



For Year 11 pupils, the summer exam season has officially begun. Over the last five years pupils will have been working towards this moment, building on their subject knowledge and understanding in order to perform at their best during this time. Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

As a school, we are committed to providing an education of the highest quality and endeavour to provide an environment where all pupils feel valued and welcome. Parents and pupils play a part in making our school successful and share the responsibility for supporting and promoting excellent school attendance and punctuality for all.

Remember, it is not only important to come to school every day, it is equally important to arrive on time! Punctuality for exams and for the school day is crucial to ensure that your child's day starts smoothly and that pupils are in the right mindset to start learning and achieving.

ATTENDANCE FACTS

- Above 97% is less than 6 days absence a year.
• 95% is equivalent to missing 10 days.
• 90% is equivalent to missing 19 days, pupils are missing nearly a whole month of school and will struggle to make progress.
• 85% is 29 days absence a year! This is nearly six weeks of a school year!
• 80% pupils with this attendance are missing a day for every week of school, that's 38 days absence!
• Every school day counts towards your child's future. Did you know that there are a total of 175 non-school days in a year? This time gives families the opportunity to spend time together, go on days out, go on holiday, and have social time.

'Attend today. Achieve tomorrow.'

Getting these important habits established early on will make a difference to a pupil's life, both academically and in their future chosen workplace. Attendance incentives, rewards and support are provided by the School to help pupils make every day matter. Thank you to all families who work hard all year to ensure their child's attendance and punctuality is high.

Lee Watts, Acting Assistant Headteacher

YEAR 11 BREAKFAST

We will be supplying free breakfast for all Year 11 pupils between 7.45am and 8.40am, on the days that they have a morning exam. Teachers will also be on-hand to give last minute advice and encouragement. Can we please encourage Year 11 pupils to take up this opportunity, which will commence on Monday 20 May, for the RE exam.

May we take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11 pupils good luck and great success with the upcoming exams.

EARLY CLOSURES

Friday 14 June: We say farewell to Year 11 after their final exam. School will be closing at 1.30pm for Years 7 to 10.

Monday 24 June: There is staff training and 2019-20 development planning for staff from 2.30pm until 5.30pm. School will be closing at 2.15pm for pupils.

If this causes any inconvenience, please contact the school so that arrangements can be made to supervise your child until normal closure time.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Tuesday 3 September 2019 - INSET Day
Wednesday 4 September 2019 - INSET Day
Thursday 5 September 2019- First Day of Term for Pupils
Friday 17 July 2020 - Last Day of Term 6 for Pupils
Monday 20 July 2020 - INSET DAY

PARENT GOVERNOR BALLOT

A ballot was recently held in respect of a new parent governor and, as a result, we are pleased to welcome Christopher Chapman to the governing body at St Catherine's College.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- May
20 Y8 HPV Immunisations
24 Last Day of Term 5
June
3 First Day of Term 6
14 Town Sports
14 Early Closure, 1.30pm



## “READING TAKES TOO LONG.....BOOKS ARE BORING.....I’D RATHER WATCH A FILM”

A report from Ms Simpson:

As an English teacher, I hear this all the time. Some friends even said it to me when I was at school. It confused me then and confuses me now. I could never understand how they didn’t know what I knew, the secret I found out as a girl, the same secret that many young people I teach have already discovered.

Reading can take you to places you have never been and may never have a chance to visit. You will meet characters who will open your eyes, challenge your beliefs and show you things you have never seen. You might experience every conceivable emotion. A writer can make you laugh and cry or feel outrage, desperation and joy – all in the space of a few pages.

If you like stories. If you love hearing your friends or family share their exploits and adventures. If you enjoy watching films and binge-watching that must-see TV box set. You will enjoy reading. If you think you do not enjoy reading, then you have not yet found the right book for you; the book that will light a fire in your heart and imagination. It is out there, waiting for you.

George R R Martin, author of Game of Thrones, says, “A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one.”

In 2019, we have access to so much technology – it is simple to flick on the TV and begin watching. It’s instant, it’s easy and we don’t have to think to do it, but since when was it a good thing not to think?

At St Catherine’s College, we want our young people to question, to broaden their horizons and to live a thousand lives. The most powerful way to do this is through reading. It is vital that, as a school and community, we pledge to do this and help to transform our pupils’ lives.

Over the coming weeks we will be focusing on reading across the school. There will be further updates on how to get involved and support a love of reading for our pupils, as well as an expectation that all pupils will participate and make an effort to enhance their reading skills.

*Pictured right is Mr Millen, History teacher, relaxing with a book.*



## ANNUAL DANCE PERFORMANCE

A report from Mrs McQueen:

On Tuesday 30 April, almost 100 pupils from Years 7 - 11 danced at our Annual Dance Performance held at Causeway School. Most of the performances were choreographed by Year 11 pupils as part of their final GCSE exam. There were some very mature pieces which showed a fantastic understanding of the choreographic process. Other pieces involved the Dance Club, which was choreographed by two trainee PE teachers from Brighton University and a class dance from Year 9 based on one of their set GCSE works about Brazilian life and carnival. A huge well done to all involved, particularly those who were performing for the first time. You were all awesome!!



## TOP HOUSE POINT ACHIEVERS

### Year 7

Amberley Connor **595**  
Chiamaka Nnamuka **505**  
Isabelle Steer **486**  
Ella Kendall **453**  
Imogen Forward **444**

### Year 8

Naomi Fraiss **505**  
Elizabeth Finn **503**  
June Maunga **502**  
Ethan Tasker-Taylor **493**  
Hannah Jeanes **488**



### Year 9

Berrie Robertson **514**  
Amber Davies **474**  
Amber Matthews **461**  
Joshua Capper **458**  
Sophia Pawley **452**

### Year 10

Hannah Cheeseman **562**  
Lois Hilton **503**  
Katherine Pawley **498**  
Alice King **492**  
Theodora Redmill **451**

### Year 11

Millie-Louise Thomas **752**  
Philippa Jewell **696**  
Evie Loose **684**  
Hannah Payne **609**  
Emmeline Bell **607**

## COMBINED CADET FORCE

A report from Mr Millen:

Eastbourne College Combined Cadet Force (CCF) staff proudly supported St Catherine's College CCF on their first overnight exercise. St Catherine's CCF is a new initiative as part of the Cadet Expansion Programme. The group has been steadily increasing in size over the last few months. The overnight exercise gave the cadets a first hand insight into what the CCF can offer pupils at St Catherine's. The cadets took part in various activities from basic survival, shelter building, tactics, teamwork and leadership.



## BIG FUTURES SHOW

A report from Mrs O'Connor:



On Tuesday 30 April, I had the privilege of taking 123 Year 10 pupils to the Big Futures Show. The pupils were brilliant ambassadors for the School. They took part in lots of different activities and competitions and spoke with a variety of training providers and employers.

A huge thank you to Tim Sorensen and his team, from the Eastbourne Business Partnership, for organising such a brilliant event. Feedback from our pupils was very positive and we will continue to work around their future career journey in PSHE.

If you have any questions regarding careers guidance, please contact me: [goconnor@stcatherines.college](mailto:goconnor@stcatherines.college).

## CHINA TRIP 2019

A week before the Easter holidays, two staff and twenty pupils embarked on a trip of a lifetime to China visiting the capital city of Beijing and Yangshou, a beautiful region in southern China. The itinerary for the trip was filled every day with a wide variety of sightseeing and activities. The activities in Beijing included: Summer Palace; Tianenmen Square; The Forbidden City; and, of course, the Great Wall of China. In Yangshou, pupils enjoyed bamboo rafting, rock climbing and much more. The Chinese cuisine was amazing, with pupils and staff enjoying high quality restaurant buffets at lunch and dinner every day.

One pupil said: *"Our trip to China was full of fun, excitement and adventure. There wasn't a minute when I was bored. We ate so much new food and tried lots of different things. It was an experience I will never forget! I am truly thankful for this experience."*

