20 November 2026

Huish Episcopi Academy Parent Newsletter

House Update

Competition remains fierce as we begin this new half term!

The current standings for the houses are as follows:

Bailbrook
11835

Chelston
10320

Merchant
10027

Pennard
9545

Lambrook
9231

An Update From Mrs Boyes

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the final few weeks of the Autumn term, I would like to begin by offering huge congratulations to our Year 11 and Year 13 students on completing their mock examinations. These assessments provide an invaluable opportunity to prepare for the challenges of the summer ahead. Over the coming weeks, students will receive detailed feedback from their teachers during their lessons, helping them to identify strengths, address areas for improvement and make the most of this vital stage in their learning journey.

I would also like to thank parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring strong attendance. Every lesson matters, particularly at this point in the term. Alongside the important curriculum content being taught in classrooms each day, students continue to benefit from a wide range of enrichment opportunities, events and activities that help to develop their confidence, character and wider interests.

Thank you as well to those parents and carers who have completed our Parent Survey. The feedback we receive is hugely valuable and helps to shape the next stage of the school's development. If you have not yet had the opportunity to respond, please do so before the survey closes. Every contribution helps us to understand what we are doing well and where we can continue to improve.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community. I hope you enjoy reading this fortnight's newsletter and wish you and your families a very enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards,

Mrs Boyes
Principal

Huish Episcopi Academy Terms and Holidays
2027/2028 Academic Year

September 2027

M			6	13	20	27
T			7	14	21	28
W		1	8	15	22	29
Th		2	9	16	23	30
F		3	10	17	24	
Sa		4	11	18	25	
Su		5	12	19	26	

October 2027

Mo			4	11	18	25
Tu			5	12	19	26
We			6	13	20	27
Th			7	14	21	28
Fr		1	8	15	22	29
Sa		2	9	16	23	30
Su		3	10	17	24	31

November 2027

M		1	8	15	22	29
T		2	9	16	23	30
W		3	10	17	24	
Th		4	11	18	25	
F		5	12	19	26	
S		6	13	20	27	
S		7	14	21	28	

December 2027

M		6	13	20	27	
Tu		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24	31	
Sa	4	11	18	25		
Su	5	12	19	26		

January 2028

M	3	10	17	24	31	
Tu	4	11	18	25		
W	5	12	19	26		
Th	6	13	20	27		
F	7	14	21	28		
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su	2	9	16	23	30	

February 2028

M		7	14	21	28	
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23		
Th	3	10	17	24		
F	4	11	18	25		
Sa	5	12	19	26		
Su	6	13	20	27		

March 2028

M		6	13	20	27	
Tu		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29	
Th	2	9	16	23	30	
F	3	10	17	24	31	
Sa	4	11	18	25		
Su	5	12	19	26		

April 2028

M		3	10	17	24	
Tu		4	11	18	25	
W		5	12	19	26	
Th		6	13	20	27	
F		7	14	21	28	
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su	2	9	16	23	30	

May 2028

M	1	8	15	22	29	
Tu	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24	31	
Th	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
Sa	6	13	20	27		
Su	7	14	21	28		

June 2028

M		5	12	19	26	
Tu		6	13	20	27	
W		7	14	21	28	
Th	1	8	15	22	29	
F	2	9	16	23	30	
Sa	3	10	17	24		
Su	4	11	18	25		

July 2028

M	3	10	17	24	31	
Tu	4	11	18	25		
W	5	12	19	26		
Th	6	13	20	27		
F	7	14	21	28		
Sa	1	8	15	22	29	
Su	2	9	16	23	30	

August 2028

M		7	14	21	28	
Tu	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23	30	
Th	3	10	17	24	31	
F	4	11	18	25		
Sa	5	12	19	26		
Su	6	13	20	27		

Key:

- School Holiday
- Bank Holiday
- Term Time
- Inset Days
- Staggered Start – Year 7 and 12 only

Term dates summary:

Term 1: 01 September – 22 October 2027 (38 days)
Term 2: 01 November – 17 December 2027 (35 days)
Term 3: 04 January – 11 February 2028 (29 days)
Term 4: 21 February – 31 March 2028 (30 days)
Term 5: 18 April – 26 May 2028 (28 days)
Term 6: 05 June – 21 July 2027 (35 days) **TOTAL = 195**

Bank and public holidays 2027/28

Christmas Day Bank Holiday	27 December 2027*	Easter Monday	17 April 2028
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	28 December 2027*	May Day Bank Holiday	01 May 2028
New Year's Day Holiday	03 January 2028*	Spring Bank Holiday	29 May 2028
Good Friday	14 April 2028	Summer Bank Holiday	28 August 2028

*Replacement Bank Holiday when Bank Holiday falls on a weekend.

Academy, Free Schools, Foundation & Voluntary Aided schools can set their own term dates and may differ from ours. Please check with the individual schools for their term dates.

Trip Report: Year 10 Geography Residential - Iceland

For forty Year 10 geographers, Iceland provided the ultimate outdoor classroom. Perched astride the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates are slowly pulling apart, Iceland is one of the most geologically active and fascinating places on Earth. Its unique combination of volcanoes, glaciers, geothermal activity and dramatic landscapes makes it a living laboratory where students can witness many of the geographical processes they study in the classroom. Our recent expedition offered an unforgettable opportunity to experience these remarkable environments first-hand.

From the moment we arrived, Iceland lived up to its reputation as the "Land of Fire and Ice". Students were able to see how volcanic activity has shaped the island over millions of years. Vast lava fields, volcanic craters and rugged landscapes provided powerful evidence of Iceland's position on a constructive plate boundary and above a hotspot deep within the Earth's mantle. Seeing these features in reality brought textbook diagrams and classroom discussions vividly to life.

One of the highlights of the trip was witnessing some of Iceland's famous geothermal features. Students watched in amazement as geysers erupted, sending columns of hot water and steam into the air. Nearby, bubbling mud pools hissed and steamed as superheated groundwater escaped from beneath the Earth's surface. These extraordinary landscapes demonstrated the immense geothermal energy that lies beneath Iceland and showcased the dynamic forces continually shaping the country.

The students also ventured up onto Sólheimajökull, one of Iceland's magnificent glaciers. Equipped with ice axes and crampons, students hiked across the ice, gaining a unique appreciation of glacial processes and landscape formation. Standing on ancient ice, surrounded by spectacular scenery, was an unforgettable experience and provided a powerful reminder of the importance of understanding climate and environmental change.



After exploring the extremes of Iceland's natural environment, students were able to enjoy another of the country's geological gifts: the naturally heated geothermal pools at Gamla Laugin. Relaxing in warm mineral-rich waters offered a welcome opportunity to experience the benefits of Iceland's volcanic activity while providing a memorable cultural experience.

No visit to Iceland would be complete without experiencing its world-famous waterfalls. Throughout the trip we encountered a succession of enormous and stunning cascades, each with its own unique character. From thunderous torrents crashing into deep gorges to elegant curtains of water plunging over ancient lava cliffs, these spectacular features highlighted the immense power of water in shaping Iceland's landscapes.

As geographers, one of the most inspiring aspects of the journey was learning how Iceland harnesses its natural resources to build a more sustainable future. Students visited a geothermal power plant at Hellisheiði to discover how heat from deep underground is used to generate electricity and provide heating for homes and businesses. They also learnt about innovative projects that capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and permanently store it underground within volcanic rocks, helping to combat climate change whilst making use of Iceland's unique geological conditions.

The trip also explored Iceland's growing use of geothermal energy in agriculture. Students visited enormous geothermally-heated greenhouses at Friðheimar where a remarkable variety of food is grown despite the country's harsh climate and long winter darkness. Perhaps the most impressive sight was the famous tomato greenhouse, where tomato plants stretched to an astonishing 11 metres in length. Using renewable geothermal energy for heating, supplemented by artificial lighting, these facilities demonstrate how technology and natural resources can work together to overcome environmental challenges. Of course, no scientific investigation would have been complete without a little fieldwork-based quality control. After learning how the greenhouses operate, students enjoyed dining in a restaurant situated inside the greenhouse itself. Sampling delicious produce grown just metres away from the dining tables allowed everyone to appreciate the success of Iceland's sustainable food production systems. The tomato soup, bread and fresh produce received particularly rigorous testing by our young geographers, all in the interests of academic research, naturally.

The expedition was an outstanding success, combining adventure, education and unforgettable experiences. Students returned with a far deeper understanding of tectonic processes, glaciation, sustainability and renewable energy, as well as memories that will last a lifetime. Iceland proved to be an extraordinary destination, demonstrating how geography is not simply something found in textbooks, but a living, dynamic force that shapes landscapes, societies and our common future.



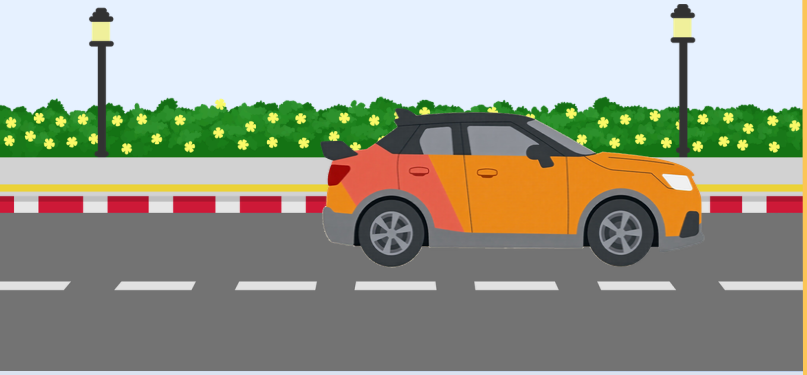


Reminder: Parking

We would like to remind all parents and carers to be considerate to our neighbours in the community when dropping off and collecting children. Please do not block driveways, park illegally, or leave your car dangerously close to junctions.

A reminder that the church car park is available to drop off and collect students. Please try to avoid having to use residential roads nearby.

Thank you for your cooperation.



School Reports

End of term reports will be sent out during the final week of term.

To help you make the most of the information they contain, we have produced a short explanatory video, which can be viewed **here**.

Please note that there are separate videos for Years 7-11 and for Sixth Form.

Further details will be emailed closer to the time.

As always, if you can any concerns about your child's progress, please contact their tutor, who will be happy to help.



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.

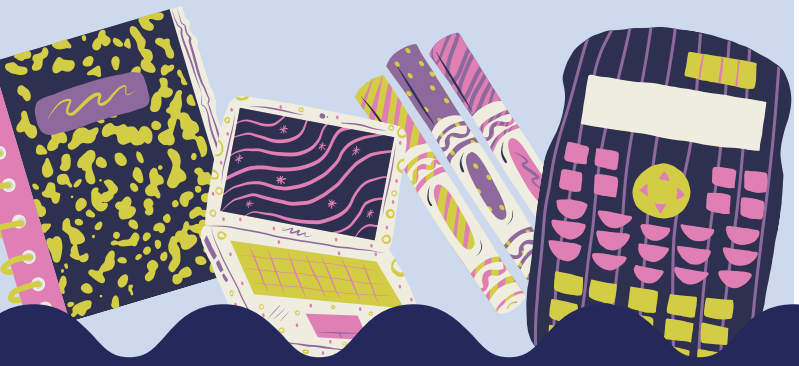


Homework Club!

Monday - Thursday

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Student Support Base



Somerset Careers Hub Padlet

The Somerset Careers Hub Padlet provides a wealth of information about opportunities, events, and careers support for young people.

It is particularly useful for Year 11 students when planning their next steps, Year 10 students seeking work experience, and Year 9 when considering GCSE options.

For more information, click here.



Attendance and Achievement: Giving Yourself the Best Chance to Succeed

There is a strong relationship between school attendance and academic achievement. Quite simply, pupils who attend school regularly give themselves the best opportunity to succeed.

Every lesson builds on previous learning. When pupils miss school, they can miss important explanations, develop gaps in their knowledge and find it more difficult to keep up with the demands of their subjects. While teachers will always do their best to support pupils who have been absent, missed learning can be challenging to replace.

As we move further into the academic year, it is important that pupils maintain positive attendance habits and make the most of every learning opportunity.

We want all our pupils to leave school with the qualifications, knowledge and skills that open doors to future opportunities. Good attendance is a fundamental part of achieving this ambition.

Thank you to all parents and carers who continue to support us in making attendance a priority.



HUISH EPISCOPI ACADEMY



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wednesday 9th December

6PM

Main Hall

£4 Adults

£2 Students

Refreshments available

Proceeds go towards the music department

Purchase your tickets here!

A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS CHEER

Take your seat and join us for our annual Christmas lunch

10th December 2026



A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS CHEER

Lower Canteen

Roast Turkey

or

Vegetable & Cheese Pastry Crown (v)

or

Quorn Grill (v)

Served with

Roast Potatoes, Chipolata, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Brussels Sprouts, Carrots, Peas & Gravy.

Dessert

Festive Yule Log

Upper Hub Kitchen

Festive Christmas grab & Go:

Christmas dinner style Hot wraps.

Seasonal Baguettes'

Soup & Roll

Potato pots.





Trip Report: A Level Textiles V&A Museum, London

Recently, our Year 13 A Level Textiles students visited the V&A Museum to complete research for their personal investigation projects. Researching their chosen themes, they explored the Burberry exhibition, displaying coats across the decades, and the installations dedicated to the fashion of Freddie Mercury. It was a fabulous day out and a brilliant opportunity for our students to see some iconic moments in fashion history up close and personal!

Dates for your diary for this Half Term

- **23 November – INSET Day**
- **24 - 25 November** – Flu Vaccinations (whole school excluding Sixth Form)
- **24 November** – Golden Ticket Trip: Harry Potter Studio Tour
- **25 November** – Year 11 Drama Trip: Bristol Old Vic
- **29 November - 3 December** – History Residential Trip: Berlin
- **3 December** – Year 11 Parents' Evening
- **4 December** – Year 11 Winter Formal
- **8 December** – SLT Coffee Morning (9 - 10am)
- **8 December** – Year 13 Parents' Evening
- **9 December** – Music: Christmas Concert (6pm)
- **11 - 18 December** – Ski Residential Trip: Italy
- **14 December** – Year 7 Music Trip: Pantomime
- **17 December** – Music: Carol Service (7pm)

18 December – Term Ends: School Finishes at 12:30pm

Respect
Ambition
Resilience