

THE YARDLEIAN

The Look Ahead Newsletter



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A
BETTER FUTURE

This issue is filled with important updates about the new half-term ahead, including an important reminder about updates to our Mobile Phone Policy. Focusing on the school values of positivity and resilience, the issue aims to shine a spotlight on some of the fantastic events we have coming up this term and support parents and students approaching GCSE exams this year.



CARNEGIE BOOK CLUB

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.

Take a look at the book picks we have coming up this half term and, if you'd like to get involved, come along to **203 on Tuesday lunchtimes** or talk to Ms Gould and Ms Austin for more details.

13.04.26 - 20.04.26 : 'Wolf Siren' by Beth O'Brien or 'The Boy I Love' by William Hussey

27.04.26 - 05.05.26: 'Twenty-Four Seconds From Now' by Jason Reynolds or 'Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody' by Patrick Ness

11.05.26 - 25.05.26: 'Not Going to Plan' by Tia Fisher or 'Ghostlines' by Katya Balen

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Friday 1st May**
Year 11 GCSE Exams Start
- **Monday 4th May**
May Bank Holiday (SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS)
- **Tuesday 5th May**
(SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL STUDENTS)
- **Thursday 7th May**
Year 7 Parents Evening (4pm-7pm). School closes to students at 2:15pm
- **Monday 11th May**
Year 10 Work Experience Week
- **Monday 25th May**
MAY HALF TERM (1 WEEK)

Half Term Focus

Why Are Positivity and Resilience Important?



Positivity and resilience empower individuals to navigate life's challenges gracefully. In a world full of uncertainties, cultivating a positive mindset and resilience enhances adaptability. Positivity fosters optimism and motivation, while resilience provides the strength to recover from setbacks. It is for these reasons that positivity and resilience are two of our core school values at Yardleys.

Together, these traits contribute to personal growth, transforming difficulties into opportunities. Embracing them leads to a fulfilling life, where challenges become stepping stones. By emphasizing these qualities, we build a brighter future, individually and collectively.

In school, especially during exams, these values are crucial. Positivity boosts confidence and reduces anxiety, helping students focus and perform well. It promotes seeing mistakes as learning opportunities. Resilience helps manage exam stress, enabling recovery and perseverance. By fostering positivity and resilience, students improve academically and personally.

As GCSEs loom for many of our Y11 students, being able to practice positivity, seeing these assessments as an opportunity to show off and share everything they know, as well as proving resilience, by working hard as the pressure mounts, will ensure success during the exam season!

How To Beat Exam Stress

Advice For Students

Exams can be stressful, but the right strategies can help. Here are the top 5 revision strategies for students:

- 1. Create a Revision Schedule:** Plan study time in advance and include breaks to prevent burnout.
- 2. Use Active Techniques:** Use flashcards, mind maps, or teach someone else to reinforce understanding.
- 3. Practice Past Papers:** Familiarize yourself with the exam format to boost confidence and identify focus areas.
- 4. Incorporate Relaxation:** Use deep breathing, meditation, or yoga to reduce anxiety.
- 5. Stay Healthy:** Get enough sleep, eat well, stay hydrated, and exercise to relieve stress.

Find what suits you best and balance study with relaxation. Good luck!

Advice For Parents

Supporting children during exams is crucial for their success. Here are some effective strategies for parents to consider:

- 1. Create a Study Schedule:** help your child manage their time efficiently and stay organized by creating a study timetable and ensuring they stick to it.
- 2. Limit Screen Time:** Set clear boundaries on screen usage to minimize distractions and enhance focus.
- 3. Ensure Good Attendance:** Maintaining consistent school attendance is vital as it maximizes learning and keeps your child engaged with their coursework. Being present at school helps them stay connected with their teachers and peers, which can be motivating.
- 4. Promote a Healthy Lifestyle:** Encourage your child to get adequate sleep, eat nutritious meals, stay hydrated, and engage in regular physical activity.
- 5. Discuss Post-Exams:** Engage in conversations with your child about their exam experiences. Open dialogue can also reduce anxiety and build confidence.

Implementing these strategies can improve your child's exam experience, academic success, and overall well-being.

Upcoming Events

English Students Visit to Stratford-Upon-Avon

There will be two trips to Stratford-Upon-Avon this term for a select group of students in Y8 and Y9.

Students will have the opportunity to see either 'The Tempest' or 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' performed as well as explore Shakespeare's hometown.

A similar trip ran earlier this academic year for EAL students and students in Year 7 which was hugely enjoyed by all!

Those students involved will be notified by their teachers and asked to pay a contribution via Parent Pay.



Geography Students Visit to the Botanical Gardens

Geography students will be visiting the Botanical Gardens to support their understanding of ecosystems, plant biodiversity and sustainability.



The trip will provide a hands-on learning experience, allowing students to observe a wide range of plant species and explore how environments are managed and conserved.

Catering Students Visit to Malmaison

Catering students will have the opportunity to visit Malmaison, gaining valuable insight into the professional hospitality industry.

This experience will help students connect their classroom learning to real-world culinary careers.

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

Students taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award will be working towards developing key life skills such as teamwork, resilience and independence.



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.

Educating The Whole Child

Book Taster Cafe



There was truly nothing like the excitement of a Book Taster Café! We had a delightful time exploring new genres and discussing everything related to books.

It was fantastic to witness so many students exchanging recommendations and discovering their next “must-read.” It made for an ideal school afternoon.

Strike!



Such an amazing experience taking our SEND students bowling! Watching everyone gain confidence, cheer each other on, and celebrate every strike (and every gutter ball!) was genuinely inspiring.

Year 7 Football Team Shine in Impressive Win

The Year 7 football team delivered an emphatic performance against Starbank, displaying strong teamwork and confidence throughout the match.

Husnain starred with a superb hat-trick, supported by goals from Nazir, Zain and Yusuf to round off an excellent team effort and well-earned win.



Inspiring Careers Workshop for Year 10 Students



A big thank you to Katherine from The Talent Foundry for delivering such an engaging and insightful KPMG Opening Doors workshop with our Year 10 students.

The session provided a fantastic opportunity for students to build their confidence, develop key employability skills and gain valuable insight into potential future career pathways. The energy and expertise Katherine brought to the workshop clearly made a lasting impact on all involved.

Well done to Nosheen, Hafsa, Waseefa and Momina for their winning pitch – they all demonstrated excellent leadership and teamwork throughout the session.