

Monday 23rd March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Good Luck to our Year 11 and Year 13 Students

As our Year 11 and Year 13 students prepare to sit their public exams this summer, we want to wish them all the very best of luck. We are incredibly proud of their resilience, dedication, and hard work, and we have every confidence in their success. A huge thank you also to our staff, who have worked tirelessly to support and prepare them so well. Please follow this link to find [GCSE & A-Level Information for Parents & Guardians](#).

Last day of term

The Spring Term will end at 3.10pm as usual on Friday 27th March. The Learning Hub will close at 4pm. It will be a non-school uniform day, with a £1 fee, which can be donated via Wisepay. Money raised will be going to our Gryphon 'Lent Challenge' to support a project to build a secondary school in the Diocese of Ezo, a region of South Sudan. South Sudan is a desperately poor part of the world where many young people don't have access to education. St Paul's School in Ezo has a Primary School building, but no building to accommodate secondary pupils; therefore, the challenge is to help provide the materials needed to build this. Any financial support will be enormously appreciated.

@Gryphon Newsletter

Please look out for our @Gryphon Spring 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](#).

Safeguarding Perimeter Fence

We have been successful in securing funding to install a new perimeter fence around the school site. This significant investment reflects our ongoing commitment to the safety and wellbeing of every young person in our community. The fencing will be erected at multiple locations along the school boundary to ensure the site is fully secure. We are aiming for this to be completed before students return in September for the Autumn term. Once in place, school gates will be locked at 8:45am each morning and access thereafter will be via a maglock entry system. In addition to strengthening site security, we hope these measures will further support and improve student punctuality at the start of the school day.

Lockdown drill

As part of our routine safety procedures, just as we practise fire drills, we also carry out occasional lockdown drills. In the coming days we will conduct a brief lockdown drill with students to ensure that staff and pupils are familiar with what to do and can

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respond calmly and confidently should such a situation ever arise. The exercise will be conducted in a calm and age-appropriate manner.

Oxbridge Success

We are especially proud to celebrate the exceptional achievement of five Year 13 students who have successfully secured Oxbridge offers. Caitlin (History) has received an offer from Cambridge University, while Esther (Philosophy, Politics & Economics), Jacob (English & History), Sofia (Experimental Psychology), and Toby (Mathematics) have each received offers from Oxford University. These represent extraordinary academic accomplishments. We are immensely proud of all our students and celebrate success in its many forms; however, offers from Oxford and Cambridge are rightly recognised as outstanding achievements. They reflect not only individual talent and hard work, but also the culture of aspiration, intellectual curiosity, and support that we strive to nurture across the whole school community.

Sherborne Abbey Music Festival: The Gryphon School Choirs with University Music Bournemouth Choir and Orchestra, Wednesday 6th May 7pm at Sherborne Abbey

The Gryphon School come together with Bournemouth University in an enticingly diverse programme, opening with Year 12 student Danny in Mozart's beguiling Third Horn Concerto. Purcell's stately birthday ode for Queen Mary *Come Ye Sons of Art*, famous for the aria 'Sound the Trumpet', provides a wealth of opportunity for the choir's soloists, while Chilcott's jazzy Mass setting is the deeply atmospheric closing.

Help us improve the Arbor Parent App!

We want to make sure the Parent App is as helpful as possible for you and your family. To do that, the team at Arbor would love to hear your thoughts.

How you can help - Arbor is looking for parents to join a small feedback group. From time to time, they'll reach out with a chance to:

- Test out new ideas before they're released
- Join a quick 30-60 minute online feedback session
- Share your experience of using the app

There's no pressure to join every session – you can just jump in whenever you have a spare moment to help make school life a little bit easier for every parent.

Sound interesting? You can sign up to hear more about the feedback sessions by [clicking here](#).

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Key Dates for the next half term

- Monday 13th April – INSET Day
- Tuesday 14th April – First Day of Term for Students (Week 2)
- Monday 27th April – Friday 1st May – Y10 Mock Exams
- Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th May – Y10 Work Experience Week
- Wednesday 6th May – Y9 Exams
- Wednesday 6th May – The Gryphon School Choirs with University Music Bournemouth Choir and Orchestra, Sherborne Abbey Music Festival, 7pm at Sherborne Abbey
- Thursday 7th May – GCSE & A Level Public Exams begin
- Friday 8th – Sunday 10th May – Ten Tors
- Friday 15th May – Y13 Leaving Day
- Friday 22nd May – Y11 Leaving Day
- Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 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 Easter 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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