



# WEEKLY UPDATE

CORE VALUE: ENDURANCE

SPRING TERM 1 ISSUE 4

30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to begin this week's bulletin by saying a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils. Throughout their mock SATs this week, they have shown a truly impressive attitude, approaching each test with calm focus, resilience and maturity. We are incredibly proud of the way they have conducted themselves and the effort they have put in. Their positivity and determination have been a pleasure to see. The same exemplary attitude to learning was also celebrated this week in year 7 and year 8 classes. Mr Clemens, our School Improvement Partner (SIP) was particularly impressed with the quality of written communication in books across the upper school as well as the confidence and oracy of our older pupils. Thanks to parents and carers for your continued effort to promote positive school attendance. Most recent DfE attendance figures (up to Jan 15th) shows our school in 1st place with the best attendance of all 35 secondary schools in Somerset and in the second decile (top 20%) of schools nationally. This is particularly notable as we enter cough and cold season – well done everyone!

I would also like to extend a massive thank you to JC Bethell Services for their continued works around our school site. This project, funded mainly by the Wessex Learning Trust has significantly enhanced pupil safety, particularly with increased



visibility for cars exiting the tennis courts and for cyclists arriving at school in the morning. Despite challenging weather conditions, they braved the rain and carried on regardless, although I am told by Jake and Ed that Mr Bethell himself has spent more time in the warmth of the digger! Seriously though, it is a real privilege to be able to work in partnership with local contractors who are so clearly invested in

our school community. Their care and dedication make a meaningful difference to the daily experience of our pupils, families and staff.

Over the coming weeks, parents/carers will notice some changes with regards access to School Reception, it is my intention that these works will take place during February half-term to minimise disruption, thanks for your patience and continued cooperation.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Matt Drew.

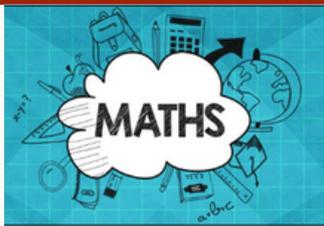
## CALENDAR 2025

### FEBRUARY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Y8 Production Rehearsal (Sunday)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Y8 Options Evening at KOW for Y9 Entry
- 4<sup>th</sup> Parenting in the Digital Age Talk
- 6<sup>th</sup> Y8 Production - Technical Rehearsal
- 10<sup>th</sup> Y8 Production Dress Rehearsal - 1<sup>st</sup> Schools Performance
- 11<sup>th</sup> Y8 Production - Performance 1
- 12<sup>th</sup> Y8 Production - Performance 2

## CLUBS

**ALL HOUSE MATCHES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL AFTER HALF TERM DUE TO THE WEATHER AND PITCH CONDITIONS.**



### Y6 MATHS BOOSTER SESSIONS

Starting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, we will be running after school Maths sessions for any Y6 pupils that would like to come along. This is an open session and doesn't need to be committed to every week. In the sessions, pupils will go over key skills, play Maths games and improve their mathematical confidence. There will also be stretch and challenge for those that are keen to push themselves. If your child attends this session, they will need to be picked up from the loop at 4.50pm. **If your child already attends a Monday session, please do not attend this one as well.**

Many thanks,  
Mr McKeachan

### KS3 PUPILS

Your child will be supporting former pupils as part of their Sports Science BTEC coursework on the following dates:

**Year 7 - Thursday 5th February (9–11am)** - Pupils should arrive into school in PE kit and will change afterwards.

**Year 8 - Friday 6th February (1:15–3pm)** - All pupils not involved in the school production will change at lunchtime before the session.

Please ensure they have the correct kit, boots & trainers as we will adapt the sessions based on the weather.



**Kings  
Academy**

## Year 9 Choices Evening

Tuesday 3 February 2026  
5.00pm - 7.00pm

We warmly invite Year 8 Students and Parents/Carers  
to attend for September 2026 entry



Welcome meetings will be  
held in the Main Hall at  
5.00pm for surnames A to H and 6.00pm  
for surnames I to Z

Subjects will be open from  
5.00pm – 7.00pm



You are invited to visit each option subject. Our subject specialists  
will be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to meeting you



**Y8 PRODUCTION 2026**

**TICKETS SALES OPEN**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January on Bromcom

**PERFORMANCES**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

6:30pm Start

Ticket Price - £6

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

This week, students spent some time in Collective Worship commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day, which took place on Tuesday 27th January. Both students and staff took a moment to reflect on the horrors of the Holocaust and to honour the memory of its victims, as well as the subsequent genocides in Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Each class read the poem 'The Butterfly' by Pavel Friedmann, written whilst he was a prisoner in the Theresienstadt ghetto on 4 June 1942. Students designed a butterfly to add to our display, with either a tribute to the victims or a message to future generations. These are currently on display in the library for all students to read and contemplate. The ideas that the students came up with are incredibly thought provoking and are a powerful example of how we can all stand against prejudice in our society today.



## PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Please join us at Hugh Sexey's school for a Parenting In The Digital Age Talk. A 45-minute presentation exploring the impact of technology on children's mental health and wellbeing. It covers topics such as smartphones and social media and examines the influence of algorithms, screen use, and online content on adolescent development and identity. The talk will be led by Youth Mentor and Smartphone Free Childhood Advocate Cordelia Fellowes.

Parents will receive guidance and resources to help their children navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. The talk includes advice on encouraging healthy screen habits and creating a balanced digital environment at home.

The presentation will be followed by ample time for Q&A, and Cordelia will also be available afterward for one-to-one conversations with parents who may have specific concerns.

Please complete the link below to give an expression of interest in attending this event (please complete one for each adult interested).

[Expression of Interest - Parenting in the Digital Age](#)



### PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Supporting parents and schools navigating smartphones, social media, AI and addictive technology with children. Providing non-judgemental, research-backed solutions to help families cultivate healthier digital habits with modern technology.

A talk with Digital Parenting Specialist  
and Smartphone Free Childhood Advocate  
**Cordelia Fellowes** 

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00pm  
Hugh Sexey Church of England Middle School, Blackford, Wedmore,  
Somerset, BS28 4ND



# APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR JUNIOR BAKE OFF

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

## Pancakes MENU

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY  
SERVED ON GRAB & GO AT LUNCH

- BANANA CARAMEL
- CHOCOLATE & MARSHMALLOW
- STRAWBERRIES & CREAM
- RASPBERRY DRIZZLE & WHITE CHOCOLATE DROPS

**£2.50**

Made with PosterMyWish.com



## WHAT'S ON THIS FEBRUARY AT THE WELLBEING BLEND



### MONDAYS

### TUESDAYS

**2ND**  
12:30-2:30PM

**SOMERSET PARENT CARER FORUM**  
UNDERSTANDING SENSORY PROCESSING

FREE

**3RD**  
6PM-7:30PM

**PARENT CLUB EVENING**  
1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH  
SUPPORT, ADVICE, INFORMATION OR JUST A FRIENDLY FACE AND A CUPPA (ON US)

FREE

**9TH**  
10AM

**TALKING CAFE THE GENTLE BREW**  
EVERY SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

FREE

**10TH**  
6:30-8:30PM

**BOLD MINDS, SAFE SYSTEMS**  
UNDERSTANDING & SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD THROUGH A NEURODIVERGENT LENS

FREE

**EVERY MONDAY**  
7:30-8:30AM  
3.30-5PM

**BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**  
A WARM SPACE FOR OUR YOUTH BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL  
\*MEMBERSHIP CARD REQUIRED

**17TH**  
7PM-8:30PM

**MENOPAUSE CIRCLE**  
TIME TO SHINE WELLNESS. £5 PER SESSION.  
LED BY AMANDA - JOIN THE SUPPORTIVE CIRCLE MONTHLY

COFFEE @ THE HUB, 1-2 LOWER NORTH STREET, CHEDDAR, BS27 3HA  
THEWELLBEINGBLEND@THESPACE SOMERSET.ORG.UK

## WHAT'S ON THIS FEBRUARY AT THE WELLBEING BLEND

### WEDNESDAYS

### THURSDAYS

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
8.30-10.30AM

**PARENT CLUB**  
SUPPORT, ADVICE, INFORMATION OR JUST A FRIENDLY FACE AND A CUPPA (ON US)

FREE

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
8.30PM-8.30PM

**YOUTH CAFE**  
CHILL OR LIVE MUSIC EVERY OTHER WEEK FOR AGES 12-19

FREE

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
8.30-10.30AM

**FOODBANK VOUCHERS AVAILABLE HERE**

FREE



**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
7.30-8.30AM  
3.30-5PM

**BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**  
A WARM SPACE FOR OUR YOUTH BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL  
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## WHAT'S ON THIS FEBRUARY AT THE WELLBEING BLEND

### FRIDAYS

### WEEKENDS

**FRIDAY 27TH**  
7:30PM (8PM START)

**QUIZ NIGHT**  
(£25 PER TEAMS OF 4 OR 6)  
RAISING MONEY FOR THE SPACE

FREE



EVENT BOOKING



COFFEE @ THE HUB, 1-2 LOWER NORTH STREET, CHEDDAR, BS27 3HA  
THEWELLBEINGBLEND@THESPACE SOMERSET.ORG.UK



## WHAT'S ON THIS FEBRUARY FOR OUR YOUTH

### YOUTH CLUB

### YOUTH CAFE

YOUTH CLUB BOOKING



**03/02 LANTERN WORKSHOP**  
**10/02 VALENTINES CAKES**  
**17/02 PANCAKE PARTY**  
**24/02 CHINESE NEW YEAR**

**05/02 RESET**  
**12/02 PANCAKE CAFE**  
**19/02 MANDELA**  
**26/02 GAMES WITHOUT THE GAMES**

HELD AT CHEDDAR METHODIST CHURCH | 6.30-8.30PM | EVERY TUESDAY  
YBOORMAN@THESPACE SOMERSET.ORG.UK

COFFEE @ THE HUB, 1-2 LOWER NORTH STREET, CHEDDAR, BS27 3HA  
THEWELLBEINGBLEND@THESPACE SOMERSET.ORG.UK

## ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS ON BROMCOM

All 'on the day' absence notifications can be sent in to school via the following

- Bromcom app,
- School absence line **01934 712211** or
- email [school@hughsexey.org.uk](mailto:school@hughsexey.org.uk)

All future dated absences **must** be sent in via the school email as these need to be approved by the Headteacher.

Many thanks for your continued support

## PRELOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have a good stock of preloved school uniform available to purchase from the school reception.

Please email [school@hughsexey.org.uk](mailto:school@hughsexey.org.uk) with any queries



It's time to clear out your wardrobe and donate any unwanted clothing, shoes, bedding and accessories to our Rags2 Riches collection. Our next collection is on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**. Please deliver your items in a black bin bag or tied plastic bag to our main reception.

**No school uniform please, please donate this to the preloved shop**

## HSMS SUPERSTARS

### UKELELE

Charlie H in 5EM was presented with his Entry Level Award for Ukulele on Monday at the Music Makers Academy where he takes his lessons. He passed with distinction. He's now working towards his grade 1



### SOMERSET SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

We reported last week about the recent Cross Country Championships and our competing Year 7's. Unfortunately, at the time of press two of our amazing Year 7's were omitted from the write up. Elsa G and Lily P deserve a special congratulations for braving the challenging conditions and representing the school amazingly. Well done.

NEXT WEEK IN  
PICTURE NEWS

## HSMS VALUES IN ACTION @ HOME WB 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2026



### In the news this week.....

A toy company called Mattel has released a new Barbie doll designed to represent people who have autism, with features such as a fidget spinner and noise-cancelling headphones. The doll was created with help from the autistic community, so more people can see themselves reflected in their toys.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you think it's important for toys to show different kinds of people?
- How do you feel when you see a character or toy that is like you?
- Can you come up with other examples of books or toys that aim to help people feel included?
- How can we help other people feel included when they might feel different or left out?

Dear God,  
Thank You for making us all different and special. Please guide us to treat others with love. When someone is new or different from us, help us to make sure that everyone feels they truly belong  
Amen

**HSMS Christian Value and Virtue next week: Endurance**

**Bible Link: Romans 15:7**

**British Value and Protected Characteristic: Individual Liberty & Disability**

**UN Rights of the Child: #2 No Discrimination**