



## Weekly Bulletin 9th May 2025

### [Headteacher Welcome](#)

Welcome to this week's newsletter! We're excited to introduce a new approach with a single focus each week. Last week, we celebrated excellent attendance and a successful week for our Year 11 students. This week, our spotlight is on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Geography and Mathematics).

As our Year 11 students begin their exams in earnest, we wish them the best of luck. Please remind them to keep using your support networks – we're all here to help you succeed!

Annabel Stoddart

Headteacher

## The Power of STEM in Children's Learning

In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, STEM education—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—is more than just a buzzword. It's a vital foundation for preparing children to thrive in the future.

### Why STEM Matters

1. **Fosters Critical Thinking:** STEM encourages children to ask questions, analyze information, and solve problems creatively. These skills are essential not only in academics but in everyday life.
2. **Builds Future-Ready Skills:** From coding to robotics, STEM equips kids with the tools they need for tomorrow's careers. Many of the fastest-growing jobs are in STEM fields, making early exposure a smart investment.
3. **Encourages Curiosity and Innovation:** STEM learning taps into a child's natural curiosity. Whether it's building a volcano or programming a robot, hands-on activities make learning exciting and memorable.
4. **Promotes Inclusivity and Diversity:** Introducing STEM early helps bridge gender and racial gaps in tech and science fields. Every child deserves the chance to see themselves as a scientist, engineer, or innovator.
5. **Connects Learning to the Real World:** STEM shows kids how classroom concepts apply to real-life challenges—from climate change to space exploration—making education more relevant and inspiring.

### How Parents and Educators Can Help

- **Incorporate STEM at Home:** Simple experiments, building kits, and educational games can spark interest.
- **Support STEM Programs:** Advocate for strong STEM curricula in schools and community centers.
- **Celebrate Curiosity:** Encourage questions and exploration, even when the answers aren't obvious.

## Boosting Maths Confidence at Home: TT Rockstars & PiXL Maths App


Supporting your child's maths journey at home can make a world of difference—and we have two fantastic tools to help!

### **Key Stage 3: TT Rockstars**

TT Rockstars is a fun and engaging platform that helps students master their times tables through quick-fire games and friendly competition. Regular practice:

- Builds speed and accuracy in mental maths
- Boosts confidence in the classroom
- Prepares students for more complex problem-solving

How you can help:

Encourage your child to play for just 10 minutes a day. Celebrate their progress and challenge them to beat their personal best!  **Key Stage 4: PiXL Maths App**

The PiXL Maths App is tailored to GCSE content, helping students revise key topics, close knowledge gaps, and prepare for exams with confidence. It offers:

- Targeted questions based on ability
- Instant feedback and explanations

## Y11 Evening Revision Sessions – Maths & Science Support


To give our Year 11 students the best possible preparation for their upcoming exams, the Maths Team and Mr Smith from Science will be running evening revision sessions the night before each Maths or Science exam.

These sessions are a great opportunity to:

- Recap key topics
- Ask last-minute questions
- Boost confidence before the big day

 When?

The evening before each Maths or Science exam (exact times to be confirmed)

 Where?

School classrooms – details will be shared with students in advance

Let's make every revision session count! Attendance is strongly encouraged.

## Forest School & Technology Team Up: Building Homes for Wildlife

We're excited to share a fantastic cross-curricular project bringing together the Forest School and Technology Department to give our local wildlife a helping hand!

Last term, Year 7 students worked together to design, build, and install bird boxes and nesting boxes around the school grounds. Combining practical skills with environmental awareness, this project helps students:

- Learn about local bird species and their habitats
- Develop woodworking and design skills in Technology lessons
- Understand the importance of conservation and biodiversity

With guidance from their teachers, students used sustainable materials and thoughtful designs to create safe, welcoming spaces for birds and small animals.

Parents and carers will be able to spot these student-made boxes in the trees as they walk up towards the school—a visible reminder of the creativity and care our students are putting into supporting nature.

It's hands-on learning with a real-world impact—right in our own school environment.

## Positive points



Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the most positive points this week. It is amazing to see that these students have amassed so many positive points in such a short time. Well done!

Zara Hollier

Harrison Roberts-Bray

William Dale

Oscar Gittens

William Morris

Tom Gilliver

Owen Huffa-Davies

Olivia Timmis

Amelia Barton

Nevaeh Berry

Isla Cheadle

Thomas Lewis-Newton

Jessica Room

## Key Dates



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***16th May: Y10 Higher Horizons Event***

***23rd May: Break up for May Half Term***

***2nd June: School reopens for final term***

***26th June: Year 8 Parents' evening***

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