



As we reach the end of the Michaelmas Term, we are all looking forward to putting into harbour for a while over Christmas and the New Year. We are, however, mindful of the next leg of the voyage and that after three weeks of rest and recuperation we will be setting sail once again.

The horizon, however, remains determinedly shrouded in fog, so publishing anything that looks even remotely like a traditional school calendar would be to make promises that we probably will not be able to keep. We are, however, able to set out the basic shape of the term, and hope that this is useful for you and for your children.

End-of-Term Reports

These will be uploaded to the Parent Portal by the end of next week. An email will be sent alerting you to this.

Mock examinations for Year 11 and Upper Sixth

We have made some minor adjustments to our usual timetable for mock examinations next term, to reflect the draft examination timetable published by Ofqual for public examinations in the summer. In order to give ourselves a little more flexibility we have scheduled mock examinations as follows:

- Mock A level examinations for the Upper Sixth will take place in the week commencing Monday 18 January (Week 3).
- Mock GCSE examinations for Year 11 will take place in the week commencing Monday 22 February (the week following the half term break).

We will publish the full timetable for GCSEs, IGCSEs and A levels as soon as the dates are officially confirmed.

Parents' consultations

Following the success of the Parent Tutor consultations for Pre-Prep and Years 3 to 7, and the Parent Teacher meetings for Year 8, we will be holding further consultations in the Lent Term where parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with subject teachers.

Details on how we will arrange these will follow next term, but you may wish to make a note now of the planned dates for these. Where a parents' consultation takes place over two days, details of how the year group will be divided will be published nearer the time.

- Year 9 Fri 22 Jan and Sat 23 Jan
- Upper Sixth Fri 5 Feb
- Year 8 Thu 25 and Sat 27 Feb
- Year 3 and 4 Tue 2 and Wed 3 Mar
- Year 6 Thu 4 and Sat 6 Mar
- Pre-Prep Week commencing Mon 8 Mar
- Year 5 Wed 10 Mar
- Year 11 Fri 12 Mar and Sat 13 Mar
- Year 7 Thu 18 and Sat 20 Mar

Internal Assessments

The programme of internal assessments will continue next term, as follows:

- Year 7 & Year 8 Week commencing Mon 11 Jan Week 2
- Lower Sixth Week commencing Mon 25 Jan Week 4
- Year 3 to Year 6 Week commencing Mon 22 Feb Week 8
- Year 10 Week commencing Mon 22 Feb Week 8
- Year 9 Week commencing Mon 1 Mar Week 9
- Lower Sixth Week commencing Mon 1 Mar Week 9

Year 9 Scholarship Week

Applications for scholarships into Year 9 are now closed, but those pupils in Year 8 who have applied will sit their scholarship papers, and additional assessments, in the week commencing Mon 4 Feb. It is our intention to publish results at the start of half term.

Prep Parent Forums

Following the success of the Parent Forums that took place this term in lieu of Parent Rep meetings, we have planned the following dates for Parent Forums:

- Pre-Prep Thu 21 Jan
- Lower Prep Wed 27 Jan
- Middle Prep Thu 28 Jan
- Upper Prep Thu 4 Feb

Extra-curricular life

Though the school day will conclude at 16:30, as it has this term, the programme of after-school training and activities will expand next term, with cricket nets, netball and boys' hockey academies, and a full programme of Rugby 7s training. Details of this will be sent to pupils at the start of the term.

A number of independent schools have already put a moratorium on external sporting fixtures, but this is not a position that we share, and a full programme of provisional fixtures has been planned for the whole term, details of which will be published as early as possible, and as late as necessary.

Following on from the success of the streamed Carol Service, our musicians are already preparing for an Easter Concert, which we are planning to film over the final fortnight of term and stream on the penultimate day of term. We will also continue with the programme of virtual informal concerts for our Prep musicians.

Similarly, our thespians at the College continue to work hard on preparing for their year group production, the release date of which we will confirm nearer the time. All being well, Year 5 and Year 6 will be putting on their year-group productions towards the end of term.

There remains great uncertainty surrounding our outdoor pursuits and adventurous training programme, with both the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race and Ten Tors in significant jeopardy, whilst the government moratorium on overnight trips remains frustratingly in place, which rather hobbles our expedition programme. Nonetheless, we have planned a full programme of day walks on Dartmoor for those pupils engaged in Ten Tors and DofE, whilst we are exploring the possibility of kayak racing on local waters against other DW schools in the region. We are also hoping to revive the Shackleton Programme and will confirm dates for these trips as and when the situation becomes clearer.

You will have read in Newsletters and emails the plans for *Olga* in the coming sailing season, and she is now well-established as a central pillar in our extra-curricular programme. We have an exciting season of sailing planned, and are hopeful that by the time the summer comes, restrictions will have been lifted to such an extent that as many of our pupils as possible will be able to sail her.