

Monday 18th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parent Surveys 2025/26 – ‘You Said, We Did’.

We are deeply committed to working in partnership with parents. Your feedback is invaluable, and we want to thank everyone who took the time to share their views through this year’s parent surveys. We carefully review all constructive feedback and take meaningful action wherever possible. Accompanying this newsletter is a summary of the key themes raised and the steps we have taken in response, which we hope reflects how seriously we take your feedback. We will continue to listen, reflect, and improve, ensuring the best possible experience for all our students and families.

Celebration of Achievement Events

Our Celebration of Achievement events for Y7, Y8, Y9, Y10 and Y12 will take place from Monday 13th – Friday 17th July. The assemblies will celebrate the academic and personal progress of all our students. Parents of prize winners will be invited to attend; unfortunately, due to the capacity of the hall, we can’t invite all parents. The Y11 and Y13 Prizegiving, for all members of Y11 and Y13 and their families, will be in Sherborne Abbey on the evening of Thursday 10th September at 7pm.

Sports Awards Evening

Our Sports Awards Evening will take place on Tuesday 16th June at The Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne. Doors will open at 6.30pm for pupils and parents, who are invited to attend.

Performing Arts Events

We are delighted to invite you to two exciting upcoming events celebrating the creativity and talent of our students. On Wednesday 8th July at 6.30pm in Quarr Hall, our music students will present a Summer Soiree Concert, which promises to be an evening of outstanding musical talent. Meanwhile, in Drama, our Year 12 students have been leading an inspiring ‘Dance the Night Away at the Movies’ project with KS3 students. Their hard work will culminate in a performance on Thursday 9th July at 5pm, also in Quarr Hall. We look forward to seeing you there to support and celebrate their creativity and collaboration.

Yr13 Art & Design Exhibition

Our Y13 Art & Design Exhibition Open Evening for parents and guardians will be on Wednesday 8th July. You are warmly welcomed to visit the exhibition in the Conference Centre to view the exceptional work created by our supremely talented art & design students.

Headteacher: Mr J. Gower

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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.

Last Day of 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.

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.

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Key Dates for the next half term

- Tuesday 16th June – Sports Awards Evening
- Friday 26th June – Y11 into Y12 Induction Day
- Tuesday 7th July – Y6 into Y7 Induction Day
- Tuesday 7th July – Y13 Prom
- Wednesday 8th July – Music Summer Soiree Concert
- Wednesday 8th July – Y13 Art & Design Exhibition
- Thursday 9th July – ‘Dance the Night Away at the Movies’
- Thursday 9th July – Y11 Prom
- Monday 13th July – Y7 Celebration of Achievement
- Tuesday 14th July – Y8 Celebration of Achievement
- Wednesday 15th July – Y9 Celebration of Achievement
- Thursday 16th July – Y10 Celebration of Achievement
- Friday 17th July – Y12 Celebration of Achievement
- Monday 20th July – Sports Day
- Wednesday 22nd July – Last Day of Academic Year

Yours faithfully,

Jim Gower
Headteacher
The Gryphon School

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