



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 24

HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS...

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the festive season, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the achievements and milestones of the term. This period has been filled with wonderful moments of community spirit, learning, and growth.

Our Charity Days have been a fantastic demonstration of generosity and compassion, with students and staff uniting to support important causes. The spirit of giving has truly embodied the heart of our school and it has been heartwarming to see such enthusiasm and creativity.

Our personal development offer has also included a range of careers visits, Wellbeing on Wednesday sessions and external speakers. These visits have sparked curiosity and ambition, and we are incredibly proud of all our pupils. Bases have created their own calendars with a key focus each week to further expand their social, moral, spiritual and cultural horizons.

We recently held our annual awards evening for last year's leavers and hearing their reflections on life at Pilgrim and of their successful transitions is always an absolute privilege. We look forward to seeing our current and future pupils growing the same hope for their own futures as the next year unfolds.

We are incredibly proud of our school community so thank you for your ongoing commitment and support.

Looking ahead, we continue to draw inspiration from our school's golden thread of **Hope**—encouraging each student to dream big and persevere, no matter the challenges they may face.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and sharing some of our successes as staff and pupils continue to work together to create a safe haven for all who join us.

Please encourage pupils to come to school prepared for winter weather. Some learning/social activities see us heading outside and we also have regular fire drills, Thank you.

We wish you all a joyful and peaceful festive season. Warm regards, Steve Barnes



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Get in touch:

enquiries@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk

01522 682319

GOVERNORS' UPDATE...

It's been great to have a new Governor, Kate Wilson, join our team at the start of this term. As well as all the preparation for, and attendance at, the 2 Full Governing Body Meetings this term; Kate and I have visited all three bases and met with Sharon who heads up the Home Learners Team. It's a good induction into our amazing school and the way it operates on a daily basis. Kate is going to join our Pay Committee and The Head's Appraisal Committee so is beginning to find her feet.

This term we have also welcomed our new clerk, Imogen Lemon. Imogen has much experience in clerking school Governing Bodies, so we are very fortunate she has joined our team. Once the Minutes of our meetings have been agreed, they go on the school website as public documents so you will be able to see how we are getting along. Hard copies are also available from the school office in Lincoln.

As well as visiting the bases to quality assure what we are learning at our meetings, we have also carried out Safeguarding and SEND visits. At our meetings through the year, we cover things such as health and safety; the well-being of everyone involved with the school; leadership updates; school development plans as well as keeping up to date with our resource's portfolio. Our main concern is to make sure that everything that happens at Pilgrim is in keeping with our agreed policies and most importantly is an outworking of our vision and values.

At the start of next term, we will be looking to appoint a second parent governor. Please give this some thought and if you can offer your time, we would be pleased to hear from you. A full induction programme can be provided if this is a completely new area of volunteering for you so don't hesitate to apply!

All the Governors hope you have a restful break and enjoy quality time together.

Season's Greetings

Barbara Temple

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION...

The holiday season should be a time of joy, but it can also bring a fair share of stress. Between gift shopping, family gatherings, and endless to-do lists, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. This Christmas, take a step back and prioritize your well-being. Set realistic expectations, carve out time for self-care, and embrace the holiday spirit with a calm mindset. In this edition, we share practical tips to help you manage stress, stay present, and enjoy the magic of the season without the pressure. Here's to a peaceful, joyful holiday season for you and your loved ones!



TIPS FOR MANAGING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AT CHRISTMAS



If you or a loved one find yourselves in need of extra support, don't hesitate to reach out to those who can offer help. Below are some services for signposting:

Mind

- [Mind's helplines](#) provide information and support by phone and email. Our Info line is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm. It will be closed on 25 and 26 December 2023, and 1 January 2024.
- [Local Minds](#) offer face-to-face services across England and Wales. These services include talking therapies, peer support and advocacy. You can check your local Mind's website for Christmas opening times.
- [Side by Side](#) is our supportive online community for anyone experiencing a mental health problem. You can access the community any time, including on Christmas Day and other bank holidays.

Beat

Offers information and advice on eating disorders and runs a supportive online community. Beat's helplines are open 3pm – 8pm, Monday to Friday.

[0808 801 0677](tel:08088010677) (England)

[beateatingdisorders.org.uk](https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk)

<https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/your-stories/five-questions-about-christmas-eating-disorder/>

MoneyHelper

Provides free and impartial money advice. The MoneyHelper helpline is open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

[0800 138 7777](tel:08001387777) (English)

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en>

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

Free 24-hour helpline for women who have experienced domestic abuse and violence, with all female advisors. Also offers a live chat and can help to find refuge accommodation. Run by the domestic violence charity [Refuge](#).

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. They also have a [BSL helpline](#) available Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm. And a [live webchat](#) open Monday to Friday, 3pm to 10pm.

[0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247)

nationaldahelpline.org.uk

BECOME

Help, support and advice to children in care and young care leavers so that they can unleash their potential and take control of their lives.

[0800 023 2033](tel:08000232033)

www.becomecharity.org.uk

Runaway Helpline

Runaway Helpline is here if you are thinking about running away, if you have already run away, or if you have been away and come back. You can also contact the Helpline if you are worried that someone else is going to run away or if they are being treated badly or abused. You can call or text for free, 24 hours a day. It's all confidential.

116 000

www.runawayhelpline.org.uk

The Mix

Essential support for under 25s. Phone, Email, Web support and Counselling.

www.themix.org.uk/get-support/speak-to-our-team/crisis-messenger - **The Mix's Crisis Messenger text service** is available 24/7 and open to anyone aged 25 or under living in the UK.

If you're in crisis and need to talk, text **THEMIX to 85258**

0808 808 4994

www.themix.org.uk

Papyrus

CALL HOPELINE UK 0800 068 41 41

Children's Services

If you have a query or wish to report a safeguarding concern, contact 01522 782111 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm). For out-of-hours emergencies, call 01522 782333.

Police

Non-Emergency 101

Emergency 999

You don't need to be at rock bottom to ask for help

	Samaritans:	116 123
	Childline:	0800 111
	Mind:	0300 123 3393
	Young Minds:	Txt YM to 85258 (youth)
	Shout:	Txt 85258 (any age)
	Domestic abuse hotline:	0808 2000 247
	SANEline:	0300 304 7000
	Drink line:	0300 123 1110
	Cruse Bereavement Care:	0808 808 1677
	Age UK:	0800 169 6565

It's good to talk!

@youthwhispering

HOPE CURRICULUM...

At Pilgrim we identify Hope as the golden thread that runs through our school. The three strands of Hope theory are goal setting (no matter how tiny), considering different pathways to reach these goals and having the agency or belief in ourselves to make them happen.

Our Hope education is based around strong teaching and subject knowledge, hearing hopeful voices and learning hopeful vocabulary, stories and positive relationships. Our tutor times fulfil several of these aspects. Activities rotate between the following:

- Past pupil journeys – a brief overview of a previous pupil's time at Pilgrim and what they are up to now.

My story and Hope



- Hopeful words (as shared in previous newsletters)

***Kintsugi** is a Japanese word. It refers to the Japanese art of repairing broken ceramics (e.g. bowls and vases), with a glue infused with gold, leaving the pot looking even more beautiful than before.*



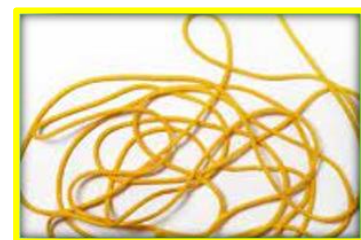
- Hopeful stories – selected by staff because they demonstrate goals, pathways and agency.



***Turtle Tunnels** – A heart-warming story about 'finding new pathways' and humankind demonstrating Ubuntu to all*

- Golden thread – questions to encourage reflection and then answers shared on our base displays.

What is your Hope for 2025?



We hope you are hearing about some of these activities at home and look forward to adding a Hope section to the 'Together at Home' section of the website soon.

PILGRIM SCHOOL TERMS & HOLIDAYS 2024/2025

Term 1

Inset Days Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Wednesday 04 September 2024 to Friday 18 October 2024

Term 2

Inset Day Monday 28th October 2024

Tuesday 29 October 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024

Bank Holidays:-

Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 December 2024

Wednesday 1 January 2025

Term 3

Inset Day Monday 6 January 2025

Tuesday 7 January 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025

Term 4

Monday 24 February 2025 to Friday 4 April 2025

Bank Holidays:-

Friday 18 April & Monday 21 April 2025

Term 5

Inset Day Tuesday 22 April 2025

Wednesday 23 April 2025 to Friday 23 May 2025

Bank Holidays:-

Monday 5 & Monday 26 May 2025

Term 6

Monday 2 June 2025 to Tuesday 22 July 2025

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR BASES THIS TERM

AMBER HILL NEWS....

It has been a truly eventful and busy term, full of memorable moments that brought our community together for a variety of causes, celebrations, and new experiences.

Our students participated in a number of fundraising events, raising money and giving donations for causes that make a real difference in the lives of others. From bake sales to raffles, the generosity and enthusiasm shown by everyone is amazing, thank you. At Amber Hill we came into base in our PJ'S or something spotty to raise money for Children in Need. We held a bake sale, with a variety of delicious goodies and also held a raffle with donations from staff and pupils. All together across the 3 bases we raised £220.80. Thank you to everyone!

Another significant moment this term was our Remembrance Day service in which we came together with the rest of the village as we have for the past few years.

In addition to these important events, we've had a number of exciting WOW trips that brought learning to life in new ways. These trips allowed students to explore different aspects of education outside the classroom:



🎃 Pumpkin Carving at Willowbridge Farm: Students enjoyed carving pumpkins alongside friendly sheep and kittens, fostering creativity and mindfulness.

🎆 Bonfire Night Art: Vibrant firework-inspired art encouraged self-expression and regulation.

🚜 Tractor Tour at Stourton Estates Deer Park: A scenic ride through the deer park sparked curiosity and appreciation for nature.

🏆 Record-Breaking Games: Fun challenges and teamwork built resilience and team building.

🧑‍🎨 Scarecrow Making at Willowbridge: Crafting scarecrows encouraged teamwork and problem-solving in a relaxed setting.



Of course, who could forget the arrival of Milly, Molly, and Mandy – our adorable new guinea pigs! These little furballs have quickly become a hit with both students and staff, bringing smiles and a sense of joy to the school. They've already created many new memories and friendships as students and staff take turns caring for them and of course lots of cuddles!



We hope you all have a restful Christmas break, filled with joy, relaxation, and time with loved ones. We look forward to more amazing experiences and achievements in 2025!

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BAUMBER NEWS...

As always, this term has been full of community events and trips which have brought our community together. We have supported Macmillan coffee morning, Children in Need, Save the Children and a local food bank as well as taking part in the careers-related activities for Year 11 and considering how we can best use our space. We look forward to January and seeing what ideas come forward.



During WOW this term we have focused on the theme "Celebrations". We went to Lings Farm Pumpkin Patch and had our annual competition of who can find the largest, smallest, and wonkiest pumpkin. We have celebrated becoming Pilgrim Record Breakers and achieving new personal bests in various challenges. We had an amazing time at Stourton Estates where they took us on a Deer Safari with their tractor and trailer and gave us a 'farm to fork' talk. We've also stayed in base partaking in Christmas crafts, decorating the Christmas Tree and even did some 'Christmas around the world' baking - the Stollen tasted delicious! We celebrated 'strikes' at the Washingborough Hollywood Bowl and then, to get in the Christmas

spirit, we went and saw some 'little donkey's' at the Bransby Donkey Sanctuary. A wonderful term of celebrations and special times together.

During the night the CCTV in Baumber captured this image of Dwayne and Bob the Elf getting up to Christmas mischief. Dwayne is always up for some walkabouts through the base - he was probably searching for Jackie G and some apples. Dwayne has had an amazing term and lots of baths and treats and he wishes you all a Happy Christmas.



LINCOLN NEWS...



In WOW it has all been about celebrations. Students have been busy pumpkin picking at Doddington Hall, cooking along with Tom Kerridge making tortilla pizza and serving tiny portions to staff! We have made bug hotels in the garden using items found in the garden; hopefully animals have now made it homely. A trip to Hartsholme park in the snow was incredibly chilly but lots of fun was had.

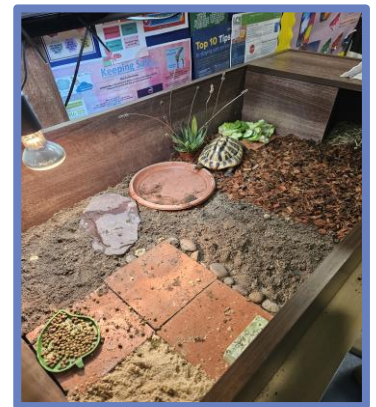
Gibb is well and has been enjoying himself this month, after having a word in our shell, the Lincoln staff have been creating a more enriching environment for Gibb.

Gibb can't be glibb- Check out his new Crib!

Thanks Lincoln staff for updating Gibbs crib with the latest in tortoise enrichment items. This should bring him out of his shell. In fact, he's turning into a bit of a shell-ebrity around Lincoln. Last spotted hitting the town with his favourite turtleneck sweater on.

Gibb once mentioned his favourite Biology teacher as well.

When asked why they were Gibbs favourite he responded, " They tortoise well".



In other Gibb news he is looking forward to being reunited with Lynne for the festive season. He wishes all of the Pilgrim community a turtley wonderful Christmas and would like to share his interpretation of the nativity.



During the Summer months the Lincoln pupils had been gathering sticks from Hartsholme Park to build a den in the Lincoln Garden. This has now been deconstructed to create a habitat for bugs and animals over the winter months. Staff and pupils have also created a bug house out of bricks to encourage wildlife, in all its forms, in the Lincoln Garden. Further to this we have also created a wildlife pond out of recycled materials.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

HOME TAUGHT...

Thank you to all our dedicated students who continue to shine in their lessons from home. Whether through face-to-face learning, virtual classes, or attending in-person sessions at our base, everyone has put in an incredible amount of effort and shown tremendous resilience. From adapting to new learning environments to staying motivated throughout, it's been inspiring to witness each student's unique approach to their studies. This cannot be possible without the amazing skills of your home tutors delivering this personalised provision, so a big Christmas thank you to them too!

This term has also seen some standout achievements, starting with the Construction Work Experience Day at Lincoln showground, where several of our students participated in learning activities that gave them a closer look at the world of construction. A special congratulations goes to T, who won in their category! Their hard work and enthusiasm were truly evident, and it was lovely to see them rewarded.

Another highlight was the visit to Lincoln Cathedral, where some of you had the opportunity to see the beautiful peace doves you made on display alongside thousands of others, one of you even found your dove amidst the sea of creations. J has kindly written about their experience and shared their reflections on the trip with us.

Looking ahead, we want to wish all of our Year 11 students the best of luck as they prepare for their mock exams in January. We know how hard you've all worked, and we are confident that you will do your best when the time comes.

As we approach the end of the term, we'd like to take a moment to wish each and every one of you a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



WOW IN PRIMARY ...

Chloe B has been working within All Saints Primary School to start to offer some WOW sessions to primary school age children. The WOW curriculum has been adapted to suit the age change and so far, it has gone down very well. The pupils are mainly years 5 and 6, however we have just started a year 3 and 4 class. These tend to be an hour session with around 6 to 8 pupils. The sessions are always extremely interactive and never short of conversation. It has been a joy and a privilege to be a part of these session, and I am extremely excited to expand to other primary schools and share the message of Hope.



CHEMISTRY WEEK ...

National Chemistry Week: A Celebration of Science and Careers in Chemistry

National Chemistry Week, organized by the Royal Society of Chemistry, is an annual event that highlights the exciting world of chemistry and celebrates the contributions of chemists to our everyday lives. This year's event took place from November 4 to 10, and our students had the opportunity to get involved in exploring careers within the chemical industry.

Throughout the week, students took part in a range of activities focused on the diverse career paths available to those in the chemical sciences. They watched presentations from working scientists, offering a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to work in different areas of chemistry. One of the key highlights included insights from *cosmetics chemistry*, where students learned about how science is used to create the products we use every day. Another fascinating talk came from a *museum scientist*, who explained how chemistry plays a vital role in preserving and understanding artefacts.

If you would like to learn more and watch these inspiring presentations, please visit the Royal Society of Chemistry's website at [this link](#).

National Chemistry Week is a fantastic reminder of the importance of chemistry in shaping the world around us, and this year's activities have certainly inspired many of our students to consider a future in the chemical sciences. We look forward to seeing how these experiences spark curiosity and potential career paths for our future chemists!



REMEMBRANCE DAY ...

Each year at The Pilgrim School we take some time out of our usual routine to spend some time to reflect on the sacrifices made by those in past and more recent conflicts. In Baumber base, we had a collection box with handknitted poppies made by a relative of a member of staff, created a small wall display and observed the 2-minute silence.

In Lincoln we had a special tutor time and took part in the moving 11 o'clock silence.

At Amber Hill, we all gathered just outside the playground at the Memorial with some of the village residents. Afterwards, we received a lovely email from the Village Parish Council:

"Just wanted to thank members of staff and Pupils for yesterday. It is appreciated by parishioners and the Parish Council. Everything went very smoothly, and the Order of service attractively and well presented. Even the sun decided to shine on us all."



CHILDREN IN NEED ...



Children in Need in Lincoln consisted of a delicious bake sale and staff and pupils dressed in silly costumes and pjs..... even Otto the school dog had his costume on. There were lots of fun and laughter, especially when Sophia and Kat (PSWS) rocked up in their big inflatable bull and cat costumes and raised a fabulous total of £62.50.

Baumber donated money to wear pyjamas in school and had a crazy hair day. By the end of the day the coloured hairspray was all used up and we all looked like a character from The Grinch. A pick and mix tuck shop was available for some sweet treats.



At Amber Hill they came into base in pjs or something spotty to raise money for Children in Need. We also held a bake sale, with a variety of delicious goodies. We also held a raffle with donations from staff and pupils.



All three bases achieved a whopping amount of £220.80. Thank you to staff and students for all your generous donations.

AWARDS EVENING ...

Staff, governors, parents and friends gathered at the Amber Hill base on 28th November to celebrate the achievements of our Year 11 leavers pupils at our annual Awards Evening. This year each pupil received a Hope Certificate, a unique reflection of their individual journey at Pilgrim, with personalised comments from pastoral and teaching staff that reflected the growth, resilience, and spirit each pupil showed during their time with us. In addition to the comments, each student's certificate featured the Hope Word that staff feel best embodies their Pilgrim journey.

The Hope Certificates were presented as a memento of each pupil's time at Pilgrim, celebrating their unique experiences and the personal growth they've achieved. The evening was filled with a sense of optimism and pride, as we reflected on how these young people have embraced the challenges of their academic and personal lives with courage and determination.

The evening also featured a presentation by the Silver Duke of Edinburgh group, showcasing the incredible outdoor and personal challenges they have undertaken over the year.

Our guest of honour for the evening was Olivia Georgeson, one of our past pupils, who spoke movingly about her time at Pilgrim, and presented the outgoing Year 11 pupils with their Hope certificates and the trophies and shields to our main award winners. The pupils who were recipients of the main awards were:

Home Pupil Award: GC

Jayne Dean Award for Motivation: TC-L & JD

Hope Award: R P & LS

Special Recognition 'Thank You' Award: KH

Headteacher's Award for Academic Progress: NG

Governor's Award for 'Being Pilgrim': LM

Awards Evening was a truly special occasion, reflecting the hard work, hope, and success of our students. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and look forward to seeing all they will achieve in the future. Congratulations to all our outgoing Year 11 students for their remarkable contributions to the Pilgrim School Family!

LANGUAGES NEWS ...



There has been much to celebrate in languages at Pilgrim this term. Pupils have settled into lessons well and begun to explore not just the language, but the culture too.

The whole school participated in 'Languages Week' in tutor times at the start of term, with the theme of European Day of Languages in September being '**Languages for Peace**'.



Pupils learnt that even the smallest amount of language and communication can help make people feel welcomed and more at peace. In an uncertain world, improved language skills and understanding can help us maintain a peaceful world, where people can work together for a better future and thrive. They also took part in flag quizzes and capital cities puzzles.



In lessons this term, pupils produced a French breakfast, consisting of croissant, pain au chocolat and freshly made crêpes. This went down very well with those who came along. It was a great way to get pupils interacting in another language, even in a small way. We have also cooked some tasty treats including Lebkuchen (German biscuits) and even macarons!

If you think you would like to try languages lessons at Pilgrim, speak to your PSWS or teacher and they will be able to help.



Maths Week England (MWE) was originally set for November 11th this year, but true to Pilgrim spirit, it turned into a fantastic Maths Fortnight instead!

Throughout the event, MWE released a variety of puzzles—available in written form, as printable PDFs, and even as engaging videos—catered to all Key Stages. And the best part? You can still access all the puzzles and answers on their website at https://mathsweekengland.co.uk/?page_id=8892 or simply visit mathsweekengland.co.uk. So, if you're looking for a fun challenge to try outside the classroom, feel free to dive in! Just use the password **MWE2024**.

The videos are definitely worth checking out! Though, you might need to hit pause halfway through, as they guide you to try solving the problems first. After that, the tutor goes over the answers with everyone. Some of our students may have already seen the videos, so why not ask them for some tips?

Good luck and enjoy the challenge!

T'is the Season to be Reading...

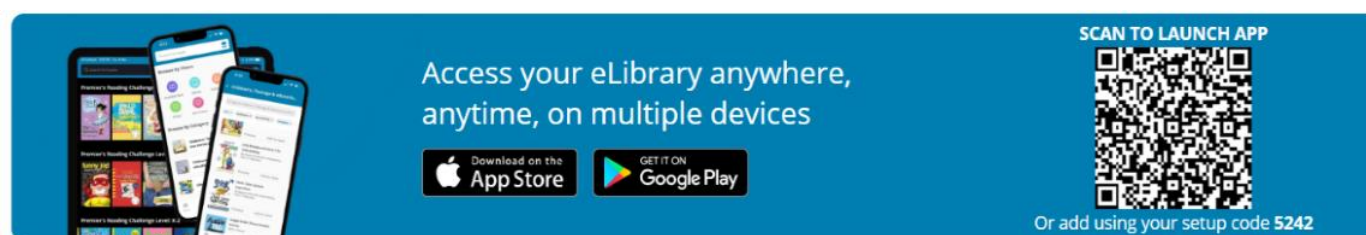
It has been another busy term for reading here at Pilgrim. Year 10 pupils in Amber Hill are enjoying reading the GCSE set text, 'An Inspector Calls', even taking on parts and reading aloud.

In November we joined a live webinar with author and poet Michael Rosen, author of over 200 children's books including 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'Little Rabbit Foo Foo' and 'Chocolate Cake', who spoke about his life and many of his books and poems. This was mainly aimed at KS2 and KS3. If you would like to watch the recording [please click here](#).

Our Get Caught Reading challenge continues this term. Staff in bases will draw a winner just before the Christmas holidays, so keep reading and see how many postcards you can get!

Finally, don't forget our school library! All pupils and staff have a login and can borrow up to two books at a time. Pupils can login with their school email address and the password **Library1**. Pupils can even download the app onto their phones so they can access the library easily at any time. Why not login and look at all the amazing titles available to you?

<https://thepilgrimschool.eplatform.co/>



Access your eLibrary anywhere, anytime, on multiple devices

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

SCAN TO LAUNCH APP

Or add using your setup code 5242

SEND NEWS...

As we approach the festive season, we would like to share some important updates, events, and resources that may be of interest to you all.

Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF)

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about The Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum (LPCF). They are an independent, member-led charity that supports parents and carers of children with disabilities and/or Special Educational Needs (SEN). The LPCF is governed by a group of elected Trustees, most of whom are parents and carers themselves, ensuring that the Forum truly represents the voices of families across the county.

Our Trustees and Volunteers play a crucial role in communicating with both parents and professionals, helping to influence strategic decisions and advocating for services that support children and young people with SEND. To become a member of the LPCF, please follow this [link](#).

To stay up to date with events and opportunities, visit their [events page](#). Some events are also open to professionals, as well as parents and families.

LPCF - WEEK OF SEND: 27TH TO 31ST JANUARY 2025

Mark your calendars! The Week of SEND is back, running from Monday, 27th January to Friday, 31st January 2025. This is an exciting week of free virtual sessions, offering the chance to learn more about services and support available in Lincolnshire and beyond.

You can join in from the comfort of your home or office. Whether you're listening while working or actively participating with questions, there will be something for everyone. Best of all, this event is completely **FREE**.

Details of the participating organisations will be added to the [Week of SEND page](#) as they become available, so keep an eye out!

School Interventions

We'd like to highlight some of the interventions available in school to support the emotional, social, and academic development of the children and young people with SEND.

EMOTIONAL LITERACY

At The Pilgrim School, we have ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) who are trained to provide emotional support and help children develop their emotional literacy. They work with pupils to build resilience and find solutions to challenges, ensuring that emotional needs are met so that children can thrive in their learning.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Social skills interventions are designed to help students improve their interactions with peers and adults. These structured programmes are especially beneficial for children with social communication difficulties, such as those with ASD or ADHD. The focus is on teaching children how to navigate social situations with confidence.

TOUCH TYPING

For students who struggle with handwriting or fine motor skills, touch typing can be an invaluable intervention. This structured programme teaches students to type efficiently and accurately, offering an alternative means of communication and improving overall literacy skills.

HANDWRITING

A handwriting intervention is a targeted programme or set of strategies designed to help students improve their handwriting skills. These interventions are typically used for students who struggle with legibility, fine motor skills, or the speed of writing. The goal is to ensure that students can write clearly and efficiently, which is essential for academic success.

READING

We are also pleased to offer a range of reading interventions designed to support students at all levels. These programmes help children develop literacy skills in a way that's tailored to their individual needs, boosting confidence and fostering a love of reading.

Website Resources

Our website offers valuable resources for pupils considering starting at Pilgrim or transitioning from home to base tuition. Each base has its own tailored materials, including a detailed social story to help students prepare for their first day, a video tour of the base to familiarise them with the environment, and a floor plan to give them an understanding of the layout and key areas they will encounter. These resources are designed to support pupils in their transition to Pilgrim, reducing anxiety and helping them feel more confident and prepared for their new setting.

You can find these resources for each base at the following links:

- [Amber Hill Resources](#)
- [Baumber Resources](#)
- [Lincoln Resources](#)

FINAL THOUGHTS

As we approach the end of the year, we want to thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our SEND community. Whether you're a parent, carer, teacher, governor, or pupil, your involvement is key to ensuring that our children and young people continue to receive the best possible support.

Wishing you all a joyful festive season and a Happy New Year!

KINEMA TRIP...



On Monday 16 December 24 we had our annual visit to the Kinema in Woodhall Spa for all pupils and staff across the school community. It was lovely to see so many there and the wide range of Christmas jumpers on show. In the run up to the trip, pupils voted in bases and at home and chose to watch Moana 2. Please see below one pupil's reflection on the morning.



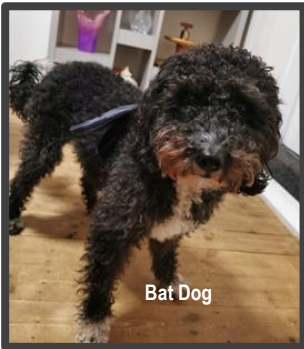
“I thought the film was really good and enjoyable. I like the character Moana and there was quite a few funny bits.”

OTTO...

Otto continues to enjoy his time around the bases and after Christmas, as the weather hopefully improves, we will be looking to get out for more local area walks again.

For one reason or another, he has not been in Amber Hill as often as usual this term which means familiarisation with the guinea pigs is ongoing. He definitely wants to be their friend, but they are not so keen!

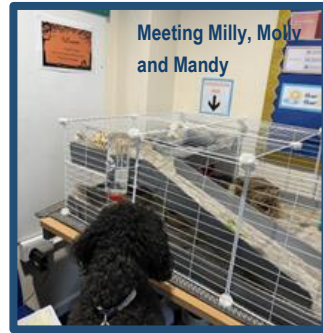
Here are a few of his highlights since September:



Bat Dog



Taking part in DEAR



Meeting Milly, Molly and Mandy



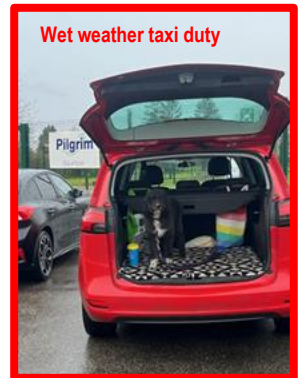
PJ's for Children in Need



Trying out alternative career routes



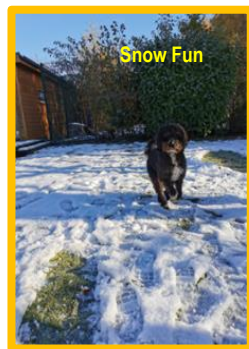
Decorating for Christmas



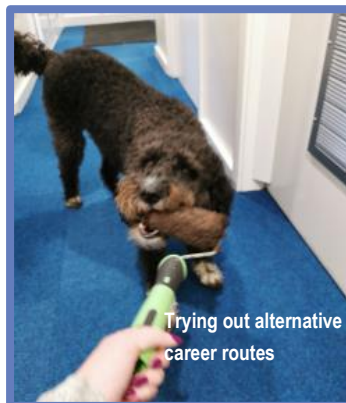
Wet weather taxi duty



Showing willpower on cake sale day



Snow Fun



Trying out alternative career routes



A well-earned reward on silver DofE expedition

PAST PUPILS AND THEIR HOPEFUL STORIES...

We have recently received updates from several of our former students regarding their current endeavours. It is our pleasure to share part of Aggie's* story along with her inspiring message.

When Aggie came to the Pilgrim School she described herself as reclusive, unmotivated, and apathetic towards academic achievement. Aggie had been absent from her mainstream school for a long time due to struggling with anxiety, sensory processing challenges and managing her ASD.

Aggie says that Pilgrim helped her heal and really supported her into her next steps. Aggie was such a valued member of the Pilgrim family, and we were sad to say goodbye when she moved into her college placement after her GCSEs.

Now in her second year of A-Levels studying Biology, Sociology and Psychology, Aggie has applied to study medicine at University.

Aggie shared with us her memorable message to pass on to our current pupils:

"It is never too late to achieve what you want, and the past won't hold you back!"

We're so proud of all our past pupils!

**The name used is not the real name of this student*

If you are, or know of, a past Pilgrim School pupil, we'd love to hear from you and what you've gone on to do since leaving Pilgrim. Get in touch at enquiries@pilgrim.lincs.sch.uk

DUKE OF EDINBURGH...



We, as a school, started our Duke of Edinburgh licence in 2018. The idea of DofE is to celebrate the additional effort of an individual based on individual achievement. For our school it has been an excellent addition with 33 Pilgrim students having achieved their full Bronze award.

Bronze was always the focus with the ambition of one day having our first Silver group, which is a difficult balance to have enough students at the right stage of their life's journey to complete their Silver.

As with all awards, as you progress they get harder and more complex. This includes the expedition, with criteria including, unfamiliar territory, minimum 3 days 2 nights, minimum 7 hours journeying each day and self-sufficient.

We could not have asked for a better first Silver group, summed up by a member of staff stating 'I feel really guilty how easy this is' to which I responded 'our hard work over the previous years is what made it this easy.'

6 of the class of 24 wrote themselves deeper into the legendary status by completing their expedition across the Norfolk coastline. Walking from Wells-next-the-Sea to Cromer over their 3 days across some very testing terrain, including a 2 hour walk along a shingle beach. But they didn't just succeed, they smashed it and even asked to do an extra night or 'can we do it again sometime'.

For those of us who had the honour of being part of these young people's journeys through Pilgrim, life and themselves it was an achievement we'd never have imagined but filled everyone with an unmatched sense of pride and buckets of tears of joy.

A huge thank you to all staff involved and a huge shout out to EL, RP, LM, CC, JD & NG

ONLINE SAFETY...

Christmas is such a wonderful time of year, excitable children and time to relax with family and friends. And of course, there are new toys to play with.

With a huge increase in sales of devices (around 13 million people receive smartphones for Christmas each year) it is important to ensure that you and your children are safe when playing with new kit. To help, we've set out a few top tips to help keep your household safe online over the holidays.

Learn your way around

Most devices have controls to ensure that kids can't access content you don't want them to. [Make sure your "in-app" purchases are disabled](#) to avoid a nightmare surprise in the new year.

Tablets

Tablets are really popular with younger children, and the market has several which are geared towards child friendly content. When it comes to using them, start slowly; only download games and apps you have checked out carefully (sites such as www.net-aware.org.uk, or www.commonssensemedia.org provide useful advice!) and steer them towards age targeted content.

Mobile devices

If you have older children, and are thinking about getting them a new phone for Christmas, this can pose its own challenges. The old online safety message about having your home computer in a communal place becomes defunct, because phones are literally mobile computers and have the power of most traditional desktop PCs.

Set boundaries

Our advice is to set some ground rules, and ensure they understand them. For example:

Screen Time

Agree a time limit or number of games beforehand, to avoid repeated disagreements around how long they can spend online.

Sleep comes first


It is advisable that the phone stays out of the bedroom to avoid those night time interruptions.

Ask for access

If you're genuinely concerned about them, ask them to allow you access to the phone.

Monitoring vs having a conversation

It is possible to install software onto devices that monitors online activity, alerts you to inappropriate behaviour, and can block access to certain content. This type of software is becoming increasingly popular, but while this might sound tempting, it does pose a number of issues around your child's right to privacy & could have an impact upon your relationship with them. [SWGfL published this blog](#) earlier this year, which covers the subject in some detail and raises some interesting points.



SAFER INTERNET DAY 2025 **COMPETITION TIME**

THIS YEAR'S SAFER INTERNET DAY IS ALL ABOUT KEEPING SAFE FROM SCAMS. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMETHING THAT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE ON YOUTUBE OR ON THE GAMES YOU PLAY? WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO SPOT WHICH ARE REAL?

FAKE NEWS VIDEO

IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT WHAT IS REAL AND WHAT IS FAKE ONLINE SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THE INFORMATION WITH A RELIABLE SOURCE BEFORE WE SHARE. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO SPOT THE SIGNS OF MISINFORMATION? DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH?

WE ARE ASKING PRIMARY STUDENTS TO CREATE A SHORT VIDEO THAT WILL HELP PARENTS, CARERS AND CHILDREN SPOT FAKE NEWS STORIES OR MISINFORMATION ONLINE. IT MUST INCLUDE TOP TIPS AND WHERE TO CHECK INFORMATION SUCH AS BBC REALITY CHECK.

HELP US TO EDUCATE PARENTS AND CHILDREN

MAKE YOUR VIDEO FUN AND ENGAGING. HERE ARE SOME OF OUR IDEAS:

- MAKE UP A FAKE NEWS STORY AND SHOW HOW PEOPLE MIGHT REACT TO IT
- DO A NEWS REPORT AND INTERVIEW SOME STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
- LIST SOME THINGS TO LOOK FOR THAT MIGHT HELP US SPOT FAKE NEWS
- TOP TIPS ON HOW TO FIND OUT IF A STORY IS REAL OR NOT
- PLACES TO GO TO GET MORE INFORMATION AND FACT CHECK

MOST IMPORTANTLY - HAVE FUN!

CLOSING DATE JANUARY 31ST

SEND YOUR LINKS OR VIDEOS TO [SSP@LINCOLNSHIRE.GOV.UK](mailto:ssp@lincolnsire.gov.uk)

Safer Internet Day 2025 | Tuesday 11 February
Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre
saferinternetday.org.uk

RESIDENTIAL TRIP 2025...

Next year we are planning to take our pupils on a Residential Trip on 28th & 29th April 2025, we will be staying at a Youth Hostel in the National Forest, Derbyshire.



The school will have sole occupancy of the hostel, and we will be arranging activities including a trip to Alton Towers Theme Park.



The beneficial effects on a child's progress and mental health that such trips provide are also invaluable and will give them the skills to assist them as they move forward in life. They offer new and exciting challenges and by living with their peers and working together in a team environment, help develop independence, confidence and ability to recognise and use their strengths in a constructive way.

If you would like your child to attend, please contact a member of the team! The cost of the trip is £150, and payment can be arranged in instalments.

MEET THE PSHE TEAM ...

At The Pilgrim School we teach programmes for health and wellbeing, relationships, careers and economic education under the PSHE umbrella. Teaching and learning is linked to personal development, safeguarding social, moral, cultural and spiritual programmes and literacy initiatives in the school. We feel British Values and the concept of Hope is embedded at the centre of our teaching. It is a core subject in the curriculum. We aim to provide pupils at the bases with two timetabled lessons a week, in addition to personal individualised support from pastoral staff regarding health, relationships and careers.

Information, objectives and tasks from the PSHE and Careers programmes are posted fortnightly on the Together At Home Section of the Pilgrim School website: [The Pilgrim School - Together at Home](#). This enables pupils to access PSHE and careers information, advice, signposting and support with their parents and carers, independently or with the support of their Home PSWS.

We are very proud of the work we do as a small team, passionately believing a wide informative understanding of physical, emotional wellbeing, sexual health and safe fulfilling relationships is key to young people finding their place in the world, developing resilience and managing change and challenges. Knowing where and how to seek information, advice and support is key to leading safe and healthy lives. Our embedded career programme raises aspirations, introduces post 16 opportunities and the world of work and encourages pupils to take their next steps through life.



Bev Lee

Executive Assistant Headteacher has had a long-established career in pastoral support and teaching PSHE. Bev is responsible for ensuring PSHE remains a high priority with Governors and the Senior and Middle Leadership teams, liaising with the local authorities, parents, carers and other stakeholders and ensuring PSHE is implemented to a high standard across the school and open to learners taught in the home.



Yvonne Prendergast

Head Of Applied Learner- has had a long career teaching PSHE, Careers, social sciences and English. She has a post graduate certificate in PSHE and has been involved in the past with the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, attaining Healthy Schools accreditation and is currently coordinating accreditation for attaining The Governments eight benchmarks in careers. Yvonne is responsible for writing schemes, schemas and resources for The Pilgrim PSHE programme and website and monitoring recording and assessment in PSHE across the school.



Chelsee Bamford

Teaches PSHE at all three bases. Chelsey is an empathic teacher who is able to quickly build great relationships with learners, so they feel comfortable and confident in talking honestly about quite sensitive and personal issues. Chelsey has said about her love of the subject, "I love teaching PSHE because it's a chance to give every young person an opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to thrive now and in the future. I feel that helping them to deal with critical issues they face every day such as friendships, emotional well-being and change gives young people a sense of hope for the future.



Kieran Montgomery

Teaching PSHE at all 3 bases, Kieran is a young, enthusiastic teacher who can build strong relationships and communication skills with his pupils, enabling them to engage easily in learning and achieve maximum understanding of health, relationships and careers. At break times Kieran will more often than not be outside with a ball and a group of young people reinforcing and illustrating his key messages of health, physical activity and team building.

CAREERS ...

This term, we have enjoyed a productive and engaging approach to our post-16 goals. Neil Blackwell and Kat Shaw have undertaken Careers as from September, visiting Lincoln college, Bernadette house, Riseholme college, Inspire u, MPCT Military academy, the Army, Health Care careers event, Construction Fayre at the Lincolnshire showground, Primary schools, and the Air Space Institute.

The students' have approached these opportunities with maturity and dedication, the highlights have been that they have really engaged so well in all of these visits, it helped with their mental health and anxiety in those next steps of post 16, and Year 11s and they have started to apply for the courses they are wanted to attend in Year 12.

Additionally, some students have excelled in their work experience challenges, which has allowed them to overcome significant social hurdles. We have had positive feedback from all the year 11s and we are very proud of them being able to come out of their comfort zone to attend these sessions. We continue to witness our students grow both socially and emotionally. Well done!

STAFFING CHANGES...

This term we have had the following changes to our staff:

NEW STARTERS:

- Ems Lord – Home Teacher
- Peter Halford – Home Teacher
- Imogen Lemon – Clerk to Govenors
- Daniel Brodigan-Vincent – Apprentice Property Maintenance Operative due to start Jan 25

STAFF LEAVING:

- Sarah Reeve – Home Teacher
- Katie Dzierozynski – Home Teacher
- Julie Barker – Admin Assistant - Maternity Cover contract due to end Jan 25

OTHER CHANGES:

- Harriet Tricker – English Teacher - Due to start maternity leave in Jan 25
- Cheryl Collier – Home Teacher – Maternity cover contract to start Jan 25 (cover for Harriet)
- Sarah Mulligan – Head of English – Increasing hours to Full Time from Jan 25 (cover for Harriet)
- Gen Rosenberg – Admin Assistant – Due to return from maternity leave in Jan 25

VACANCIES:

- Home (Relief) Teachers – on going recruitment
- Home (Relief) Pastoral Staff – on going requirement

UPCOMING EVENTS ...

We now have a new section of our school website for upcoming events.

[The Pilgrim School - Term Dates & Upcoming Events](#)

Here you will find a visual calendar of what's coming up in each base across The Pilgrim School. These calendars are also displayed in each base and helps pupils (and staff!) to keep up to date with what is happening and when.

The calendars are regularly updated as events are confirmed so please keep checking to ensure you have the most up to date information.

January 2025

Tutor Time Key:
 • Pink – Hope
 • Green – Maths is fun
 • Peach – Votes for Schools
 • Red – DEAR
 • Purple – Words of the week
 • (If in Blue then this is a special one)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
6 th	7 th TT: Assembly SB/BL	8 th BACK TO SCHOOL	9 th TT: Individual Liberty (BD)	10 th
13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th
20 th TT: 19/1 World religion day (DM)	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
27 th TT: 27/1 Holocaust memorial day (D)	28 th	29 th TT: 29/1 Chinese new year (M)	30 th	31 st

February 2025

Tutor Time Key:
 • Pink – Hope
 • Green – Maths is fun
 • Peach – Votes for Schools
 • Red – DEAR
 • Purple – Words of the week
 • (If in Blue then this is a special one)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 rd TT: LGBT History month (D)	4 th	5 th	6 th TT: National hate crime awareness week (D)	7 th
10 th	11 th TT: Safer Internet Day (S)	12 th WINTER	13 th	14 th Online Safety Workshop
17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
24 th Ready Behaviour Workshop	25 th BACK TO SCHOOL	26 th TT: Assembly (SB/BL) HSC Fraud Workshop (Zoom)	27 th	28 th TT: St Davids Day (J)
29 th				

REACH MORE PARENTS...

After Christmas we will be moving away from ParentMail as we have joined another company called ReachMore Parents, with a launch date of 10th January 2025. ParentMail will continue to be used as normal up until then. Any payments/consents currently on ParentMail will be automatically transferred to the new system. Logins will be provided at a closer date.

Please see the attached flyer for more information, and further details will be sent out regarding this in due course.

Access all of your child's school information from your secure, mobile app

View live updates about your child's education such as:

- School News
- Tip Updates
- Learning Activities
- Important Announcements
- Key Dates & Events
- Attendance Information

FAQs

How do I register for my app?
You will need to follow the instructions sent to you via email/letter. If you haven't received this email/letter yet, speak to your school.

How do I download the app?
You can go to your preferred app store, search Reach More Parents and the app will appear for you to download. Please note that you will only be able to log in if your school has bought Reach More Parents.

How do I login to my app?
Simply open up your app and enter your login details. You would have created these when you first registered for Reach More Parents.

I am not able to download the app, how else can I log in?
You can access Reach More Parents on any internet enabled device. Speak to your school.

Can I use Reach More Parents without registering?
Unfortunately not. Due to permissions within the system, only people that have enrolled are able to log on.

I am a teacher and a parent and/or I teach/have children at more than one school, do I need multiple logins?
The good news is, no you don't. Reach More Parents has the ability to allow more than one school to be accessible under one

reach more parents by wecl

The school app for parents

Download the app

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Dashboard

See a snapshot of upcoming events, important notices, unread messages and much more...

Notices

Quick access to all of the important information from the school.

Newsfeed

Your very own social media-style community that allows you to see information and photos from within school.

Forms

No more paper forms to complete and return. Simply fill out online and rest assured that the school has your response instantly.

Calendar

View the school's calendar events so you do not miss anything. You can even sync it to your own device's calendar.

Report Absences

No more phone calls, simply let the school know your child is unwell from the Parent Portal.

Parent Portal

View information that the school has decided to share with you, such as your child's attendance, timetable and behaviour in school.

The Hub

One Login, One Location. Easily view all other systems the school uses and helpful links from one place.

EXAMS WORKSHOP...

Year 11 Students Attend Revision Skills Workshop Ahead of Mock and Summer Exams

As Year 11 students gear up for their mock exams in January and the all-important summer exams, they recently took part in a valuable Revision Skills Workshop designed to help them prepare effectively.

The workshop, aimed at equipping students with the tools and strategies they need to revise efficiently. During the session, students learned a variety of techniques to help them manage their time, retain information, and tackle exam questions with confidence. Teachers shared tips on active revision methods, such as mind mapping, flashcards, as well as strategies for staying focused and reducing stress during the lead-up to exams (chocolate biscuits are essential!)

The workshop also focused on developing revision timetables and setting realistic goals, allowing students to structure their revision sessions in a way that maximizes productivity without becoming overwhelmed.

With mock exams just around the corner, this workshop is the perfect stepping stone for Year 11 students to build their revision confidence and boost their chances of success.

We encourage all Year 11 students to put the skills they learned in the workshop into practice, to stay consistent with their revision, and to continue asking for help when needed. Best of luck as you prepare for your mocks and the summer exams – we believe in you!

MOCK EXAMS UPDATE ...

When we return after the Christmas break, most of our Year 11 pupils will be taking their mock GCSE exams across the three bases. Our mock exam period is a hugely important rehearsal for the Summer exams, offering pupils an opportunity to experience the exam room setting, and the processes that will need to be followed. Mock exams also form a vital part of meeting the JCQ resilience requirements to retain formal assessment evidence should it be required in the event of formal exams not being able to take place on a national level.

Any Pilgrim exam season brings a lot of change of routine and affects the entire school base, as those in KS3 and Year 10 may find their lessons take place in different rooms or their usual staff are involved with invigilating. A huge team effort goes into the running of exams with a significant focus on ensuring a calm atmosphere for all pupils, whether they are taking exams or going about their normal lessons. There will inevitably be some disruption to normality for the mocks fortnight, but pupils will have plenty of advance notice and all staff are on hand to support them during this time.

Year 11 pupils who are taking their exams in a base should have received their exam timetables now and most will follow their normal timetables during mocks. Taxi changes will be arranged by Pilgrim should any exams fall outside their normal timetabled sessions. Year 11 pupils in the home will have their mainstream school involved in any mock exam arrangements and academic links can provide more information on specific plans.

If pupils have any questions about exams in a base they can speak with Liz (Amber Hill), Eva (Baumber) or Chloe N (Lincoln).






On your exam day

This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.


What you will need:

- a clear pencil case 
- at least two black ink pens – blue pens are **not acceptable** 
- an approved calculator for relevant exams 
- appropriate apparatus such as a ruler or protractor for relevant exams 
- a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in – it **must not** have a label 

Contingency sessions:


- There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2025 exam timetable – the afternoon of 11 June 2025 and the morning and afternoon of 25 June 2025. Make sure you are available on all three dates even if you do not have an exam.

What you cannot take into exams:

- any type of phone 
- revision notes
- any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)

Other important information:

- Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- If you need additional answer sheets, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will provide you with one. Remember to add your details to this booklet.
- If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will escort you from the exam room.
- Remember to stay silent – talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

If you have any questions about your exams, please ask your teacher or exams officer. 

You can also find useful information about preparing for exams at www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents

EFFECTIVE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2024



Merry Christmas to each and every one of our school community! We hope you all have a restful and healthy break and look forward to seeing you again in 2025!