

Spring 2 Newsletter 2026

This term has been a fantastic one, with pupils continuing to make great progress in their learning while also working hard to achieve their SEMH targets. It has been particularly encouraging to see students developing resilience, confidence, and positive relationships across the school.

We have also enjoyed some memorable enrichment activities. Year 8 had a brilliant trip to Marwell Zoo, where pupils engaged enthusiastically with wildlife and conservation learning. Year 9 visited the Military Museum, gaining valuable insights into history through a hands-on and immersive experience.

A highlight of the term was our BGA 6 competition, which featured an exciting and highly competitive dodgeball tournament. The matches were fast-paced and full of energy, with all teams demonstrating excellent teamwork and determination. Congratulations to the winning team — Mr Shah, Bella, Jayden, Mason Arthur, and Frankie — who highlighted outstanding team tactics and skill throughout.



Class Updates – Year 7 Willow & Birch

It has been a wonderfully busy Spring Term 2, with pupils diving into a wide range of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Design & Technology, the children thoroughly enjoyed designing, making and testing their own slingshot cars.

Our history topic on The Romans has sparked great curiosity and helped pupils understand how our lives today have been influenced by the Roman invasion over 2000 years ago. In Science, we completed our unit on electricity—ending with pupils creating simple circuits inside greeting cards—and have now begun a new topic on classification. Pupils are learning how scientists group living things based on shared characteristics and have enjoyed creating their own branching keys using dolly mixtures to represent unknown organisms.



As part of their Mini Duke activities, pupils have begun a module on bike maintenance. They are learning the names of key parts of wheels, how to carry out basic safety checks, and how to change tyres.

In Maths, we have been focusing on time—reading both analogue and digital clocks, calculating intervals, and understanding timetables. In English, pupils have been crafting their own narratives and developing their use of speech to move the action forward.

Class Updates – Year 8

Year 8 have had a busy term working beautifully together in design technology on their sling shot cars. The designs showed their understanding of aerodynamics and propulsion. The final race showed the speed that the cars travelled at far exceeded expectation. They also really enjoyed their visit to Marwell zoo with the giraffes being a real high light.



Class Updates – Year 9

Year 9 have now completed oral exams as part of their science course. This marks their first formal assessment towards a Level 2 BTEC award, which they will continue to work towards with the aim of completing the full certificate in Year 11. 9H have also been working incredibly well in their GASP Motor Mechanics course, demonstrating excellent focus, teamwork, and enthusiasm in every session.



Alongside developing strong practical skills in the workshop, the group have successfully completed a range of AQA Unit Awards, including Hand Skills in Engineering, Introduction to Motorbike Mechanics, Introduction to Motorbike Safety, Changing a Wheel, and Basic Bicycle Maintenance.

This half of Spring term Year 9 Elder class have made some good progress in all their subjects. Fishing has gone well with pupils making some great catches. In History, pupils have been investigating what lead up to the Norman invasion. In Geography pupils have been studying world maps and biomes. We also had a great trip to

Aldershot Military Museum where we encountered tanks, artillery guns, APCs and learned about how Aldershot grew around the military camps that were founded in the 1850s.

Class Updates – Year 11

The Year 11 students at our school have shown exceptional commitment and determination this term, working incredibly hard across all areas of their learning. They have approached their practical assessments in Food Technology with focus and enthusiasm, producing some impressive outcomes.

Alongside this, they have tackled their English and Maths exams with maturity and resilience, demonstrating their dedication to achieving their best. It has also been fantastic to see them engaging so positively in Forest School, making the most of the opportunity to learn in a different environment.

In English, their creative writing has been particularly impressive, highlighting imagination and skill, while in science they have continued to produce high-quality work.

Overall, this has been a term full of effort, progress and achievement for Year 11.

Outdoor Learning

This term we have finally seen the sun and had a number of better days with some warmth, the fires have started with the drier wood and had more heat in them and we have made bread, smores, doughnuts, eggy bread, they have enjoyed relaxing in the sun in hammocks, and conversations have been positive too, as well as using the tools to split wood and whittle sticks. They have also helped to plant a willow house out of Willow whips which have all recently started to leaf and grow.

Alternative Provision

This term we welcomed a new cohort of pupils joining us on AP. One of the first bonuses has been the change in weather—the sun has made an appearance, bringing some much-needed warmth and allowing us to spend more time outdoors without being wrapped up (although, during our tree planting at St Andrew’s Church, we were briefly caught in a hailstorm!).

Throughout the term, pupils have worked towards several AQA awards while also consolidating their fire-making skills—rewarded, of course, with hot chocolate. They have crafted wooden mallets, developed confidence through tree climbing and jumping from height, and, importantly, come together as a group, showing increasingly positive interactions and teamwork.

As part of our community work with St Andrew’s Church, pupils took part in a large-scale tree planting project, successfully planting around 150 trees of varying species. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to contribute to the local environment while building a sense of pride and connection to the community.

Duke of Edinburgh

This term we have been focusing on planning routes for our expedition, developing our understanding of how to use a compass, and refreshing key practical skills such as pitching a tent and using cooking stoves. We have also been ensuring that all activities completed so far this year are recorded to support progress across the different sections of the awards.



Science Curriculum



The science curriculum has moved forwards this calendar year, with Years 9, 10 and 11 engaging in modules from the OCN London Level 2 Qualifications in Skills for Professions in Applied Science and Technology.

Learning has extended beyond the classroom, with pupils exploring the functioning of organisms out on the school grounds. Activities have included pulling up nettles to study root structures, examining axial and apical buds on woody stems, and taking apart flowers to identify their reproductive parts.

In the laboratory, pupils have been using microscopes to observe slides they have prepared themselves, successfully identifying key features such as cell walls and nuclei. This hands-on approach has deepened understanding and strengthened practical scientific skills.

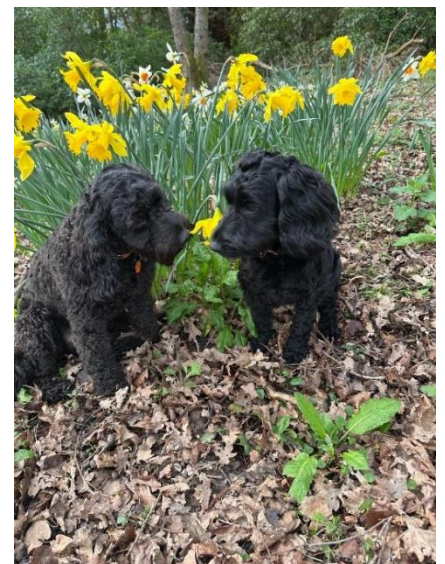
Dog Mentor – Spring Term

As we move through the Spring Term, it has been lovely to catch glimpses of sunshine between the showers and heavy rain, bringing a welcome brightness to the school grounds. Our Dog Mentors, Clemmie and Winnie, have certainly been making the most of it and have had a wonderfully productive start to the term.

Clemmie continues to excel in her one-to-one mentoring sessions. This term she has been working closely with students, focusing on key skills such as return to bed, navigating agility poles, and practising a reliable emergency stop. These sessions have shown real progress, with clear moments of understanding, communication, and teamwork between them.

Winnie, meanwhile, is growing confidently into the role of a developing Dog Mentor. She has been enjoying more individual sessions with students, giving her plenty of opportunities to learn routines, practise calm engagement, and explore what it means to support young people in a gentle, responsive way. Her curiosity and willingness to participate have made her sessions both valuable and enjoyable for the students involved.

Together, Clemmie and Winnie continue to contribute positively to the school community—offering comfort, consistency, and moments of joy throughout the school day.



Attendance

We continue to highlight the importance of good attendance and the positive impact it has on learning, progress, and wellbeing. Attending school each day plays an important role in supporting both your social connections and overall wellbeing, as well as your education. We would like to congratulate the following pupils for achieving 100% attendance this term—an excellent accomplishment that reflects commitment, resilience, and a strong approach to learning. We would like to say Congratulations to the following students who have attended every day this half-term.

CONGRATULATIONS to our 100% pupils!!

Miguel, Aymen, Frankie, Gracie, Connor, Jimmy, Arthur, Laylen, Josh, Tommy, Lexi, Aaron

Our Inaugural Whole School Celebration Assembly

This term we brought the whole school together to celebrate our year 9 pupil Sam with his fantastic heroism in the local community and the fantastic learning that has taken place this term. This was a truly wonderful assembly and the first of many to come.

Other Information

Uniform: As we head towards the end of the academic year, pupils will naturally be growing and may require additional or replacement uniform. Please ensure you liaise with the front office to order or purchase any items needed.

Parent Partnership: We are always looking for ways to strengthen our partnership with parents and carers. Please keep an eye out for upcoming parent coffee mornings, academic review days, and open mornings. We warmly encourage you to visit your child's school and take the opportunity to meet the team.

If you have any ideas about how we can further improve parental engagement, please do email me directly—we would value your input.

Overall, it has been a rewarding and successful term, and we are incredibly proud of the continued efforts and achievements of all our pupils. Thank you for supporting our school team and we wish you a lovely Easter break.

Louise Needham

Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

13 th April	Pupils Return
21 st April	Yr 9, 10 Half Day Practise Duke of Edinburgh walk
28 th April	Yr 9, 10 Full day Practise Duke of Edinburgh walk
11 th May	Yr 11 Exams start.
12 th & 13 th May	Open morning please do book in through reception.
14 th & 15 th May	Yr 9, 10 Overnight camp and Duke of Edinburgh expedition
22 nd May	last day of term