



Thursday 13th March 2025

Issue NUMBER 24 2024-2025

DIARY DATES

21st March

26th March

31st March – 4th April

1st April

4th April

14th & 15th April

22nd April

5th May

26th – 30th May

16.00-19.00

Non-Uniform Day – for Simon Says

Year 11 Virtual Parents Meeting

Celebration Assemblies

Year 9-11 Catch up Boosters for tetanus, diphtheria, polio and meningitis

Last day of Spring Term

Easter Art Sessions

Beginning of Summer Term

Bank Holiday

Summer Half Term Holiday

Dear parents and carers,

Following the General Election last year, the new government asked a panel of experts to review the curriculum in England's schools, including how students' learning is assessed. Although the review panel is not yet ready to publish its findings and recommendations, it has this week published a report on its progress so far. Having identified the issues, they want to address in this interim report, the panel will now spend the next few months looking at possible solutions to these and making recommendations to the government. I thought I would give you a short summary of what has been said in the interim report around the four identified areas or issues they want to tackle, as we can expect changes to these areas in the next couple of years.

Issue 1: an education system that works for all

The review starts by saying that the last government's curriculum changes led to a significant improvement in standards of education when comparing students' levels of literacy, numeracy and knowledge with students in other countries. However, it points out that beneath this headline, there are significant differences or "gaps" between the performance of different groups of students, in particular much lower attainment by children with special needs and those from a background of economic disadvantage.

Issue 2: the shape and content of the curriculum

The review is looking at how schools ensure students have a broad curriculum (studying a wide range of subjects) whilst also ensuring students study subjects in proper depth. It has highlighted several areas where this balance between breadth and depth is not being achieved. It says that at primary school, students are being taught core subjects in depth, but this has meant they do not get to study a broad enough range of subjects. It says that the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 needs to be managed better as students often repeat in Year 7 what they have studied in Year 6. It says that some schools begin to prepare students for GCSE exams in year 9, reducing the range of subjects they study in year 9. It says that the GCSE exam courses for many subjects contain too much content, which means schools do not make time to teach non-exam subjects like RPS and PE properly in Years 10-11. The panel is looking to see if the number of exams sat for each GCSE can be reduced whilst not affected the reliability of the grades given.

Issue 3: a curriculum "fit for the future".

The review expresses concern that the curriculum has not kept up with developments in the modern world and therefore does not include important things students should know. There should be a greater focus on digital and media literacy, artificial intelligence and more of a focus on sustainability and climate science. There should be more focus on making subjects relevant to the real world of work. More work needs to be done on diversity in the curriculum so that discrimination is tackled. There is currently no nationally agreed content for RE and for relationships and sex education which has led to big variations in the quality of these subjects across the country.

Issue 4: curriculum and qualification for 16-19 year olds.

The report says that A-Levels are working well but that 18-year-olds do not always have the knowledge and skills to thrive in life and work. It says the purpose of some vocational courses which are alternatives to A-Level can be unclear to employers. It says that students who do not get a grade 4 or higher in GCSE resits in English and Maths in Year 11 should re-sit them in Year 12 but that current arrangements for this to happen have not improved students grades from when they took them in Year 11.

If you are interested in reading the full interim report of the review panel, then you can find it here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/curriculum-and-assessment-review-interim-report>

Safeguarding: Echo Chambers

An echo chamber is an online forum where a person only encounters information or opinions that reflect and reinforce their own. Website owners and social media platforms have realised that people want to interact with others who sound like them and think like them. Children are spending time in echo chambers: forums where their own views are echoed, reinforced and built on without being challenged.

Children naturally tend to enjoy a diverse range of interests. Echo chambers can funnel their attention down a restricted path. More than 500 hours of new content is uploaded to YouTube every minute which is over 80 years' worth of material every day. Algorithms push people towards familiar faces and favoured themes. Echo chambers can present rumour as fact, spread misinformation and disseminate fake news.

Even adult social media threads can quickly turn into echo chambers, where a dominate person or group attracts agreement while those who disagree either don't contribute or get criticised for doing so. If you notice your child seems to be watching content from the same small number of accounts all the time, then it's a sign that your child is accessing a narrow and restricted diet of information which could blinker their worldview and make them intolerant of those who have a different outlook or perspective. The danger is they become angry or aggressive towards those who say things they don't like. Students need the life skills of being able to empathise with others, to resolve conflict and to respect those they encounter who are different to them.

If you become concerned by the amount of time your child is spending on certain websites or social media platforms then you could talk to them about setting time limits. You can maintain these limits using the parental control options on their devices. You can use the settings on individual apps to avoid echo chambers. Twitter's default setting is to show tweets it thinks users will like first; YouTube automatically plays its next "recommended" video selected by an algorithm based on what the user has watched previously. But both these settings can be adjusted. We can and should challenge what our children think and say, rather than reinforcing it.

The journalist Sydney Harris said, "the whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." What he meant was that the whole purpose of education, is to stop children turning inwards and to help them look outwards; to see beyond themselves; to see more than just the immediate current state of their life; to open up possibilities for them, to show them what the world has to offer, to widen their horizons, to introduce them to different ideas, beliefs and experiences than those they currently know. If mirrors are social media sites that make them dwell on themselves and their current issues, problems and worries, then windows are the experiences they have in school and in extracurricular activities that make them look out, beyond their current self to the future.

With best wishes
Mr Rule

VACANCIES:. To see our current vacancies – please go to [Recruitment - Wyvern College - Think Grow Care](#)



Friends
of
Wyvern

Enriching Experiences, Enabling Success

COPPERS FOR CANOPIES

Overview: Let's get creative with our spare change and work together to raise money for something great—sheltered outdoor seating for our break times! Introducing the *Coppers for Canopies* fundraiser on behalf of Friends of Wyvern. A fun and easy way to contribute to our school's future and enjoy the outdoors,

rain or shine.

What's the goal?

We're raising funds to install canopies outside, so our students can have a dry, comfortable space to relax during break times. No more soggy sandwiches or squinting at the sun while you try to catch up with your friends—just a chilled, sheltered space to hang out, rain or shine.

How can you help?

We're asking all students to bring in their spare change! Yes, those pennies, 2p coins, and any other small change you have lying around at home can add up to make a BIG difference. You might be surprised at how fast those coppers can turn into pounds!

Here's how it works:

1. **Start collecting your coins!**

Look around your house, car, or backpack for any loose change and bring it to school. Every penny counts, and we're hoping to collect as much as we can to fund those canopies.

2. **Hand it over!**

Each tutor group will have a special "Coppers for Canopies" collection bag. Bring in your coins and hand them over to your Tutor!

3. **Get rewarded!**

To make it even more exciting, the tutor group that raises the most money will earn **House Points** for their efforts, plus a special reward to be revealed at the end of the campaign!

4. **Every penny helps!**

Remember, pennies add up, so don't think small change doesn't make a difference. It all adds up to help create the outdoor space we need.



When does it happen?

Start bringing in your change right away! The fundraiser will run from **Monday 10th March** and we'll be counting the coins at the end of each week. Keep an eye out for updates on how your tutor group is doing, and don't forget to keep collecting!

Why do we need your help?

Our school's outdoor spaces are such an important part of daily life, but we need a little extra help to make them more comfortable and usable for everyone. With a canopy, we can all enjoy fresh air and sunshine during breaks—without worrying about the weather! Plus, it's a great way to make our school look even better.

Let's make it fun!

The more you raise, the more house points your tutor group can earn! The winning tutor group will be rewarded with a **special prize** that'll be announced at the end of the campaign. And of course, the more we raise, the sooner we can enjoy our new canopies.

So, dig through those couch cushions, empty your piggy banks, and let's make this campaign a massive success! Together, we can create a comfy, covered space for everyone at school. Ready, set, **start collecting those coppers!**

Let's make our break times better—rain or shine. 💰🌧️☀️

COMMUNITY NEWS

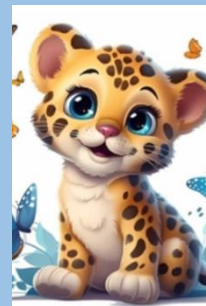
LEOPARDS PRE-SCHOOL – [Click here to find out more about our term time pre-school.](#)

TENNIS SESSIONS @ WYVERN – [click here to find out more about our Saturday morning Junior Tennis sessions.](#)

ICON SESSIONS

[Click here to find out about the multi-sport Easter hilday camps run by ICON in the college.](#)

[Click here to find out about our Footbal Coaching Sessions at the college.](#)



Eastleigh Active

There's still time for young people to get active over the Easter break.

The Eastleigh Active programme of sports and activity sessions has been extended to Easter for a third year to help children and young people across the Borough to escape the everyday this April.

Already, the hugely popular golf sessions have been sold out but there are places still available for teenagers who want to try their hands at Olympic Weightlifting.

Or how about trying your hand at a Scooter Workshop, CrossFit, Football or Tennis.

A complete list of activities, prices and venues that are still available can be found by following the link below.

<https://www.eastleigh.gov.uk/latest-news/eastleigh-active-easter>

DISCOUNTED FAMILY DAYS OUT

Spotlight UK is a registered charity that provides free and discounted fun activities and days out for all children and families across Hampshire and Berkshire including bowling, laser tag, swimming, ninja warrior, and days out to Chessington, 4 Kingdoms, Paultons Park and more.

We have two memberships programmes, our gold membership which is a one off yearly fee of £7.50 per person which entitles everyone to activities and days out at up to 50% off the normal price and some free activities and then our charity funds the difference or funds the activity in full to make activities more affordable and then our standard membership is free to join and this gives activities and days out at a discounted rate of £1-£5 off the normal price.

[Click here for our upcoming timetable for April through to the summer holidays.](#)

To find out more please email Louisa@spotlightuk.org

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME.

Children and young people from low-income families in Hampshire can look forward to an exciting programme of fun activities and nutritious meals over Easter, courtesy of Hampshire County Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

The programme is funded by the Department for Education so that local authorities can offer healthy food and enriching activities in the school holidays to children who receive benefit-related free school meals during term time. A small number of places are also available on HAF schemes for other vulnerable families.

There are over **150 sites delivering activities across the whole of Hampshire** over the Easter holiday period. Schools, childcare providers, community groups and sports activity providers are amongst those delivering schemes.

We are now inviting eligible families to book their free school holiday clubs. Information on available schemes and how to book on our Family Information Services Hub (FISH), using the following link.

[Family Information and Services Hub | Holiday Activities and Food Programme](#)

FAIR OAK 1ST SCOUT GROUP – SQUIRREL SECTION

We are looking to establish a Squirrel Section – for 4-6 years old and would love to hear from any families that would be interested in joining the team. [Click here for more details.](#)

NEWS ROUND UP

AWARD SUCCESS

Great news from the recent Portsmouth Downs Syndrome Association Community Champion Awards. Our Drama Curriculum Leader, Mr Harrison, won the Inclusive Teaching Excellence Award.

He collected his award on Tuesday, with Alfie, whose family had nominated him for the award for the ways he has adapted Drama GCSE to accommodate Allison Powell (DS liaison advisor) was present at the event and commented that there were several Wyvern teachers who should be considered for this. Maybe it will be their turn next year! Thank you to all of those teacher who work so hard to include our neurodiverse students.



VOCAL FESTIVAL

The annual Vocal Festival took place last Thursday at Thornden Hall with the theme 'Into the Night Sky'.

All the singers shone like stars and the event was a wonderful celebration of singing and community.

The vocal coach, Hannah Drury, led the singers throughout the day in their vocal workshops, delivering with inspiration and passion. It was wonderful to see all of the singers from Wyvern college, Stoke Park infants and Juniors, Fair Oak infants and Juniors, Durley, and Upham Schools coming together for this annual event.

We had the addition of some year 11 flautists this year: Tom, Lauren, Chloe and Immy - they performed instrumental parts in 'Earthlight' accompanying the infants which brought some extra magic to the performance. Lauren performed the beautiful melody line in 'Vincent- Starry, Starry Night' which was sung by the senior choir. The evening concluded with all voices singing together 'Skyful of Stars' by Coldplay- a fantastic end to an incredible day of singing.

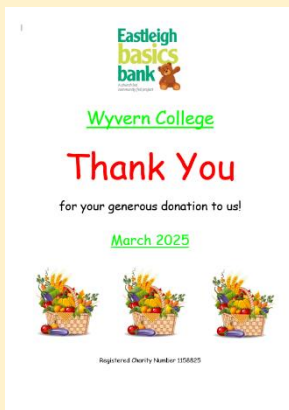


EASTLEIGH BASICS BANK THANKS

On behalf of the Trustees of Eastleigh Basics Bank, I am writing to express our thanks for your recent donation of food and toiletries to us Wyvern College. We are very grateful for this gift.

As spring approaches, we are still experiencing a high demand for our services from local people who find themselves in a food crisis. Your donation helps to ensure we can meet these people's needs.

Please pass on our thanks to all the staff and pupils who contributed.



GENERAL NOTICES

NON-UNIFORM DAY FOR SIMON SAYS

We would like to raise money for Simon Says – a Hampshire charity that helps children who are dealing with the death of someone close. They may feel angry, guilty, frightened and alone. It can be very difficult for a parent, carer, close relative or friend to help a bereaved child when they are grieving, and this charity looks to provide support and resources.



We ask parents to contribute £1 per student to the charity using - either through Parentmail or cash on the day.

Students will also be holding a bake sale during the breaks.

HAMPSHIRE TEEN PROJECT

This Easter, Wyvern College is thrilled to continue our partnership with Personal Best Education to offer the Hampshire Teen Project for students aged 11-16 who are in receipt of free school meals. Taking place from Monday, 7th April to Thursday, 10th April, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, the programme offers a fun mix of activities, including Laser Tag, Multi-sports, Virtual Reality Gaming, Engineering & Coding, and Cooking & Baking. All attendees will receive a free hot lunch each day.

[Please sign up using the QR code in this letter](#), places are limited so early booking is advised.

LOOKING FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

There are still some Year 11 who are looking for apprenticeships especially in construction and Engineering. So if you are an employer and would consider taking on a student then [please have a look at this poster](#) and get in touch with citb or myself Mrs Gough at j.gough@wyvern.hants.sch.uk.

CAMHS Parents and Carers Events

There are some upcoming free events about mental health that families might find beneficial. [Please click here for more details](#) and here for their [Embracing Autism seminars](#).

Kooth Support for Neurodivergence

Join us on this 30-minute webinar designed for families, exploring how Kooth - with its 'out of hours' availability, anonymous digital chat support and asynchronous messaging - is well placed to meet the specific needs of neurodivergent young people.

[How Kooth and Qwell meets the needs of SEND & neurodivergent young people](#)

HAMPSHIRE YOUTH CHOIR “SING-ALONGSIDE” Friday 25th April 2025 in Winchester.

Hampshire County Youth Choirs are opening their doors to invite potential members to come and sing alongside their current singers.

With choirs for everyone from Year 2 to 13, this is the opportunity for children and young people who love to sing to come and find out more about what we do, with the view to join us for the Summer Term.

The evening will end with a showing to parents and a chance to meet the Directors.

[Click her for more details.](#)

THE LION THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE PHOTOS

Families of the cast of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, should have received an email about purchasing the portrait photos. Please can we have all orders made and paid by Thursday 27th March? If you have not received the email, please get in contact with d.tyler@wyvern.hants.sch.uk

CAREERS NEWS

YOUR FUTURE TRANSITION ORDER

The Your Future transition event is back for it's third year; the event is aimed at year 10s to start their thinking about progression after year 11. We are once again very pleased to be hosted within the Spark building at Southampton Solent University.

The event is funded by the Solent Careers Hub and supported by SEF; Exhibitors will be zoned according to type – Apprenticeships, College, Personal development, SEND and Aspiration. We encourage Parent/carer involvement and ask that you please use all school media channels to send the attached flyer 'your future parents and carers' on a regular basis for the next 12 weeks. This slot is also relevant for NEETs.

[Please click here for more information of the event.](#)

FOOTBALL TRIALS AT SPARSHOLT

Open Day events at Sparsholt will continue to run open day events in the Easter break for any current Year 11 students who are looking for further education accompanied with an opportunity to play football. Click here for two flyers into the email ([male students](#) and [female students](#))

SETA APPRENTICESHIPS

[Click her for the latest SETA Apprenticeship Bullentin.](#)

BARTON PEVERIL OPEN EVENING

We are excited to announce that booking is now open for our Year 10 May Open Event. Please see the wording below that you can use to help us promote our event to your students:

Join us on Thursday 1st May, 16:30 - 20:30 at Barton Peveril Sixth Form College for an exciting opportunity to:

- Explore our facilities
- Research all courses on offer and QXTRAs!
- Speak to our current students and teachers
- Enjoy the College's vibrant and energetic atmosphere

To Secure Your Ticket: www.ticketsource.co.uk/barton-peveril-college-events.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your student to explore an outstanding sixth form college.



UNIFROG UPCOMING WEBINARS

Artificial intelligence and legal rights: could AI be treated just like you and I?

Virtual

Artificial intelligence is developing quickly around the world. It's being used to create self-driving cars and drones, and software like ChatGPT, and even machines that order their own parts. In the world of law, it's helping lawyers to prepare material and review documents. Join Giles Gater, Senior Lecturer in Health, Education, Policing and Sciences at the University of Staffordshire to explore laws around human intelligence and autonomy, and how these could apply to AI in the future.

Thursday 27 March @ 16:30 UK time - 45 mins - [sign up](#)

Five things everyone should know about criminology, criminal justice, and policing

Virtual

Perfect for aspiring criminologists, this webinar is a full introduction to the Criminal Justice system of England and Wales! Drawing on his edited books in the '50 Facts' book series, James Treadwell from the University of Staffordshire will cover some of the vital facts you should know as a student, while giving you a taste of the sort of things he does as an academic criminologist. He'll also explain how studying criminology at university can set you up for a rewarding career.

Thursday 27 March @ 17:30 UK time - 45 mins - [sign up](#)



PETA OPEN EVENING

Our Open Evening is just over a week away, and we want to remind you to sign up and attend this exciting event!

This is a great opportunity for you/ students to:

- Speak with our Learning and Development Coaches
- Connect with current apprentices and hear about their experiences
- Meet representatives from the companies we partner with and learn what they're looking for in potential apprentices

Whether you're exploring apprenticeship opportunities or simply curious to learn more, we look forward to welcoming you and answering any questions you may have.

Please be sure to register in advance to secure your place.



PETA Open Evening

24 March 2025

4pm - 7pm

1 Access Point, Northcote Road, Portsmouth PO6 3TE

At PETA, we specialise in delivering high quality apprenticeships in:

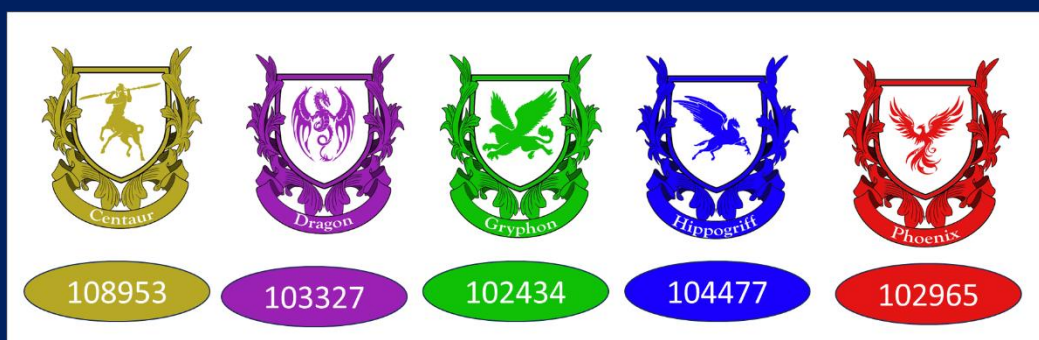
- Business • ICT
- Finance • Engineering

Register your interest

Want to learn more about apprenticeships? Pop along to our Open Evening and meet our staff and apprentices to hear more!

PETA 

COLLEGE CULTURE – House Points 20th March 2025



YEAR 7 NOTICES

We are glad to say that the fundraising campaign is now in full swing, and the Easter Egg donations are arriving at the Pastoral Office. Thank you for this but we are still woefully short of our target of one per pupil - please can we ask that, if possible, you add an Easter Egg to your shopping list this week and help build up our stock in time for the tombola on the last week of term?

A plea from teachers with regards to pupils arriving ill equipped for lessons which are in turn is now making staff ill equipped themselves! We are seeing an increasing number of children that are not bringing a pencil case to school and are asking to borrow pens and other stationary items from staff. Can you please discuss this with your young person and ensure that they have all the equipment they need with them daily. Following nicely on from this we would like to say a huge well done to tutor group 7C1 who have amassed the most achievement points for the category 'being prepared and equipped for lessons'.

We would also like to say a belated well done, and an official welcome into the lucrative P3 club, to Rosa Harrison. Rosa recently qualified to run for the local district school's cross-country team at a county wide event in Basingstoke. She not only ran her socks off but managed to run herself into the top 15 finishers and has subsequently earned herself a place in the county cross country team. Such an amazing achievement and we wish her well for the next round - keep an eye out for that name as we could have a potential Olympian in our midst.....

We really do like to celebrate and share in the achievements of all of our learners, so please do drop us a quick email if there is something that you wish to share with us. This can be a sporting achievement, passing a music exam, performing on stage, doing some charity work etc... We are also really keen to encourage pupils to broaden their horizons, meet some new friends and join some clubs. We do recognise this with P1's for extracurricular attendance and our current highflyers for this category are Anya (7C2), Skye (7P2) and Jessica (7C2) - well done ladies.

Thank you as always for your continued support of our young learners and of the school.

Mrs Taylor-Watson
Year 7 Pastoral Leader.

YEAR 8 NOTICES

Two weeks left of this term and as always, the time is flying by!

Year 8 returned their options forms last Friday and I was delighted when Mr Stocks, our Deputy Head, told me that this year group had the highest deadline return rate ever! There were only fourteen students who had not handed their options form in for the deadline (and most of these were due to absence on the day) and by Tuesday that number had reduced again to less than six – well done Year 8 and parents!

Mr Rule delivered assembly this week on the theme of International Women's Day. There were some strong and significant messages for all our students within this assembly, not only girls, so please do ask about it over dinner. One of our Tutors, Dr Walker along with our Wellbeing Advisor, Miss Gott, are also fundraising on Friday 21st March for a charity called Simon Says which helps bereaved children aged 0 – 17. We know that many of the children within our community have benefited from the support of this charity and hope that Wyvern do some great fundraising!

Thank you to the parents who have also sent in chocolate donations for our Easter celebration assembly which is taking place the week beginning 31st March – any donations at all (big or small) will be greatly appreciated for our year group chocolate raffle. Praise highlights from last week include 8C1 & 8D2 – joint highest number of P1s last week (533) – especially pleased for D2 getting from third to first! Next, we have G2 (530) – (so close) and in third place H1 (525). Less than 10 points between the top tutor groups and the third. The leader board for students last week is as follows Ollie from H1 and Ella also from H1 with 56 P1s, in second place we have Jyot from H2 with 49 P1s and in third place we have Amelia from D2 with 42 points. Amazing effort – well done!

Mrs Howard
Pastoral Leader Year 8

YEAR 9 NOTICES

REMINDER: 01st April and for tetanus, diptheria, polio and meningitis catch up boosters.

YEAR 10 NOTICES

REMINDER: 01st April and for tetanus, diptheria, polio and meningitis catch up boosters
No notices this week.

YEAR 11 NOTICES

REMINDER NO 1: 01st April and for tetanus, diptheria, polio and meningitis catch up boosters

REMINDER NO 2: Year 11 parents evening, taking place on 26th March 16.00-19.00 is open for bookings. You should find a link in your email.