



thisWeek@Wyvern

Thursday 24th Sept 2026

Issue 4 - Autumn Term

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Assemblies Next Week

'Care' Assemblies - Pastoral Leaders

Important dates for this week and beyond

Fri 25 th Sept	NEA Days for Yr 11 GCSE Design Technology
Fri 25 th Sept	Year 7 Production Auditions - D2, 3.00 - 5.00pm
Mon 28 th Sept	Year 7 Activities Day
Mon 28 th Sept	Careers Fair - Sports Hall, 5.30 - 7pm (SEN session 5 - 5.30pm)
Tues 29 th Sept	Year 11 Whiteley Geography trip (Day 2)
Tues 29 th Sept	Production rehearsals - 3.00 - 4.30pm
Thurs 1 st Oct	Production rehearsals - 3.00 - 4.30pm
Thurs 1 st Oct	D of E - New cohort parent information evening, 5.30 - 6.30pm
Thurs 1 st Oct	D of E Celebration Evening - 7.00 - 8.00pm
Mon 5 th Oct	Parents' Work Experience Evening - Main Hall, 6.30 - 7.30pm
Tues 6 th Oct	NEA Days for Yr 11 Group A Food Investigation Day
Tues 6 th Oct	Year 11 Parents' Evening (virtual)

Website: www.wyverncollege.org.uk

Email: enquiries@wyvern.hants.sch.uk

Phone : [02380 692679](tel:02380692679)

If you require this newsletter in an alternative format or need any assistance accessing its contents, please contact the school office.

Headteacher's Letter

Thursday 24th September 2026



In place of our usual Headteacher's Letter, this week we have a message from Deputy Headteacher Mr Emeny about our newly updated Attendance and Punctuality Policy, which you can view on our website by [clicking here](#).

Attendance and punctuality: working together in 2026/27

Thank you to all our parents and carers for the support you give your children in attending College regularly and arriving on time. We know that getting children into school every day is not always straightforward, particularly when families are dealing with illness, anxiety or difficult circumstances. We also know that good attendance does not happen through the work of schools alone: it depends on students, families and College staff working closely together.

Attendance at Wyvern remains strong overall and compares positively with the national picture. However, we are not complacent. Nationally, attendance remains a significant concern: in autumn 2025/26, **21.53% of secondary school students were persistently absent**, meaning that they missed at least 10% of their education. We also know that, within our own strong overall figures, there are some groups of students whose attendance is less strong than others, and these will be an important focus for our work this year.

Our updated **Attendance and Punctuality Policy for 2026/27** was ratified by Trustees on 14 September and is now available on the College website. The policy has been revised following updated statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education in July. In line with that guidance, we are reminding all families of the policy at the start of the school year and of some important changes. The DfE's central message is one we strongly support: improving attendance requires schools to work **in partnership with families**, building trusting relationships and putting the right support in place when barriers arise.

Please talk to us early

One of the most important messages we can give parents is: **please contact us early if something is making attendance difficult**.

Our Pastoral Teams are experienced problem-solvers. Whether the difficulty is friendship, bullying, anxiety, health, family circumstances, learning or something else, the sooner we understand what is happening, the more chance we have of helping before a short period of difficulty becomes an established pattern of absence. This might mean pastoral support, reasonable adjustments in College, help with routines, or connecting a family with further services. Our revised policy deliberately places this partnership and early support at the heart of our approach.

This is particularly important where **anxiety** is affecting attendance. Anxiety should always be listened to and taken seriously. At the same time, avoidance can give short-term relief while making the worry — and the eventual return to school — harder. DfE guidance therefore advises schools to maintain high expectations for attendance while working with families to identify the particular difficulty and make sensible adjustments to help a young person manage it.

Our approach is therefore neither to dismiss anxiety nor simply to accept absence as the answer. We want to help young people face difficulties safely and in manageable steps, with adults around them communicating calm confidence that they can succeed. Where a young person has more serious or complex mental-health needs, we will of course work with the family and relevant professionals to agree the right support. Our policy also contains practical advice about sleep, morning routines, screen use, diet, exercise and other foundations which can make a real difference to a young person's readiness to attend.

Trust, fairness and accurate reasons for absence

We are very grateful that the overwhelming majority of families communicate openly and honestly with us when their child is absent. Our revised policy makes clear that **we will ordinarily begin from the position that information supplied by a parent or carer is honest, accurate and given in good faith**.

Headteacher's Letter

Thursday 24th September 2026



There are, however, occasional cases where information subsequently conflicts with other reliable information, or where the reason given for absence changes. We have also experienced cases where illness has been reported immediately before or after a requested or known term-time holiday. The fact that illness occurs next to a holiday does **not** mean that we will automatically assume that the illness is not genuine. However, where there are reasonable grounds for doubt, the College may ask a family for further information or proportionate evidence so that the absence can be coded correctly. This could, depending on the circumstances, include evidence of illness or evidence confirming travel dates.

This is not intended to make our attendance system punitive or mistrustful. Quite the opposite: a system based on trust also needs to be fair. Families who report absences accurately and follow the rules should be able to have confidence that the same standards are being applied consistently to everyone. Medical evidence will **not** be requested routinely, and the College will remain flexible and proportionate about the information it asks families to provide.

An important change to morning registration

There has also been an important national clarification about school registers. Schools must take the morning register **at the beginning of the morning session**, at the **same time for all registered students**, and the register may remain open for **no longer than 30 minutes**.

At Wyvern, the morning register is therefore taken at **8:30am and closes at 9:00am**. Students should be on site and ready for the warning bell at **8:25am**. A student arriving after 8:30am but before the register closes will be marked late. However, a student arriving **after 9:00am without a reason that qualifies for an authorised absence code must be recorded with a U code and is legally absent for the whole morning session**, even though they subsequently arrive at College.

This can have a very significant effect on a child's attendance figure if it happens repeatedly: because each school day contains a morning and an afternoon registration session, regularly missing the morning session can rapidly reduce recorded attendance. We will write to families when these incidents occur and would very much appreciate parents' support in ensuring students arrive in plenty of time.

Parents can see their child's AM and PM registration marks in the Attendance section of Edulink. We strongly encourage you to check these regularly and contact us if you believe a mark is incorrect.

Where to find information and support

Our [Attendance page on the Wyvern College website](#) brings together the information families may need, including how to report an absence, lateness, requests for leave of absence, illness and medical appointments, penalty-notice guidance and further information for parents where emotionally based school avoidance is a concern. **Absences should normally be reported to College by 8:15am, preferably through Edulink.**

The full revised policy can be found on our [College Policies page](#).

Above all, please keep talking to us. We want students in College, on time and learning — but when something is getting in the way, we also want families to know that there are people here who will listen and help. **High expectations and strong support belong together.** Thank you, as always, for working with us to give every Wyvern student the best possible chance to attend, belong and succeed.

Mr Emeny



Gas Network Upgrade - Fairoak Road Bishopstoke

The gas main replacement works on Fairoak Road, Bishopstoke, are now underway and are expected to continue until Friday 11 December, subject to weather and operational conditions.

The works are taking place between B3037 Alan Drayton Way and Haig Road, with a rolling road closure moving along Fairoak Road as the work progresses. Resident access will be maintained, with signed diversions in place for through traffic.

The works will also require the temporary closure of the Haig Road junction during the relevant phase.

These are essential works to replace the ageing gas main and associated service pipes. SGN thanks residents, businesses and road users for their patience while the work is carried out.

For questions, contact SGN on 0800 912 1700, speak to the team on site, or visit [SGN's contact page](#).

Music Equipment For Sale

The Music Department has had a fantastic upgrade this Summer- new room layout, new carpets, paint, desks, and upgraded keyboards and headphones. It has really made a difference in lessons and it is fantastic to be see students engaging respectfully with our new equipment.

As a result, we now have some old equipment which is looking for a home, including several Yamaha keyboards and an acoustic drum kit. The keyboards are all in working order and come with keyboard stands and power supplies. These are the Yamaha PSR 3RR3 model with 61 keys, which have been used in music lessons so students will be familiar with the settings. Having a keyboard at home can benefit students by providing an opportunity to practice outside the classroom, thereby supporting their classroom learning, focus and discipline learning an instrument, and developing their performance skills in preparation for GCSE Music.

If you are interested in purchasing a keyboard or drum kit, please contact Miss Wood by emailing s.wood@wyvern.hants.sch.uk.





Instrumental Lessons 2026-2027 - places still available

It is not too late to sign up for instrumental/ singing lessons for this school year, and lots of you already have! We offer lessons in: Piano, Trumpet, Trombone, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon, Violin, Cello, Bass, Guitar, Drums and Singing.

If you would like to sign your child up for a free taster lesson on any of these instruments, please email Miss Wood in the music department for more information.

The sign-up form for parents to complete for instrumental lessons is on Parentmail.

If you have already signed up for instrumental lessons: the timetables will be up in the noticeboard in the Music department corridor, and the schedule for lessons is below:

Monday	Cello	Mr Hanchett
	Brass	Mr Smith
	Saxophone & Clarinet	Mr Adams
Tuesday	Drums	Mr Hayward
Wednesday	Strings	Mrs Sanders
	Singing	Mrs Musgrave
Thursday	Flute	Mrs Smith
Friday	Guitar	Mr Newton
	Piano	Miss Yick

Please make sure your child has checked the timetable for their lesson time, and brings their instrument with them on the day of their lesson. Instruments are stored in the morning in the music corridor instrument store. Please ensure your instrument is clearly labelled with your name, and ensure they take instruments home at the end of the school day. Drummers only need to bring drum sticks to their lesson. Pianists only need to bring their sheet music.

When students attend their music lesson, they will need to inform their class teacher and leave lessons 5mins before lesson begins, and go to Student Services to Sign out on the music lesson form on the clipboard- they will then go straight to the music department for their lesson.

Once lessons have begun, instrumental/ vocal teachers will contact you directly regarding progress and attendance. Do feel free to contact teachers directly via their emails which you will receive in due course.

We understand there is a lot to digest at the start of term, if you have any questions about lessons please email me or tell your child to come and see me at a break time in the music department.

If you have any questions about music lessons please contact Miss Wood:
s.wood@wyvern.hants.sch.uk



Online Music Production Lessons - bookings now open



Online Music Production Lessons

For Years 7 - 8 | No previous experience required

Does your child love music, technology or creating their own tracks? Our online lessons teach students to create beats, basslines and chord progressions, mix and arrange songs, explore different genres, and develop their skills through a structured curriculum towards the HMS Beginner Stage Music Production Certificate.



Weekly Classes

- Tuesday: 4:30–5:30pm
- Wednesday: 4:00–5:00pm
- Thursday: 4:30–5:30pm

30 lessons across the academic year | £240 (£80 per term / £8 per week)



You'll need:

Windows/Mac computer, laptop or Google Chromebook, plus Microsoft Teams and Google Chrome. Not compatible with tablets, phones or gaming consoles.



To Sign Up

Visit [SpeedAdmin](#), select Courses → Online Music Production Year 1, choose your preferred class and complete checkout. Existing HMS customers can use their existing SpeedAdmin account.

Places are limited and allocated first come, first served. Further sign-ups will be added to a waiting list.

For questions, please get in touch with the Hampshire Music Service Online Music Production Team - music.service@hants.gov.uk.

Reminder for parents of children turning 4 before 1st Sept 2026

Hampshire County Council have asked us to remind any of our current parents who may have younger children turning 4 before 1st September 2027 that you they can start school in September 2027.

Applications open for Hampshire residents on 1st November 2026.

The national closing date for applications is **Friday 15th January 2027** - don't miss it!

For more information, go to www.hants.gov.uk/admissions



NHS Annual Flu Vaccination

Dear Parent/carer,

This following is sent on behalf of the NHS School Age Immunisation Service. Please direct any queries you may have regarding the vaccination directly to the immunisation team by calling 02382 318 318 or emailing hiowh.swimms@nhs.net.

Annual flu vaccination

We are coming to Wyvern College on 15th October 2026 to give pupils their annual flu vaccination and would like your consent to vaccinate your child.

How to respond

It's important to let us know whether you do or do not want your child to have the vaccination. It will take less than 5 minutes to respond using the link below.

Flu Vaccination Form

<https://www.hiowhealthcareimmunisations.co.uk//Forms/Flu?schoolcode=SH138184>

You need to respond by 13th October 2026. Please enter the Year group that your child is currently in.

If you cannot use the online form, you can respond over the phone using the contact details below.

About the children's flu vaccine

The vaccine protects against flu, which can cause serious health problems such as bronchitis and pneumonia. It is recommended for children from Reception to Year 11 every year.

[Find out more about the children's flu vaccine on NHS.UK](#)

You can also find a range of [information resources about the vaccine on GOV.UK](#), including in other languages.

How the vaccine is given

Most children are given the vaccine as a nasal spray. This is a quick and painless spray up the nose and offers the best protection against flu.

The nasal spray contains a small amount of gelatine derived from pigs (porcine gelatine). If your child does not use gelatine products, or cannot have the nasal spray for medical reasons, you can choose an alternative injected vaccine that has no gelatine or any other animal product. You can request this in the consent form. This vaccine will be given at the session in school. Please contact either the school immunisation team or your school if you want to be present for this.

[Find out more about the use of gelatine in the flu vaccine \(including the views of faith communities\)](#)

School Events

Thursday 24th September 2026



Year 11 Careers Fair - Monday 28th September, 5.30 - 7pm

We are delighted to invite you to our annual Careers Fair, which will be held in the Sports Hall on 28 September from 5.30pm to 7.00pm.

SEN SESSION: To provide a quieter and more comfortable environment, Year 11 students with SEN and their parents/carers are invited to attend an exclusive session from 5.00pm to 5.30pm. This will allow additional time and space to speak with exhibitors before the main event begins.

A wide range of local colleges, training providers, employers, and businesses will be attending to offer advice and guidance on post-16 pathways, career opportunities, apprenticeships, and further education options.

This is an excellent opportunity for students and families to gather information, ask questions, and explore the next steps available after Year 11.

We look forward to welcoming you to this event!
Mrs Gough

Recruitment Opportunities at Hatchlings Childcare

Are you or someone you know looking for opportunities to work in childcare?

Hatchlings Childcare are recruiting qualified early years practitioners (Levels 2 and 3) for full and part time positions. Apprenticeship opportunities may also be available.

More information is available on the Hatchlings website below:

[Hatchlings Recruitment Page](#)

To find out more or arrange an informal chat, email nursery@hatchlings-childcare.co.uk or call 02380 603221.

**JOIN OUR
DRAGON TEAM AT**

**HATCHLINGS
CHILDCARE**

**We're looking for qualified early years
practitioners for full and part time roles
in our independent day nursery**

Join a team where
you can:

- Make a difference
- Support little learners
- Grow your career

**Apply today and be part of something
ROARSOME!**

02380 603221
www.hatchlings-childcare.co.uk

Community Events

Thursday 24th September 2026



Bishopstoke Skatepark Opening Jam - 3rd October

Bishopstoke Skatepark is celebrating its official opening with a skate jam, featuring music, rider demos, competitions and prizes!

All wheels are welcome, from 12 to 4pm on Saturday 3rd October.



Spooktacular Family Concert - 17th October

Come along for an afternoon of spooktacular music at Central Hall Southampton on Saturday 17th October, featuring music from Harry Potter, Ghostbusters, Wicked and more.

Shows at 11am and 2pm.

Visit www.csorchestra.org to book tickets!



Year 10 & 11 College Information Sessions

We have several upcoming college information sessions available for Year 10 and 11 students. To book your place on one of these sessions, please go to the **Clubs** icon in Edulink and search for the sessions below. You can select the session/s you require, and register your name.

Name ↕	Location ↕	Capacity ↕	Next Session ↕
Sparsholt College Y11/ Y10	Dance Studio	0/30	8:30 am Tuesday, 6 October
CEMAST and South Hants College Group	Dance Studio	5/30	8:30 am Tuesday, 20 October
SETA YR 11/ YR10 Assembly	Dance Studio	4/30	8:30 am Tuesday, 13 October

College Open Evenings - Years 9, 10 & 11

Open evenings at local colleges will begin from 23 September 2026. Please take some time to look at the attached college calendar and check whether you are available to attend with your child. These events are open to Year 9, Year 10, and Year 11 students and provide an excellent opportunity to explore the courses, facilities, and support available at each college. We encourage all families to attend where possible to help students make informed decisions about their future education and career pathways.

[Careers Site - click here for local college open event calendars and more](#)



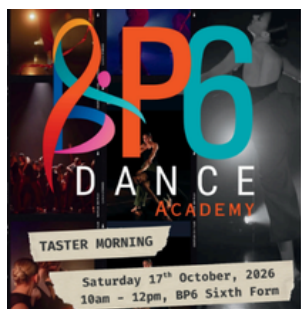
Bitterne Park Sixth Form College Open Evening

Wednesday 14th October

16:00 - 18:00

This is a great opportunity to meet staff and students and explore our fantastic facilities. Parking is available on site or on the nearby roads. Please contact the college if you require accessible parking.

[Click here to book your tickets](#)



Bitterne Park Sixth Form Dance Academy Taster Morning

Saturday 17th October

10:00 - 12:00

[Click here to book](#)



College Open Evenings - Years 9, 10 & 11



South Hampshire College Group Open Events

[Click here](#) for more information

All events are from 17:00 - 19:00

Eastleigh College

Tuesday 13th October

Wednesday 11th November

All events are from 17:00 - 19:00

Southampton College

Wednesday 21st October

Thursday 19th November

Fareham College

Thursday 15th October

Tuesday 17th November

CEMAST & CETC

Tuesday 10th November

UTC Portsmouth

Wednesday 30th Sept, 4:45 - 7:30pm

Saturday 7th Nov, 9:00 - 10:30am

[Click here to book](#)

Itchen College

Thursday 8th Oct, 5:00 - 8:00pm

Saturday 10th Oct, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Peter Symonds - Hampshire Specialist Music Course Open Evening

Mon 28th Sept, 6:00 - 8:00pm

Email music@psc.ac.uk to book your place

Referrals open for Itchen's new 16-24 programme

Itchen College has a new Step Forward programme, designed to support 16-24-year-olds who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and living within the HEWEB area of Eastleigh Borough, including Hedge End, West End and Botley.

The programme is designed to help young people build confidence, develop practical life and employability skills, gain qualifications and, most importantly, identify a clear and realistic pathway towards their next step.

The programme starts Tuesday 29 September, with sessions taking place Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10.00am-2.30pm, with Thursday drop-ins available.

If you are interested, call 073533 126426 or email courses@itchen.acuk





Upcoming Unifrog Webinars

Let's talk about university! Benefits, concerns, and real answers



Thinking about going to a UK university? We're breaking it down to basics! Join us to explore why people choose university, what you'll get out of it, and how to navigate common worries like finances, moving away, and making friends. Plus, hear from a current student about what studying at university is really like and get your questions answered live.

Mon 21 Sept
16:30 - 17:15

SIGN UP

Earn while you learn: the ultimate guide to apprenticeships



Want to earn while you learn, but not sure how apprenticeships actually work? We've got you covered! Discover the different types of apprenticeships available, the major perks, and how to tackle common concerns and misconceptions. You'll also hear directly from a current apprentice about their real-world experiences and daily life on the job.

Tue 22 Sept
16:30 - 17:15

SIGN UP

NEW: Unifrog Course Spotlight

Click below to visit the new Unifrog Courses directory and take short courses in a variety of careers!

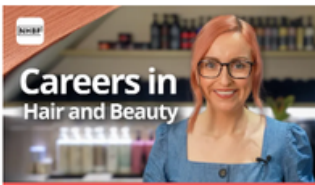


Careers in ART
(modern work experience)
Norwich University of the Arts Starter

Unleash your creativity and uncover the vibrant world of careers in art!

570 students are taking this course.

[Course page >](#) ☆ not joined yet



Careers in Hair and Beauty
(modern work experience)
National Hair & Beauty Federation Starter

Find out what it takes to build a career in hair and beauty

2,202 students are taking this course.

[Course page >](#) ☆ not joined yet



Careers in healthcare sciences
(modern work experience)
UCL (University College London) Starter

Explore the science careers that make modern healthcare possible

2,340 students are taking this course.

[Course page >](#) ☆ not joined yet

Year Group Notices

Thursday 24th September 2026



Year 7 Notices

We would like to commend our Year 7 students for maintaining the fantastic start they have made to secondary school. As they continue to settle into school life, they are demonstrating increasing confidence, independence, and a positive attitude towards learning. Their enthusiasm, resilience, and engagement in lessons have been wonderful to see, and we are extremely proud of the progress they are already making.

A reminder that our Activities Day will take place on 28th September. A letter containing full details has been sent home.

Unfortunately, the Year 7 Information Evening scheduled for 24th September has been postponed. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and will share a new date with families as soon as it has been arranged.

Finally, if students or parents need to contact the school regarding any concerns, queries, or support, please do so through your child's form tutor in the first instance. Tutors are best placed to provide guidance and direct enquiries to the appropriate member of staff where necessary.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing Year 7 continue to flourish throughout the year. Keep up the excellent work!

Year 8 Notices

No notices this week

Year 9 Notices

No notices this week

Year 10 Notices

No notices this week

Year 11 Notices

Year 11 Parents Evening is coming up on Tuesday 6th October. You will receive an email closer to the time letting you know that the online appointment booking system is open. For more information about the booking system, please [click here to view the Parent's Evening page on our website](#).