

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back

We hope you had a restful and refreshing summer break. We are delighted to be welcoming our students back next week and are looking forward to a positive, inspiring, and successful academic year ahead at The Gryphon School.

The Gryphon School's Vision & LIFE Values

The vision of The Gryphon School, rooted in the Biblical teaching of John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full", is for every member of our school community to experience life in all its fullness. As a 10:10 school, we are committed to enabling Christian flourishing by actively living out our values in all aspects of school life. We aim to nurture each student's academic, personal, moral, and spiritual development, empowering them to grow into confident, compassionate individuals who fulfil their potential now and in the future. Our vision is brought to life through four core Christian values, known as our Gryphon **LIFE** values:

- **Leadership** – encouraging responsibility, courage, and service in our actions.
- **Integrity** – promoting honesty, respect, and doing what is right even when it is difficult.
- **Fellowship** – building inclusive, supportive relationships rooted in kindness and understanding.
- **Exploration** – fostering curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning.

These values shape our culture, guide our decisions, and are embedded in the daily life of the school. In the table below, we outline how these values are expressed in practice across our community. Every decision we make is aligned with our vision of being a school where all students and staff can truly live life to the full.

Leadership	Integrity	Fellowship	Exploration
The action of leading a group of people or an organisation.	The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.	Friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests.	The action of exploring an unfamiliar area.
"Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly" (Micah 6: 8)	"Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity" (Titus 2: 7)	"Do to others what you want them to do to you" (Luke 6: 31)	"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7: 7)
Team Captains	Attendance	School community (kindness, forgiveness & understanding others)	Academic aspiration
Year & School council	Uniform	Being part of a team	PSHRE & Careers programme
Equality & Diversity Council	Equipment	Assembly & Collective Worship	Trips & visits
Peer Mentors	Homework	Volunteering	Extra-curricular programme
Sports Leaders	Rewards	Fundraising & charitable support	Adventurous Training
Prefects	Outcomes	Helping at school events	Y6 Transition & Y9 Options

Headteacher: Mr J. Gower

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Attendance

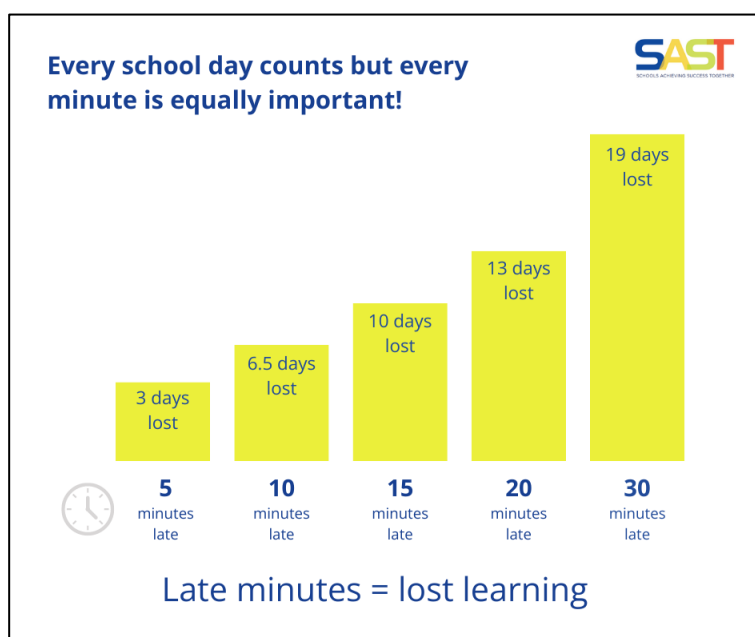
High attendance remains a key priority for us, and we are committed to working in partnership with families to address any challenges that may impact your child's attendance. The Department for Education's statutory guidance sets out clear expectations:

- Schools rarely authorise term-time leave.
- Holidays during term time cannot be authorised.
- Unauthorised holidays will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice, issued by the Local Authority under the new national framework.

To avoid penalties, we kindly ask that all holidays are booked outside of school term dates. If you have any questions or require support, please contact:
attendance@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk (Simon Evans, Attendance Officer).

Every Day Counts		
If you finish the academic year with the following attendance percentage this is the number of days and lessons, you will have missed.		
100%	0 days missed	0 lessons missed
98%	4 days missed	20 lessons missed
97%	6 days missed	30 lessons missed
95%	10 days missed	50 lessons missed
93%	13 days missed	65 lessons missed
90%	19 days missed	95 lessons missed
85%	28 days missed	140 lessons missed
80%	38 days missed	190 lessons missed
70%	57 days missed	285 lessons missed
Every Lesson Counts		

Punctuality



Improving punctuality is a key focus this academic year. Students should be on site by 8.40am, ready to start their first lesson by 8.45am. Lateness to lessons will be logged on Arbor, including the number of minutes late. If a student arrives more than five minutes late after teaching has begun, they will be transgressed to another classroom, which will also be recorded. Any student who receives three transgressions or accumulates over 30 minutes of lateness in a week will receive a Level 3 after-school detention. Your support in reinforcing the importance of punctuality is greatly appreciated.

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Uniform

A reminder that our uniform for students in all year groups is as follows:

- Navy sweatshirt and white polo shirt with the school emblem
- Black trousers– smart/tailored, the trousers should contain a zip to distinguish them from leggings. **Leggings/Jeggings are not allowed.**
- Black pleated (Charleston) style skirt.
- Black shoes or black trainers (only if all black). No boots.
- Students can also wear knee length tailored shorts. Sports shorts or cargo shorts are not allowed.

Mobile Phones – ‘Off and Away’

We operate a ‘never used, seen or heard’ mobile phone policy on the school campus. Students’ phones should be **‘off and away’** and stored in their bags throughout the school day, unless explicitly authorised by a member of staff. We recognise that many parents value their child having access to a phone before and after school, so students may carry their phones in their bag, but they must remain out of sight from 8.40am to 3.10pm.

Equipment

To support learning, please ensure your child is equipped each day with the following items: Pens, Pencil, Ruler, Rubber, Highlighter, Glue stick, and a Calculator. If students need to replace any items, they can use their praise points in the Praise Shop.

Toilets

We are continually reviewing how best to balance student comfort with classroom expectations. Students who need to use the toilet during lessons will be asked to wear a Toilet Pass lanyard. This will allow legitimate access while helping staff monitor corridor use and discourage misuse by a small minority.

@Gryphon

Our newsletter, @Gryphon, covering our activities last term can be found on our website:

[Newsletters: News & Events - The Gryphon School: Sherborne.](#)

Learning Hub

Our Learning Hub is open from 8.30am until 4.30pm on Mondays – Thursdays, and until 4pm on Fridays.

Parent-Teacher Evenings 2025/26

Following the successful introduction of a hybrid model for Parent-Teacher Evenings last year, we will continue to provide families with the choice between attending online or face-to-face appointments, offering flexibility to suit different preferences.

15.45 – 17.00	Online appointments available
17.00 – 17.15	Break for Teachers
17.15 – 18.30	Face to face appointments available

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Catering at The Gryphon School

Aspens, our dedicated school catering provider, specialise in delivering exciting, nutritionally balanced meals tailored for the education sector. Students purchase food using their thumbprint, with parents managing payments via WisePay. The Free School Meal allowance is £2.80, which matches the cost of the Aspens Meal Deal, which includes the main hot meal of the day, or an alternative such as pasta, a jacket potato or a sandwich, plus one item from a choice of a bottle of water, a home bake or a piece of fruit. Please ensure your child's WisePay account is kept topped up, as students are not permitted to borrow funds if their balance is insufficient. If you experience any issues accessing WisePay, please contact: student.hub@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk. Aspens also cater for food allergies and special dietary requirements.

Exam Results and Prizegiving

We were delighted with our GCSE and A level results this year; more details about the results are on our website. We will be holding our Y11 & Y13 Prize Giving this year in Sherborne Abbey. All students from last year's Y11 and Y13, and their families, are warmly invited to attend Prize Giving which begins at 7pm on Thursday 11th September.

Key Dates – Autumn Term

- Thursday 11th September Y11 & Y13 Prize Giving in Sherborne Abbey
- Wednesday 24th September Y11 Parent Forum
- Thursday 25th September Y12 Tutor Evening
- Thursday 2nd October Y6 into Y7 Open Evening
- Thursday 9th October Y11 Parent-Teacher Evening
- Thursday 23rd October Sixth Form Open Evening
- Friday 24th October INSET Day
- Monday 27th – Friday 31st October Half-Term
- Thursday 6th November Y13 Parent-Teacher Evening
- Thursday 13th November Adventurous Training Awards Evening
- Friday 14th – Friday 21st November Y11 Mock Exams 1
- Thursday 4th December Y7 Parent-Teacher Evening
- Thursday 11th – Wednesday 17th December Y13 Mock Exams 1
- Tuesday 16th December School Carol Service in Sherborne Abbey
- Thursday 18th December Last Day of Term (finish at 2pm)

Thank you for your on-going support for our school.

Yours faithfully,



Jim Gower
Headteacher
The Gryphon School

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