



# St Helena School

## Newsletter

4 October 2019  
Autumn Term - Issue 2

### Diary Dates

**9th October**  
**Year 11 Sigma Careers**  
**Convention**

10:10am - 12:30pm

**17th October**  
**Year 11 Parents Evening**

4:30pm - 7:30pm

### Half Term

Monday 28th October -  
Friday 1st November

### Message from the Headteacher

Staff and students at St Helena School have had a busy start to the year. Our 200 new Year 7 students have settled in well and are getting to grips with the location of their teaching spaces. It is always an exciting time of the year for these new recruits and I am delighted to report they have all made the transition to St Helena School look easy!

Our older students in Year 11 have returned to face a challenging year ahead. However, they are showing huge amounts of motivation and dedication already, clearly being propelled by their impressive English Literature outcomes in the summer. We held GCSE Information Evenings for our Year 10 and 11 parents earlier this term. This gave families the opportunity to gain an understanding of the year ahead and how to support their children during the exam season.

We have been busy promoting St Helena School in our Primary Communities and our Transition Roadshows visited all Year 6 students in our priority admission area. Our open events have been well attended and extended in order to accommodate all the interest of our local families. A gentle reminder that all secondary applications need to be made by **31st October 2019**.

We have hosted a series of visitors to St Helena School to facilitate the learning opportunities of our young people including:

- A road safety play by The Riot Act for all year 7 students.
- A surviving holocaust visitor to Key Stage 4 History lessons.
- Events organisers to support our brand new Events Management course.

We have also started our exciting school trip offer with:

- A visit to the University of Essex for the Dora Love Prize for students in Year 9.
- Our Youth Health Champions visited the new Paxman Academy site.
- Our Year 8 and 9 students took part in the Raytheon Quadcopter Challenge Fly day in Harlow.

A busy yet productive start to the year at St Helena School.

**Fiona Pierson**  
Headteacher

## **Road Safety - Polite Reminder**

The yellow zig zag areas outside of school should be kept clear.

Parents are asked not to use the school car park as a drop off or collection point.

Thank you for your assistance.

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## **Bus Queuing System**

There is a new system in place for students who get a bus from outside of school. Students now queue inside the school, where it is warm and dry and staff on duty let students know when their bus has arrived.

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## **Entrance instructions to St Helena School**

All students will now enter through the far West gate into the West playground and canteen area. Students can enter site from 8am and must stay in the West side of the school - playground, undercover area and canteen. When the bell sounds students can make their way to their form room .

All bike traffic must go along the Play Football path to lock their bikes in the shed. Students must then walk back up the path and use the same far West gate to enter the school.

Any students who arrive to school between 8:35 am - 9:00 am should use the West Entrance as this is where the late gate has been moved to.

Any students arriving to school after 9:00 am should use the main central gate.

## **Exit instructions from St Helena School**

Any student who is catching a bus must wait in the West corridor for their bus.

Any student who walks West towards Hilly Fields must also leave through the West gate.

All students who walk East towards Town must leave through the Play Football path.

All cyclists will also leave through the Play Football path.

We are aiming to reduce the traffic at the front of our school and hope that these measures will allow us to do this.

## School Photographs

Our pupils have been photographed by the award-winning Carmel Jane Photography team. Your child will have brought home an A5 flyer containing a QR code to their individual gallery. If your child is in Year 11 their group photograph will appear in their individual gallery. The photos are of a very high quality so we are sure you will want to view them. Please log in using the information on the flyer. If you have lost your code, please contact the school office. If you need assistance ordering your image, please contact the Carmel Jane Team on:

[www.carmeljane.co.uk](http://www.carmeljane.co.uk)  
Telephone: 01277 822674  
Email: [info@carmeljane.co.uk](mailto:info@carmeljane.co.uk)



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## Medication

We are no longer able to issue any non prescription medication without prior **written** consent. If your son/daughter may need medication during the school day please could you send it in the original box with either a note or a completed medication consent form. Consent forms can be downloaded from our website or available from the Front Office or the Medical Room. If you have any queries please contact Ms Wild in the Medical Room.

# Event Operations

We are very excited to announce a new subject within the Humanities department of Event Operations.

The new Year 9 students are the first to have the opportunity to take this course and they have all got off to a fantastic start. The first few weeks of the term have been spent learning about all the different types of events, the skills required to organise, manage and run an event and the importance of teamwork in order for it to be a success.

The students have planned their first event here in school by promoting Event Operations at our Open Evening. Students were tasked with creating a room to show off to the incoming Year 5 and 6 students and their parents, the key aspects of what this course offers, including the key aspects of planning an event with the theme of the evening being "Planning an event".

In order to assist the students with this task we had a visit from Mrs Copeland who organises events within the school. She showed her wealth of experience of the key elements and details that need to be considered. The students found this a valuable starting point in terms of the planning and execution of a school event. In addition to this the class have also been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to meet James Young who is Operations Manager for Events at Colchester Borough Council and Megan Ruff who is an Events and Marketing Assistant also from Colchester Borough Council. This visit was a fantastic opportunity for the students to gain an understanding of planning larger events but also to think about the next steps and where a qualification in event operations could potentially lead to in the workplace. This was a very interactive visit and students had lots of questions and were inspired by our visitors. We are very much looking forward to working with them more in the future.

There are some very exciting times ahead for our Event Operation students and I look forward to updating you on what else we have been up to in the coming months.

Miss Smith

Teacher of Humanities/Event Operations

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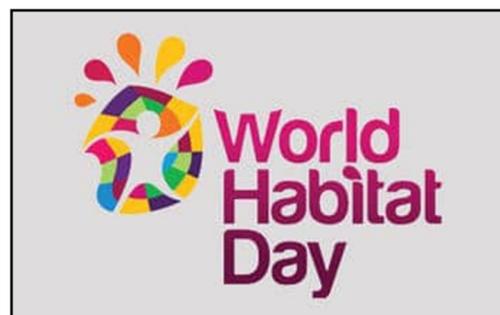
## **World Habitat Day**

It is the U.N. World Habitat Day on the 7th October. The day focuses on raising awareness of the fact that many people around the world do not have a good shelter to live in. At St Helena School, Form Tutors have been talking to their groups about how important it is to have a safe, clean and secure habitat to live in.

2019 focuses on the problem of waste around our towns and cities, and how bad waste management is increasing global warming and the spread of disease.

You can find out more about the day and how you can help at this web link:

<https://www.un.org/en/events/habitatday/>



## Dora Love Prize

On the 26th September St Helena School took a group of Year 9 students to Essex University to participate in the Dora Love Prize. The Dora Love Prize seeks to raise awareness of the Holocaust and encourage students to understand the reasons why the Holocaust took place.

The following link is the press release from the University featuring a photo of our students hard at work, as well as with Holocaust Survivor Frank Bright.

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/news/2019/09/27/dora-love-induction-day-2019-20>



### Student Summary by Lexi Talbot

Dora Love was a Holocaust survivor and this project is about looking deeper into discrimination and how to fight against it. During the day, we participated in many activities including Drama and Art workshops, Photography, research into genocides, gender discrimination and more. At the end of the day, we had the amazing opportunity to speak to a Holocaust survivor, Frank Bright. He told us about his experience in the Holocaust

Now we have the task of creating our own project to help stand together against discrimination. Thank you to the History department for organising this wonderful experience and trip!

## Holocaust Survivor Visitor

Mrs Susie Barnett, a Holocaust survivor, visited St Helena school on Wednesday 25th September. Mrs Barnett shared her testimony with nearly 200 of our students and staff. She spoke about her experiences, and those of her immediate family, sharing the story of how she came to leave Nazi Germany, and of her father's experience in a concentration camp.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to hear a first hand testimony of a Holocaust survivor. The mature response of our students, underlined the impact that Mrs Barnett's testimony had upon them.



### Students' Summaries

#### The Holocaust Brought to Life

By Thomas Setchell

Today at St Helena's School, we were privileged to hear the recollections of a Holocaust survivor. Having lived in the United Kingdom since a small child she spoke eloquently about her mother and father, showing pictures and playing a recording of her mother's voice. She told how her father was dragged from his home by the German army to work in forced labour camps. Leaving his pregnant wife and children to fend for themselves. When she was born she was placed into 7 different foster homes in the UK. Her older sister and brother were separated after being evacuated via the kinder train. She and her mother escaped 5 weeks before the exterminations in the concentration camps began. Her mother came to England under the guise of a kosher cook. Susie Barnett talked about the Jewish Society who informed her mother that if they could pay her father could be released from the work camps. Luckily some non Jewish friends of the family aided the funding of the train ticket by slipping food and money through the door until enough money was raised for his train ticket. Her mother waited for the father at the train station and when she couldn't see him the mum fainted. Sadly due to the harsh treatment he had received the father was unrecognisable. Her father told her of the horrors in the camp and of the gravel paths which they were forbidden to walk on. He told of the gory series of murders the guards performed for their own amusement. How, that evil prevails if good people do not speak out against evil acts against others as "it's nothing to do with us."

## My Meeting With A Holocaust Survivor

By Georgia Setchell

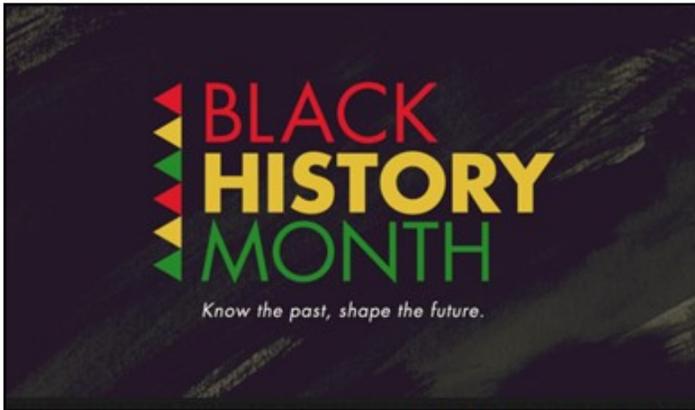
It was Wednesday 25th September 2019, a normal school day at St Helena School when I had the privilege to sit and listen to the life story of a holocaust survivor. Her name is Susie Barnett and she told us of her and her families troubles during the Nazi control over Germany and her journey to England.

As I walked into the assembly hall, the air was thick with seriousness and a silent respect was felt throughout each pupil and teacher for this amazing woman. She began with an image of her father on the screen and started to recall her parents and siblings along side family images including one of herself as a baby. We were even honored to hear a recording of her mother's voice. Throughout the hour we sat and experienced her life, we heard about her father being ripped away from her pregnant mother and siblings to be forced into a labour camp, as well as how her siblings escaped Germany on Kindertransport. Soon after herself and her mother joining them only just escaping 5 weeks before war broke out. We were also relieved to hear that her father (with the help of a payment made by her mother) was released from the concentration camp and was given 4 weeks to leave the country and so, he became a refugee in Singapore. Unfortunately, although all 6 members of her family eventually ended up in England, they were never able to live as family following the horrific events they escaped.

I was fortunate enough to be picked along with a handful of other Year 11s to have lunch with Susie Barnett and continue to be enlightened by her life and the research she had to do, in order to verify each date of these dreadful occurrences inflicted upon her family. Moreover, she discussed how her research was easily found due to the Nazi's pleasure and obsession of keeping records - we even saw a document of names upon names of innocent Jews that were slaughtered. She wondered what kind of people would keep a document of names of people being sent to the gas chambers. During our lunch with Mrs Barnett, she also confided in us that when she was first told about the turmoil her family endured she didn't truly understand the gravitas of what she was being told until later in life, which is why she decided to go around schools and educate the younger generations of the absolute evil that took hold of the world killing 6 million Jews, 1.5 million children being murdered for simply being themselves and being responsible for the collapse of her family, hoping that we don't make or let the same evil take hold of the world again, nor should we ignore the bad things that occur no matter how small because, if anything from this talk we have learned that evil can grow and cause immense damage to millions.

I am still so shocked and disgusted at the profoundly wicked things that were inflicted upon perfectly innocent people. I hope that a mass genocide like this never again occurs in human history because, if we as a society cannot learn from the lives of people like Susie Barnett I don't know how we will ever learn or change and that for me is a true sad statement of our society today. I hope that a child never has to feel the fear, insecurity or cruelty that Susie Barnett, her siblings and millions of other children had to feel during this dark mark on history, which we should never forget or take lightly otherwise there may be grave consequences.

# Black History Month



## What is it? **BLACKHISTORY** Celebrating Great Black British Achievers **365**

- During October the UK Celebrates Black History Month. Although Black History Month has been celebrated every February in the USA since 1970, it was not officially celebrated in the UK until 1987 when it was organised by the activist Akyaba Addai-Sebo who, at the time was the coordinator for special projects for the Greater London Council. The first Black History Month was celebrated only in London, but in the years since, the celebration has spread across the whole UK.

## What is it about?

## **BLACKHISTORY** Celebrating Great Black British Achievers **365**

- The main aims of Black History Month are to celebrate the achievements and contributions of black people not just in the UK, but throughout the world and also to educate all on black history.

## How is it celebrated?

## **BLACKHISTORY** Celebrating Great Black British Achievers **365**

- During October there are many events to celebrate Black History Month, across the country special classes and celebrations are arranged within schools and African and Caribbean societies at universities put on special events and lectures. Museums and art galleries have special themed exhibits, and there are also many special themed shows about Black History Month on the TV and Radio.
- If you would like to get involved and discover more about black history, you will find a full listing of events and exhibitions taking place across the UK on the official Black History Month website [www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk](http://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk).

## How Black Soldiers Helped Britain in First World War



- **WALTER TULL** has become the most celebrated black British soldier of the First World War. He enlisted in December 1914, suffered shell shock, returned to action in the battle of the Somme and was decorated with the 1914-15 star and other British war and victory medals.
- Commissioned as an officer in 1917, Tull was mentioned in dispatches for his 'gallantry and coolness' at the battle of Pieve in Italy in January 1918, but two months later he was killed in No Man's Land during the second battle of the Somme.



## **BLACKHISTORY** Celebrating Great Black British Achievers **365**

## Rosa Parks

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



- Rosa Parks was a civil rights activist who refused to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Her defiance sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott; its success launched nationwide efforts to end racial segregation of public facilities in the USA.

## Mary Seacole

## **BLACKHISTORY** Celebrating Great Black British Achievers **365**

- Mary Seacole's reputation after the Crimean War (1853-1856) rivalled Florence Nightingale's. Unlike Nightingale, Seacole also had the challenge to have her skills put to proper use in spite of her being black. A born healer and a woman of driving energy, she overcame official indifference and prejudice.



## Martin Luther King



- Martin Luther King Jr. was a scholar and minister who led the civil rights movement in the USA.
- He helped coordinate the Montgomery Bus Boycott with Rosa Parks.
- On August 28, 1963, the historic March on Washington drew more than 200,000 people in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. It was here that King made his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech, emphasizing his belief that someday everybody could be equal.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



# Learning Resource Centre

## Book Reviews

To coincide with the visit to St Helena School of a survivor of the Holocaust, one of this month's books is *'Questions I am asked about the Holocaust'* by Hedi Fried.

'Did you Dream at night?'

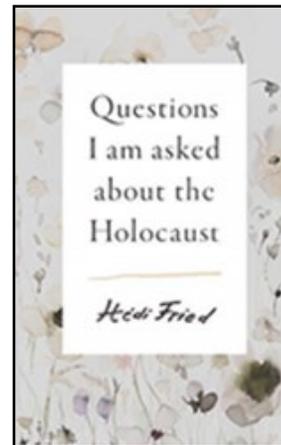
'Were you always hungry?'

'Were you afraid?'

'There are no stupid questions, nor any forbidden ones, but there are some questions that have no answer.'

Hedi Fried was 19 when the Nazis took her family from their home in Eastern Europe and transported them to Auschwitz, where her parents were murdered. Hedi and her sister were forced into hard labour until the end of the war. She is 94 and still spends her life

educating young people about the Holocaust and answering their questions about one of the darkest periods of human history. Each chapter within the book is a question answered by Hedi.



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To learn more consider reading; Vanessa Curtis' *The Earth is Singing (YA)*, Yankev Glatshiteyn's *The Storm to Come (YA)*, John Boyne's *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (YA)* or Anne Frank's *Diary*.

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October 3<sup>rd</sup> is National Poetry Day so this review is a poetry book, *Everything all at Once* by Steven Camden. In it he tries to give poetic voice to teen experiences and life at secondary school.

'All together. Same place.

Same walls. Same space.

Every emotion

Under the sun

Faith lost. Victories won.

It doesn't stop. Until the bell.

*Everything All At Once* is a collection of poems about one week in a secondary school where everything happens all at once. Zooming in across our cast of characters, we share

moments that span everything from hoping to make it to the end of the week, facing it, fitting in, finding friends and falling out, to loving lessons, losing it, and worrying, wearing it well and worshipping from afar.



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If you like poetry then try reading *Rising Stars – New Young Voices in Poetry*, James Carter's *Journey to the Centre of my Brain* or *Overheard in a Tower Block* by Joseph Coelho.

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# Learning Resource Centre

## Scholastic Book Club

This terms Scholastic Book Club leaflets were given to all pupils. Many of the books are on sale cheaper than recommended prices. Book ownership is one way of promoting reading and for every book bought, St Helena School earns cash-back to buy books for the Library. You can now buy online by going to <https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/schools/st-helena> Choose the interactive Teen brochure. Select your book and then go to the basket to pay. For more information just ask at St Helena School Learning Resource Centre/Library.



## Public Library Membership

If you're not a member of your local library think about joining. Membership gives you free access to books to help with studies or work. There are a variety of formats to support reading for pleasure e.g. audio books or graphic novels. Now from home your library card allows you to use many online resources. You can borrow online books or look at current, and past copies, of popular magazines & newspapers. There's also access to free resources to help with business, the arts, music, homework, history (including family history), current affairs, encyclopaedias

and dictionaries. Finally, you can complete a range of online courses including languages, IT, office practise, and personal development. All this for free. It's a 'no-brainer' get a library card.

For more information go to;

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/>

## Book Return

Could I ask parents of pupils in Years 9 , 10 & 11 to check if they have any St Helena School library books? If you do have any please return them to the LRC. Charges will be added to ParentPay for any books not returned.

## Collected at St Helena School

Do you have spare/used school uniform/school PE kit in good condition? Please bring it to reception and we will ensure that it reaches other pupils in need of it!

Any excess school uniform will be donated to a local charity.



School Blazer

Grey Trousers

Grey Pleated Skirt (with logo)

White Shirt

School Tie

School sweater



# Dyslexia Assist

By Parents for Parents : By Children for Children

## Free dyslexia drop in

Monday 7th October 2019

11 am-3.00 pm

Colchester Hub, Unit 81, Culver Street East, Colchester, CO1 1LF  
(opposite St Helena Hospice Shop, near Primark).

Specialist tutor and dyslexia assessors to offer free advice and support

Free vouchers for on line dyslexia screeners

Discount codes for on line learning programmes

We are here to help  
**Dyslexia-Assist**  
By parents for parents  
By children for children

Find/share learning tips   Find/share experiences   Find/share friendly tutors

[Dyslexia-Assist.org.uk](http://Dyslexia-Assist.org.uk)

British **Dyslexia** Association

**Dyslexia Awareness Week 2019**

# [DyslexiaAwarenessWeek](https://www.instagram.com/dyslexiaawarenessweek)

# [GoGreenforDyslexia](https://www.instagram.com/gogreenfordyslexia)

Get in touch: [dyslexiaassist@outlook.com](mailto:dyslexiaassist@outlook.com)



Interested in **training** to

**teach?**

**Contact** the **outstanding**  
**primary & secondary**  
graduate **teacher training**  
provider in North Essex & South Suffolk

**Open Evening**  
**17 October 2019**

4.30 - 6.30pm  
Talk at 5.30pm



Held at:  
Colchester Teacher Training Consortium  
Colchester County High School for Girls  
Norman Way, Colchester CO3 3US

**Please book via:**

T: 01206 364728

[www.colchesterttc.org.uk](http://www.colchesterttc.org.uk)

[enquiries@colchesterttc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@colchesterttc.org.uk)



# Extra Curricular Activities

Breakfast club every morning Mon – Fri 08.00am – 08.30am no registration required

<b>Monday</b>				
	<b>Club</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Who to see/ How to sign up</b>
<b>Lunch time</b>	French Club	1.25pm- 2.05pm	Room 27	Mrs Longshaw
	Girls Basketball Years 9-11	1.25pm- 2.05pm	PE Department	Mrs Brown
<b>After school</b>	Homework club	3.05pm-4.05pm	LRC	Mrs Wrobel or Ms Martin
	VEX Robotic	3.05pm-5.00pm	Room 53	Mr James <i>Sign up required</i>
	Netball Year 7	3.15pm-4.15pm	PE Department	Miss Taylor

<b>Tuesday</b>				
	<b>Club</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Who to see/ How to sign up</b>
<b>Lunch time</b>	Drone club	1.25pm- 2.05pm	Room 53	Mr James <i>sign up required</i>
	KS3 Band	1.25pm- 2.05pm	Room 15	Mrs Davis
<b>After school</b>	Warhammer	3.10pm-4.30pm	Room 44	Mr Johnson <i>sign up required</i>
	Arduino	3.05pm-5.00pm	Room 56	Mr James <i>sign up required</i>
	Rugby Years 7 and 8	3.15pm-4.15pm	PE Department	Mr Goldrick and Mr Wray
	Running club Years 7-11	3.15pm-4.15pm	PE Department	Mr Stammer and Mr Woulf <i>Per- mission slip required</i>
	KS3 and Group( s) 4	3.05pm- 3.50pm	Room 15	Mrs Davis

# Extra Curricular Activities

<b>Wednesday</b>				
	<b>Club</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Who to see/ How to sign up</b>
<b>Lunch time</b>	Keyboard Club	1.25pm- 2.05pm	Room 16	Miss Cann
	PlayFootball Years 10 and 11	1.25pm- 2.05pm	PlayFootball	Open session, bring your own ball
	Boys Basketball Years 7-9	1.25pm- 2.05pm	PE Department	Mr Goldrick and Mr Wray
	Film club	1.25pm- 2.05pm	Art department	Miss Mayne
<b>After school</b>	Homework club	3.05pm-4.05pm	LRC	Mrs Wrobel or Ms Martin
	STEM	3.05pm-4.15pm	Room 50	Miss Clark sign up required
	Girls Basketball Year 7	3.15pm-4.15pm	PE Department	Mr Blaydes
	Netball Years 8-11	3.15pm-4.15pm	PE Department	Miss Leppard and Mrs Brown
	Football Years 7-9	3.15pm-4.15pm	PE Department	Mr Goldrick and Mr Wray
	Theatre Club	3.05pm-4.05pm	East Hall	Miss Hall

# Extra Curricular Activities

<b>Thursday</b>				
	<b>Club</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Who to see/ How to sign up</b>
<b>Lunch time</b>	Playfootball Years 8 and 9	1.25pm- 2.05pm	Playfootball	Open session, bring your own ball
	Year 9-11 Exam PE students (Practical Sports)	1.25pm- 2.05pm		Miss Leppard
	Art club Years 7 and 8	1.30pm- 2.00pm	Art department	Miss Adams-Beales <i>limited spaces</i>
	Keyboard Club	1.25pm- 2.05pm	Room 16	Miss Cann for KS3 only
<b>After school</b>	<b>Drone club</b>	<b>3.05pm-4.30pm</b>	<b>Room 53</b>	<b>Mr James <i>sign up required</i></b>

<b>Friday</b>				
	<b>Club</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Who to see/ How to sign up</b>
<b>Lunch time</b>	PlayFootball Years 7 and 10	1.25pm- 2.05pm	PlayFootball	Open session, bring your own ball
<b>After school</b>	<b>Choir</b>	<b>3.05pm-4.00pm</b>	<b>Room 16</b>	<b>Miss Cann</b>
	Girls Basketball Years 7 and 8	3.15pm-4.15pm	PE Department	Mr Blaydes

## Useful Links



<http://www.go4schools.com>

On Go 4 Schools you can see your child's reports, progress, timetable, homework and attendance. To register the site you must have an email address registered with the school.

<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>



ClassCharts is an online system which teachers and school staff use to track achievement and behaviour.

<https://www.parentpay.com/Parents/Login>

ParentPay is our online payment system.



## Term Dates 2019/20

<b><u>Autumn Term</u></b>	<b>3 September 2019 (Year 7 only)</b> <b>4 September 2018 (Whole School)</b>	<b>19 December 2019</b> <b>(School will close at 1:25pm)</b>
<b>Half Term</b>	28 October 2019	1 November 2019
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	20 December 2019	3 January 2020
<b><u>Spring Term</u></b>	<b>6 January 2020</b>	<b>3 April 2020</b> <b>(School will close at 1:25pm)</b>
<b>Half Term</b>	17 February 2020	21 February 2020
<b>Easter Holidays</b>	6 April 2020	17 April 2020
<b><u>Summer Term</u></b>	<b>20 April 2020</b>	<b>17 July 2020</b> <b>(School will close at 1:25pm)</b>
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	Bank Holiday Friday 8 May 2020	
<b>Half Term</b>	25 May 2020	29 May 2020

### **There are five non-pupil days:**

- 2 September 2019
- 29 November 2019
- 24 February 2020
- 20 July 2020
- 21 July 2020