



Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Issue NUMBER 13 2025-2026

## DIARY DATES

December 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>		Art/Photography trial exams Year 11
December 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Christmas Concert
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm	Non-Uniform Day for Wessex Cancer Support College closes for Christmas Holidays
January 5 <sup>th</sup> 2026		INSET DAY
January 6 <sup>th</sup> 2026		Students return to college – all years.
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Poetry Live – Year 11
January 24 <sup>th</sup>		DofE Silver Practice Walk
January 30 <sup>th</sup>		Fort Nelson – Year 8
January 31 <sup>st</sup> – February 1 <sup>st</sup>		Bronze DfE walk – New Forest
February 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Evening)
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm & 7.00pm	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Matinee and Evening)
March 12 <sup>th</sup>		Vocal Festival

## Assemblies w/b 8/12/25 - Careers Assemblies

**KEY COLLEGE DATES** – [click here for a list of the key college dates for 2025-2026](#)

Dear Parents and carers

This week has been a really positive week at Wyvern. We have seen Year 11 students working hard in their trial exams. Our Year 9 Enterprise and Marketing students have held their Christmas Fayre in the hall, selling the products they have made and learning a huge amount about how to identify and take advantage of the Christmas gifts market. They have been so entrepreneurial and creative; I was so proud of them and their efforts. Thank you to those of you who supported them in their project. Our choir performed in Romsey Abbey last night alongside the choirs of Barton Peveril and other schools. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have also been developing their skills and are preparing to be trained in their role. We have had special events for young carers this week - to support those students who need to care for a family member. On top of this, tutor groups have been busy creating Christmas window and door displays and also implementing their plans for the kindness challenge.

Each year Ofsted inspectors evaluate the quality of thousands of schools. Ofsted therefore has a very detailed understanding of what is happening in England's education system. Every year it summarises the main themes and issues which it has found in an annual report. It published the report for 2024-25 this week. It identifies that behaviour in schools continues to be a problem, with record numbers of suspensions and sanctions given across the country. In identifying the causes of this trend, the report includes this explanation: "The influence of social media, whether by chipping away at attention spans and eroding the necessary patience for learning, or by promoting disrespectful attitudes and behaviours, clearly plays a part. Access to social media for young people and mobile phone use in schools have become perennial topics of discussion. It's clear that schools need to help their pupils navigate the risks and pitfalls of their online lives, but there is no need to facilitate access on school grounds."

Last week, I attended a head teacher's conference where Ofsted inspectors talked more about the current state of education. They said that tensions between schools and families often stem from schools' expectations that all students need to conform to common boundaries and rules but that an increasing number of parents disagreed with and challenged the set boundaries and rules. At Wyvern, we have seen big reductions in the number of sanctions this year, including suspensions, and big increases in the

number of praise points. We are also fortunate that so many parents are highly supportive of the high standards we have and the boundaries we set. Indeed, it is these things which attract so many out of catchment families to apply for school places at Wyvern. However, we continue to reflect on how we can improve things even more and what we can do to further improve the way we address the causes of poor behaviour where it does happen. I have asked the Compass School in Southampton, which specialises in supporting those with social, emotional and mental health difficulties to come and evaluate our behaviour policies and practice and to guide us in setting up more specialist interventions to help these students. They begin that work with us tomorrow.

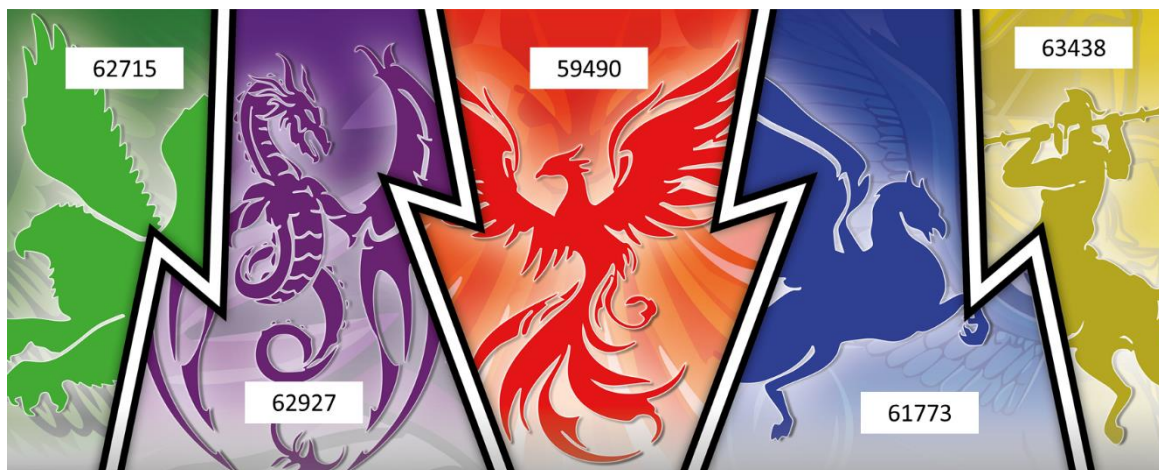
The other theme arising from Ofsted's annual report is the increase in the number of children with special needs. It raises the question of whether there really are more students with special needs or whether schools have become better at identifying these needs. Either way, the report concludes that teachers need to have greater training in this area of work. We await the government's proposals for reforming the special needs system, which is due to be published next term.

Despite the challenges facing schools and the world of education, it remains a pleasure and privilege to work with young people; I am heartened by the number and quality of people now training to be teachers and am encouraged by the wonderful things our students do - as their effort in this week's business fair, Romsey Abbey concert, kindness challenge, Year 11 trial exams, anti-bullying work and interhouse Christmas decoration competitions all show.

With best wishes  
Mr Rule

## COLLEGE CULTURE

House points as of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### SCHOOL TRANSPORT & POST & TRANSPORT POLICIES

Hampshire County Council is keen to remind local residents that there is still time to share their views on proposed changes to our School Transport and Post-16 Transport Policies. We would be grateful if you could share the below reminder with families. Thank you in advance for your support.

Hampshire County Council is running two consultations on its current School Transport Policy and its Post-16 Transport Policy for 2026/27.

The consultations run until this Sunday (7 December) and seek feedback on a number of small, proposed changes to make the two policies easier to understand and provide greater clarity on how the services are delivered and managed. Alongside these basic changes to policy wording, the County Council is also proposing to withdraw the formal offer of a Spare Capacity Seats Scheme in its School Transport Policy.

Visit the below webpages for more information about each consultation and details of how to submit your feedback:

- [School Transport Policy](#)
- [Post-16 Transport Policy](#)

### Hampshire Musci Online Music Theory Course in January 2026

Designed to prepare students for the ABRSM Grade 5 Music Theory exam.

What's included?

- 20-week online course (January–June, term time only)
- Weekly 60-minute sessions every Thursday, 4:00 – 5:00 PM
- Expert tuition from an experienced teacher
- Interactive lessons: 45 minutes of teaching + 15 minutes Q&A
- Individual feedback through assignments set between sessions
- ABRSM Grade 5 workbook included

[Click here for more details.](#)



**ADULT FOOTBALL SESSIONS - Monday and Wednesday 8-9pm at the college.**

[Click here to find out more.](#)

**FAIR OAK COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

**Update**

**CALLING ALL YOUNG WRITERS & ARTISTS**

**AGE 5-16!**

**WRITE**  
A MAX-500  
WORD STORY  
OR POEM.

**OR DRAW A  
PICTURE OR PAINTING**

The entries for the book are with the printer, and a final proof is currently being worked on – it should be printed by the end of the month!

Fair Oak Community Library will be holding an event for everyone who contributed – with prizes too and this will likely be in January.

The most up to date information can be found on their Facebook page.

### CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHAMPTON

As the Christmas Holidays is fast approaching, Southampton City Council are pleased to announce that we have a wide range of activities for children and their families to keep everyone entertained, including a visit to see Father Christmas!

We have planned programme of history and art workshops that cover everything from fun family walking tours to hands on workshops and all day wrap around care. Workshops are engaging, accessible and designed to promote family learning. We also have the return of Father Christmas at Tudor House and Garden.

More details, including how to book, can be found on this link [Christmas Holiday Activities 2025](#)

**CHRISTMAS LANTERN PARADE 2025**

**FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER**  
**SET OFF AT 5PM**  
FROM THE SQUASH CLUB CAR PARK  
**NEW CENTURY PARK**  
(SHORTS ROAD)

Bring your own festive lantern to parade around the park, then join us for Christmas carols!

**FREE Cooking Classes**

Practical cooking programme to gain valuable knowledge & skills for health and wellbeing.

**Six week cooking workshop!**

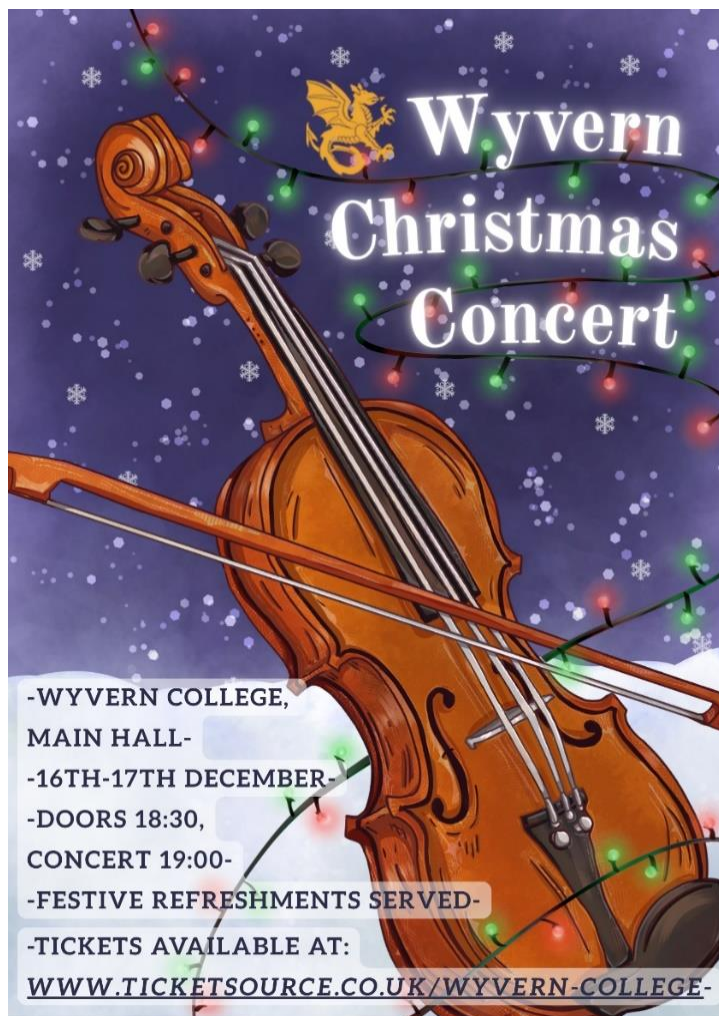
**Be quick! Spaces are limited!**

- Open to all residents (16 years and over)
- Must be a resident of Fair Oak, Horton Heath or Bishopstoke
- Starts Tuesday 13 January to 17 February 2026, 5pm to 7pm at the Fountain Cafe, Shorts Road

Sign up here:

**EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL** Funded by UK Government





## We Are Changing Our Hours!

From January 2026:  
Our Term Time Pre-School  
will now be open  
8.30am to 3.30pm

Government funding  
accepted.

Use the QR Code to find  
out more and book your  
place.

[www.wyvernchildcare.org.uk](http://www.wyvernchildcare.org.uk)

## CAREERS NEWS

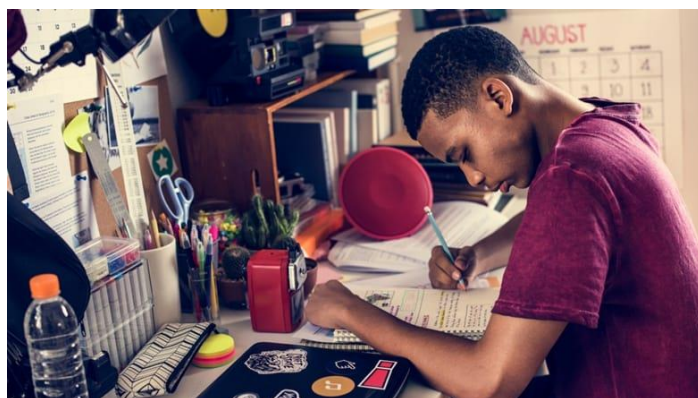
## UNIFROG SEMINARS

Please see below Unifrog webinars for this week's newsletter 😊

### How to prepare for exams and tests Virtual

Exams and tests can be daunting, but effective revision can help cure some exam nerves and set you up for success! Join this webinar to hear some top tips from university experts, a current university student, and a member of the team at Unifrog about how to balance your revision and rest time, and how to excel in the upcoming exam and test season.

Tuesday 9 December @ 16:30 UK time - 45 mins - [sign up](#)





## Biochemistry and biotechnology taster: diagnosing and treating mitochondrial disease

### Virtual

Mitochondrial disease affects more than 1 in 5,000 people in the UK, impacting multiple organ systems – most often the brain and skeletal muscles. The disease is very difficult to diagnose, unless there's a family history, and there's currently no cure. Join Dr. Gavin McStay and Dr. Iain P. Hargreaves from Liverpool John Moores University as they explore the cutting-edge role of biochemistry and biotechnology in tackling the diagnosis and treatment of this heterogeneous disorder.

Tuesday 9 December @ 17:30 UK time - 45 mins - [sign up](#)

## PETER SYMONDS COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINE

## MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025

If you need any  
support with  
your application  
please speak to  
**Mrs Gough**

j.gough@wyvern.hants.sch.uk



## GENERAL NOTICES

### District Cross Country News UPDATE

We are delighted to confirm that after the cross-country trials last week, 6 of our athletes have been selected to run for Eastleigh and Winchester at the County Champs at Wellesley Woodland Aldershot on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. Congratulations to Hugo, Amy, Jack, Lyra, Alyssa and Fern.

### OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERING TRIP

Following on from an assembly delivered to students about volunteering, I am pleased to announce that applications for Wyvern Team Romania 2027 open on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

In summer **2027**, we are planning to take a team of student volunteers to work with children in a **Roma Gypsy community**, partnering with the charity **Dare2Dream**—a family-led organisation that runs feeding programmes, youth work, and educational activities for local families.

As part of the trip, the team will deliver a **five-day programme of activities** for children aged **4–16**, offering creative sessions, group projects, and youth-club style workshops.

This is an opportunity to:



- Make a direct positive impact in an underserved community
- Build strong relationships with other students outside the classroom
- Experience meaningful international volunteering work
- Work alongside a dedicated charity with long-standing ties to the community

If your child would like to be considered for this trip, applications and permission must be received by 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (Please see ParentMail).

If you would like more information, **please contact me directly**. I'd be happy to answer any questions and share further details.

Kind regards,  
Mr H Pannell  
[h.pannell@wyvern.hants.sch.uk](mailto:h.pannell@wyvern.hants.sch.uk)

## TWO EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG COMPOSERS:

Martin Read Foundation Young Composers Scheme: [News: supporting young composers | Martin Read Foundation](#)

Carducci Young Composers Competition 2026: [Carducci Young Composers Competition – Carducci Quartet](#)



**Carducci Young Composers Competition 2026**

"I have absolutely loved taking part" 2025 participant

Are you a young composer aged 11-18?

Would you like to have your music workshopped and performed by the world famous Carducci String Quartet?

Would you like to win a cash prize of £100?

If so, why not enter the Carducci Young Composers Competition?

Deadline **Friday 27 March 2026**

Full 13-page resource pack and application form available from school music depts or [carduccitrust@gmail.com](mailto:carduccitrust@gmail.com)



**COMPOSER  
AGED 14 -17?**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO **WRITE A PIECE FOR STRING QUARTET**  
AND **HEAR IT PROFESSIONALLY PERFORMED AT THE ROYAL  
COLLEGE OF MUSIC?**

**THEN READ THIS!**

The Martin Read Foundation is inviting  
applications for 2025/26.

Selected composers will receive a  
commission, mentoring, live  
workshop and performance  
opportunities.

For more information visit  
<https://www.martinreadfoundation.org>  
or scan the QR code



**DEADLINE 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

## YEAR 7 NOTICES CHRISTMAS LUNCHES

Staff and students are looking forward to Christmas lunches this year. Christmas lunch and festive dessert will be at a cost of **£5.00**.

Options for lunch will be *Roast Chicken with trimmings (DF) (GF) or Ratatouille with trimmings (VEG) (VE) (DF)*

**Year 7 Lunch will be Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Payment must be made via Parentmail by 3pm Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

All Free School Meal students must complete a ParentMail form by the deadline, no payment is required. Please email [finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk](mailto:finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk) with any additional dietary requirements.

## YEAR 8 NOTICES

No notices for this week.

## **YEAR 9 NOTICES**

### **CHRISTMAS LUNCHES**

Staff and students are looking forward to Christmas lunches this year. Christmas lunch and festive dessert will be at a cost of **£5.00**.

Options for lunch will be *Roast Chicken with trimmings (DF) (GF) or Ratatouille with trimmings (VEG) (VE) (DF)*

**Year 9 Lunch will be Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Payment must be made via Parentmail by 3pm**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

All Free School Meal students must complete a ParentMail form by the deadline, no payment is required.

Please email [finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk](mailto:finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk) with any additional dietary requirements.

## **YEAR 10 NOTICES**

### **CHRISTMAS LUNCHES**

Staff and students are looking forward to Christmas lunches this year. Christmas lunch and festive dessert will be at a cost of **£5.00**.

Options for lunch will be *Roast Chicken with trimmings (DF) (GF) or Ratatouille with trimmings (VEG) (VE) (DF)*

**Year 10 Lunch will be Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Payment must be made via Parentmail by 3pm**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

All Free School Meal students must complete a ParentMail form by the deadline, no payment is required.

Please email [finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk](mailto:finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk) with any additional dietary requirements.

## **YEAR 11 NOTICES**

### **CHRISTMAS LUNCHES**

Staff and students are looking forward to Christmas lunches this year. Christmas lunch and festive dessert will be at a cost of **£5.00**.

Options for lunch will be *Roast Chicken with trimmings (DF) (GF) or Ratatouille with trimmings (VEG) (VE) (DF)*

**Year 11 Lunch will be Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Payment must be made via Parentmail by 3pm**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

All Free School Meal students must complete a ParentMail form by the deadline, no payment is required.

Please email [finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk](mailto:finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk) with any additional dietary requirements.

## **POETRY LIVE**

In the Spring term, the English department are running an exciting trip to watch and listen to the AQA GCSE poets reading and discussing their poems. The event 'Poetry Live' takes place in Basingstoke. This will be a valuable and enriching experience for students in Year 11 as they will gain a unique insight into the language and context of their Power and Conflict poems in readiness for their GCSE English Literature exam.

Please click here more information about the trip and how to apply for a place for your child.