina in writing</li> <li>practise exam technique</li> </ul>                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find a past paper question (online or in your exercise book).</li> <li>Set a timer and write!</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                            |





## PARENT PARKING REMINDER

### A SAFEGUARDING AND SAFETY REMINDER

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.

Please be reminded:

- Parking on zigzag lines outside the school gates is strictly prohibited.
- Double and triple parking causes serious safety risks and obstructs emergency access.
- Blocking driveways or the road creates congestion and endangers children.
- Offending vehicles may be photographed and uploaded to Operation Snap, and you may be contacted by the police!



### PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS

Pick-up and drop-off times are busy outside schools. This can cause an increased safety risk to both children and parents.

Parking restrictions outside schools are there to keep you and your children safe. Parking inconsiderately can put people in danger and you also risk being fined. It's important that motorists follow the [Highway Code](#).

Most school entrances and exits in the UK have yellow zigzag road markings with the writing 'School Keep Clear'. They indicate the part of the road where motorists should not wait, stop, or park a vehicle. Both yellow and white zigzags also show areas that must be kept clear so that children and other road users can see clearly when crossing the road.

When picking up or dropping off children at schools, you should do the following:

- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.
- Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.
- If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or accessways.

