

29 September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Year 9 Camp Cancellation

Due to unforeseen circumstances we are unable to go ahead with the Year 9 camp this year. We are currently working with Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team to plan an exciting onsite activity day that will take place in the Spring.

We are sorry for any disappointment this may cause.

Assemblies:

Year 9 and 10 assemblies this week are focused on raising academic achievement. Year 11 assemblies are career focused.

Year 10:

A communication will be sent out today regarding the process for changing options. A short transfer window for changing options has opened from today and will close on Friday 9th October.

Year 11:

Year 11 has made a strong start to the year and we are looking forward to helping them fulfil their considerable potential. As part of this process, I would like to make parents aware of our upcoming **Key Stage 4 Raising Achievement Evening on Thursday 8th October from 5.00-7.30pm**. During the evening, Year 11 students and their parents (in addition to Year 10 students/parents) will be able to attend a series of talks from different subject areas as well as specific talks on wider skills such as revision technique and dealing with stress. A letter detailing the sessions available and how to sign up to specific talks will come home to parents later this week and students will be briefed in assemblies about the format and purpose of the evening.

- **Revision guides:**

We have once again opened up on Arbor pay a window for parents to buy GCSE/BTEC revision guides for their son/daughter. The guides will be available to order from Monday 28th September to Friday 9th October. The order will then close so that we can order them from the suppliers in time to receive and distribute the books to students before the end of term. Students can then make use of them for revision over the half term break. The first Year 11 mock exams are due to begin on Wednesday 4th November. Students will receive a timetable for this over the next 2 weeks.

- **Revision and coursework sessions:**

Please find attached the timetable for Year 11 revision and coursework sessions that take place after college or during lunchtime at the college. We strongly recommend that students attend a number of these sessions as they seek to build momentum towards their first mock exams and

beyond. Students have already been briefed on the timings of these sessions by their tutors with some students already attending sessions last week.

Free School Meals

From this September the Government has expanded free school meals so that every child whose household receives Universal Credit can now get them, whatever the household income so many more of our students may now be eligible.

The protection that let students keep free school meals even after a family's circumstances changed has ended. Somerset Council has therefore been re-checking the eligibility of every student. If you receive Universal Credit and your child does not currently have free school meals, please apply through Somerset Council at https://emsonline.somerset.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

Yours sincerely,



Dan Jeffries

Principal