16 October 2026

Huish Episcopi Academy Parent Newsletter

House Update

Competition remains fierce as we progress further into the term!

The current standings for the houses are as follows:

Bailbrook
5087

Merchant
4671

Lambrook
4633

Pennard
4484

Chelston
4434

An Update From Mrs Boyes

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into the final week of term, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school community. Over the past fortnight, it has been a pleasure to welcome so many families into school for our ongoing Open Mornings and Sixth Form Open Evening. These events are a fantastic opportunity to showcase all that makes our school special, and I have been incredibly proud of our student ambassadors, who represented the school with enthusiasm, professionalism and pride throughout.

A reminder that applications for Year 7 entry in September 2027 close on 31st October. Applications for Sixth Form entry in September 2027 remain open, and interviews will begin next week.

As we approach the half-term break, our focus remains firmly on ensuring high-quality learning in every lesson and maintaining students' engagement right up to the end of term. Thank you also for your support in promoting positive attendance, which continues to make a significant difference to students' success in school. Please see the attendance information later in this edition of the newsletter.

Finally, as promised earlier this term, we will be writing to families next week regarding our mobile phone policy and thank you for your support and feedback on this during this half term.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Boyes
Principal



Attendance Matters

Every day in school counts. We ask all parents and carers to arrange routine medical and dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible. Where appointments must take place during the school day, we kindly request that students return to school afterwards if they are well enough to do so. This helps to minimise lost learning time and maintain positive attendance habits.

We would also like to remind families that holidays taken during term time will not normally be authorised. The Department for Education states that headteachers may only grant leave of absence during term time in exceptional circumstances.

National evidence shows a strong link between attendance and academic success. **Department for Education** research found that **pupils who attended school regularly were significantly more likely to achieve strong GCSE outcomes**, while persistently absent pupils were much less likely to achieve Grade 5 or above in English and Mathematics. For post-16 students, high attendance is also strongly associated with better A Level outcomes, improved progression to higher education, apprenticeships and employment.

Our aim is for every student to achieve at least 97% attendance, giving them the very best opportunity to flourish academically, socially and personally. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that every possible day is a day in school.

Flu Vaccinations

A reminder to all parents and carers who have not yet replied to the Flu Vaccination Consent form to please do so as soon as possible.

Even if you do not consent to the vaccinations, we require your response.

The vaccination days will be taking place on **24** and **25 November**.

Should you have any questions, please contact: **AmandaMitchell@hea.ac.uk**

Decision form:
https://www.somersetsaint.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=SM136294

Unique School Code: **SM136294**

Replacement Bus Passes

If your child travels on a bus operated by Somerset Transport and their bus pass has been lost, please order a replacement by completing the online form here: **Request a replacement bus pass**

If your child travels on a bus not operated by Somerset County Transport, you will need to contact the bus company direct to request a replacement. Whilst your child awaits the arrival of their replacement bus pass, please remind them to see Ms Neale at lunchtimes outside of ML1 to collect a temporary bus pass.



Lost Property in the PE Department

There is unnamed PE kit that is currently residing in the PE lost property. If it has not been claimed by **Wednesday 21 October**, then this will be added into our PE kit circulation that we use in lessons.

If your child has lost any PE kit, please encourage them to check with the PE office ASAP!



Trip Report: Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip, Bristol

This week, the Year 11 Geography students completed the fieldwork element of their GCSE course with a trip to Bristol. The aim of the trip is to study the regeneration of Bristol's Temple Quarter, with visits to the old Paintworks, a walk along the River Avon on the newly completed cycle paths, and stops at Bristol University's Enterprise Campus and Temple Quay. It was great to see the students confidently evaluate the scheme and see regeneration in action. A huge well done to all students for their hard work and excellent behaviour on the trip!





Catering Changes After Half Term

After October half term, we will be refreshing our lunch time food offer. There will be no change to the current break time offer.

The Upper Canteen will be for our 'Grab and Go' selection, including baguettes, sandwiches, wraps, soup, pasta and salad pots, snacks, sweet treats, and drinks. Friday fish and chips will remain!

The Lower Canteen will focus on sit-down lunches, including main meals, jacket potatoes, pasta pots and paninis, and the regular Tuesday and Wednesday specials.

Update from the Eco Gardeners

The Eco Gardeners have reaped the rewards of their hard work this week, harvesting their first year of vegetables! The Gardeners worked hard in the Spring to clear overgrown raised beds and plant a variety of vegetables. Despite battling heatwaves and drought, they were incredibly pleased with their crop. Fantastic work, everyone!



Trip Report: Year 10 Music - BSO at Westlands





On Wednesday 14th October, our Year 10 BTEC Music students were treated to a lunch time concert at Westlands Entertainment Venue in Yeovil, led by members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Tailored towards KS4 music students, the event features music that is studied by students during their course.

The audience enjoyed music by Bach and Beethoven, as well as music from the video game *Little Orpheus*, and the famous *Clapping Music* by Steve Reich, which our students have recently explored through their work on Minimalism.

Mrs Walker would like to thank the students for their company and exemplary behaviour representing the school, and a special shout-out to Mr Rumary for driving the school minibus for us!

We look forward to welcoming members from the BSO to lead our students in composition workshops later in the academic year.

Sports: Match Reports

Year 9 Hockey: Huish vs. Westfield Huish vs. Holyrood

The Year 9 Hockey team have recently been busy battling some fierce competition from Westfield and Holyrood! While they may not have secured victory just yet, the team has shown infectious enthusiasm, brilliant teamwork, and rapid progress in such a short span of time. Good luck for your next match, girls, we're rooting for you!

Year 7 Hockey: Huish vs. Holyrood

The Year 7 team recently played a very competitive league game versus Holyrood. Despite linking nicely and having several great shooting opportunities, they were just pipped to the post by Holyrood, who clinched a late win with a deflection. Player of the match went to Anna W for her excellent support across the pitch, both attacking and defending. Well done!

Year 8 Hockey: Huish vs. Holyrood

Year 8 recently had a tough battle on their hands against Holyrood, who had the home advantage on their sand astro. The ball travelled much faster than the Huish girls were used to and, despite the valiant effort from the Huish defence, Holyrood ultimately took the win. However, the Year 8s will be sure to apply this valuable learning experience moving forwards and we are positive that they will experience victory again!

Open Events

UCS COLLEGE GROUP

- **Tuesday 20 October 26–Bridgwater**
  - Wednesday 13 January 2027–Bridgwater
  - Thursday 24 June 2027–Bridgwater
- **Saturday 14 November 26–Cannington**
  - Saturday 30 January–Cannington
  - Wednesday 28 April-Cannington
- **Thursday 15 October 26–Strode**
  - Tuesday 19 January–Strode
  - Wednesday 9 June–Strode
- **Wednesday 14 October 26–Taunton**
  - Tuesday 12 January 2027–Taunton
  - Tuesday 22 June 2027–Taunton

Registration for all events is essential!

Please visit our website to register.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Dates for your diary for this Half Term

- **16th - 26th October** – China Residential Trip
- **16th October** – Open Morning (9 - 10:30am)
- **21st October** – On Your Bike/Dr Bike Maintenance Sessions
- **22nd October** – Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening
- **26th October - 30th October – Half Term**

Respect
Ambition
Resilience

YOUTH SAFE SPACE





Youth Safe Space runs out of hours – Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings online and at our Taunton or Yeovil Hub- to provide support to young people 13-18 who feel they are struggling with their mental health and are experiencing distress. Appointments will be 1-1 with trained staff in a therapeutic environment where de-escalation techniques and safety planning/healthy coping mechanisms can be introduced.

Scan here to book

01823 276892

https://www.mindinsomerset.org.uk/our-services/young-people/youth-safe-space/