

Monday 13th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Day of Summer Term

Term will end at 2pm on Wednesday 22nd July. The Learning Hub will close at 2pm and the buses will depart at 2.10pm, including the No 5 public bus. This will be a non-school uniform day, raising money to support The Friends of the Yeatman Hospital, the charity selected by our School Council. A fee of £1 can be donated via Wisepay.

@Gryphon Newsletter

Please look out for our @Gryphon Summer Newsletter, which will be published on our website at the end of term and contains all our news about the past term: [Newsletters: News & Events - The Gryphon School: Sherborne](#).

Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day, known as The Gryphon Games, will take place on Monday 20th July, with a reserve date of Tuesday 21st July. This much-anticipated event sees all students taking part in a wide range of activities, from traditional athletics to alternative sports such as mountain biking and skateboarding. Students will choose four different activities to participate in, culminating in a whole-school gathering for the 4x100m relays and the ever-popular Inter-Tutor Tug of War. It's a fantastic celebration of sport, teamwork, and school spirit, with tutor groups competing for glory and points towards the final Inter-Tutor trophy, to be awarded in the end-of-year assembly. Please ensure students come prepared for a full day outdoors with suitable clothing, sunscreen, sun hats, and water bottles.

Autumn Term 2026-27

The induction day for new Y7 and Y12 students takes place on **Thursday 3rd September**. All students return to school for the new 2026-27 academic year on **Friday 4th September**.

SEND Leadership Update

We are delighted to share that we have expanded our SEND Leadership Team with two additional qualified SENCOs from within our existing staff. Each SENCO will now support specific year groups, following students throughout their school journey to ensure consistency and strong relationships:

- Mrs Griffiths – For 2026/27 Years 8 & 10 rdg@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk
- Mr Thomas – For 2026/27 Years 9 & 11 cth@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk

Mr Cracknell (HOY7) continues to be the primary link for Year 7 students and Miss West for our 6th form students. For matters already in progress, please continue to contact Miss West (SENCO) as usual. For new queries, we kindly ask that you contact your child's allocated SENCO. We are confident this enhanced structure will further strengthen support for our students and families.

Headteacher: Mr J. Gower

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WisePay – Cashless catering

We use WisePay for parents to top up your child's lunch account balance. From September we will move to a fully cashless system, meaning students will no longer be able to top up their WisePay balance in the school canteen. If you have forgotten your WisePay details or need support, please email student.hub@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk. We appreciate your support as we work towards a smoother and more efficient payment system for all.

Aspens

From September 2026, Aspens, our catering provider at The Gryphon School, will increase the price of the daily meal deal from £2.90 to £3.00. This increase of 10p reflects the rising costs associated with the National Living Wage, as well as inflationary pressures affecting both labour and food ingredients. Despite these increased costs, Aspens remains committed to providing our students with a wide range of high-quality, nutritious meals that offer excellent value and support their health and wellbeing throughout the school day. The Free School Meal allowance will match the increased price of the meal deal.

Safeguarding Perimeter Fence

To strengthen site security, installation of our new perimeter fence will take place over the summer holidays, ready for the start of the new academic year in September. The fence will be installed at key points along the school boundary to ensure the site is fully secure. School gates will be locked at 8:45am each morning, with access after this time managed via a maglock entry system. Alongside enhancing site security, these measures are also intended to help support improved punctuality at the start of the school day.

Students On Site Policy

To support the safety and wellbeing of all students, I would like to clarify our expectations regarding students being on site outside the formal school day.

- **Before School:** Students should not arrive on site before 8.00am. Between 8.00am and 8.30am, students may use the tennis courts (for football or informal recreation), Quad One, or the café area only. Please note that students on site during this time are not supervised by school staff, as the formal school day has not yet begun. From 8.30am, students may move through the school to their lessons, and supervision will begin in line with our normal pastoral and timetable arrangements.
- **After School:** Students may remain in the Learning Hub until 4.15pm (Monday to Thursday) and until 3.45pm on Fridays; this provision is supervised. Homework Club also runs in the Learning Hub on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and all students are welcome to attend. In addition, students may take part in after-school clubs, where they will be supervised by staff for the duration of the activity. Once a club finishes and the supervising member of staff leaves site, students must also leave promptly. Students must not remain on site unsupervised in any other areas outside of these provisions. Thank you for your support in ensuring students follow these expectations.

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Uniform, Jewellery, & Mobile Phones – Reminders

Uniform

All students are expected to wear the correct uniform: navy sweatshirt and white polo shirt with the school emblem, smart black trousers (not leggings), Charleston-style black skirt, or knee-length tailored shorts. Footwear should be black shoes or all-black trainers, no boots or casual shorts.

Jewellery

A reminder that students may only wear small stud earrings and a single nose stud; all other jewellery and facial piercings are not permitted. This includes visible necklaces and bracelets. Students will be asked to remove any non-compliant items. Please support us by ensuring your child follows this policy.

Mobile Phones

In line with new Government legislation banning mobile phones in schools, we will continue to enforce a strict 'never used, seen or heard' policy throughout the school day. All phones must be switched off and kept securely in students' bags until 3.10pm; if you need to contact your child, please do so via the Student Hub or Year Office and messages will be passed on. To support this, all students must bring a suitable school bag each day to carry their equipment. Any phone seen or carried in a pocket will be confiscated and will result in an automatic Level 3 detention.

Key Dates for the next half term

Tuesday 1st September – Inset Day
Wednesday 2nd September – Inset Day
Thursday 3rd September – Year 7 and 12 Students only in school
Friday 4th September – All students back to school
Thursday 1st October – Year 6 Open Evening
Thursday 8th October – Y11 Parent-Teacher Evening
Thursday 22nd October – 6th Form Open Evening
Friday 23rd October – Inset Day
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October – Half Term

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your ongoing support and encouragement. We appreciate the partnership we have in ensuring the best possible experience for our students. As we approach the summer holidays, I hope you all find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends.

Yours faithfully,



Jim Gower
Headteacher
The Gryphon School

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