

Principal's Update Newsletter (Jan - Feb)



Jan - Feb 2024

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A letter from the Principal

Well what a busy half term we've had; the staff and students have achieved a lot in just six weeks! From the release of our wonderful OFSTED report, to Year 11 residential; from Knowledge Connected days and Longtown Trips to Golden Ticket Draws there's been something for every Year Group to be proud of and it's all included in this half term's newsletter.

I wish you all a safe and happy half term - though, for Years 11 and 13 we will see many of them in for revision! #Proudtobewrenn

Mrs. Parker

OFSTED - Rated Good



We are immensely proud to share our latest OFSTED report. The work of our staff, our community and most importantly, our students, has been recognised. We have a 'vibrant, inclusive culture where pupils succeed'. Read it here:

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50238785>

Since our previous inspection in May 2018, we have continued to maintain those high standards that Wrenn prides itself on achieving. Congratulations to you all, Teachers, Students and parents for your continual efforts. This was a win for team Wrenn!

[#proudtobewrenn](#)

Half Term Round-up

Year 7:

It's been a very busy half term and a big well done to the students who have continued to take part in a range of different opportunities. They are certainly developing their character with a range of leadership roles. Well done to the **boys football team** who have progressed to the **next round of the county cup**, another convincing win against Quinton House has shown the Year 7 boys to be fantastic team. We had a great **Knowledge Connect day** where students were looking at scientific methods/forensics in the use of solving clues. Many students continue to take on ambassador roles and thank you to all of the students who are now in leadership roles as community ambassadors. The last week of this half term, some students have also applied to be a **Primary School Ambassador**. The **closing date for this is 1st March**. Over 100 students have taken an application form!

After half term we look forward to take the boys and girls indoor athletics teams to the **County School Games** event on **Thursday 29th February**.

Have a restful break,

Year 8:

What a term! We have been to Longtown, we have completed AP1 and we have received **hundreds of Golden Tickets**. We could not be more proud of the data that we have achieved for our Attitudes to Learning; this is reflected in classroom behaviour and the progress being made by all pupils. We have **Year 8 Parents' Evening coming up next half term on Wednesday 27th March**, where we will be able to have important conversations and explore the excellent work that these pupils are doing. Year 8 are magnificent at volunteering - so many **purple jackets** at lunchtime are helping to keep our school clean and tidy. We are truly in awe of the character that is being developed by our year group and look forward to the terms to come. Have a great break.



Year 9:

This term has been a big one for students with the launch of the options selecting process. There is lots of positive enthusiasm for options with the focus of this in tutor time and assemblies throughout the term and of course our brilliant options evening.

Our student senate reps created some excellent posters to portray what a day in the life of a year 9 student looks like. These look great and we hope to display soon. As always with year 9, there has been a lot of celebrate in terms of sport and competition for example with futsal, table tennis championships & ESU public speaking competitions. Those students were a credit to our school and have been celebrated in assembly too. We had the first person in the whole school to achieve **600 achievement points** (not that we are competitive at all!) and we now have 4 students who have achieved this too. Lots of our students have been progressing with the Duke of Edinburgh award and many are looking forward to the Isle of Wight trip in the next term.

As we look forward to the next half term, the **options deadline** looms on the **15th March** and then we will turn a lot of focus towards Graduation, in preparation for the end of the year to celebrate our students graduating year 9, moving to upper school and starting their GCSEs.



Year 10:

Well done year 10 for a fantastic half-term. We ended last term with a **rewards trip** 'Go-karting' in which 50 students took part. Again, this half-term we end with another celebration trip to the cinema! Over 50% of our amazing year 10 students will be attending. This half term students have been busy preparing for their AP1 which are in March. I have had the pleasure of going into lessons most days and have been so impressed with the year group as a whole. They are working so hard and have been getting lots of achievement points along the way. We have amassed a **staggering 12,000 achievement points** already in term 2! A number of our parents would have received emails about this and also for great attendance. Thank you for all your kind words in response and its great to see how supportive you are of the school.

A **special mention** goes to Jack O'L who was chosen for trials with **Team GB flag football**. We are so proud of his efforts. We have also just had our achievement assembly and a number of students were awarded certificates for their efforts. Well done to Daniel K and Gustavine for winning the progress leader award for student of the term.

Keep up the amazing work year 10!



Year 11:

A **Maths Trip** to the **Frontier Centre** and with many preparing for **Mocks** and next years decision to either stay on for Sixth form, or move onto education elsewhere, our year 11's have been delving deeper into their subjects to better understand what their futures could look like.

'Points mean prizes!' has made a brand new appearance to encourage our year 11 students, who have the opportunity to put their all in to achieve great results AND Prizes/vouchers.

We are proud of how on board our Y11s have been with this incentive. In fact, in the first two weeks 63% of the cohort has reached the first prize threshold for their £10 voucher and we are anticipating that by half term, 90% of the Y11 cohort will have received the initial prize. Miss Wright also enjoys the excitement of updating the leader board on the Y11 board with Y11's watching eagerly to see if their name is in the top 10! Keep it up year 11

Attached below is a poster which details what students can gain points for, the prize thresholds and how they can ask to find out how many points they have

See below for more information on this  

Sixth Form:

This has been yet another active term in 6th Form.

Year 13 students breathed a sigh of relief when they submitted their UCAS applications by the end of January. Some students have already been given fantastic offers from their first-choice universities. Other students who have opted not to apply for university are being supported with apprenticeship research and parents have also been sent useful links so that they can support too. All Year 13 students are now turning their attention to preparing for their **final mocks** which will begin on **11th March** for two weeks.

Year 12 have been busily securing **work experience** in industries of interest. They are looking forward to delving into the world of work beginning on **4th March**.

With a local bi-election in Wellingborough looming, some of our Year 13 students were given the opportunity to voice their opinion about local issues, the improvements they want for Wellingborough and what they expect their elected officials to execute for young people and education in general on a live programme hosted by **BBC Northampton**. They also met some of the candidates and appreciated the conversations had.

On **1st February**, we had our annual **Winter Ball** at the Old Grammarians. This was a night enjoyed by all and a chance for students - and staff - to let their hair down!



Points mean prizes!



This half term, we have launched our *“Points mean prizes”* scheme with our **Year 11 cohort**. This is an incredible incentive which aims to focus students on activities and tasks which will have a positive impact on their knowledge and skills for their summer examinations, and therefore their results!

This includes receiving points for **completing GCSEpod revision videos and questions**, engaging with morning **breakfast club**, staying in school to **revise maths until 5pm** and **attending school each day**, with **double points** offered on **Fridays** as nationally this is where schools see attendance dips.

When students receive:

- 50 points, they receive a £10 voucher
- 350 points a £20 voucher
- 600 points a prom ticket or £30 voucher

...and those in the top 20 of the points leader board by the end of Y11 are in with a chance to win a range of prizes valued between £150-£500!

The best part about this scheme is that students will be able to choose what they want their prize money to be spent on by **telling us what they would like**, so if this is a **prom dress**, or a **pair of trainers**, or a **PS5**, if it is within the value of which they have won, we will get it!

If you would like an update of your points, Follow and like our social media pages:

[facebook.com/wrennschool](https://www.facebook.com/wrennschool)

twitter.com/WrennSchool

or please scan the QR code on the poster or visit: <https://forms.office.com/e/GQHUFgk3rS>

Half Term Revision - Year 11

I am delighted to be able to share with you our February Half Term Revision schedule. As you know, the last round of mock exams start immediately after the break so it is vital that students take up every opportunity available to them. **Each session attended is worth 5 points in 'Points Mean Prizes'.**

This second round of mocks enable us to gain really precise information about what students do and don't know and can and can't do. It is really important that students try their very best in these exams so that the information we gain is accurate and therefore we know what we need to re-teach before they sit the real exams.

Every session is open to every child (apart from PETXI Science - targeted students will have received a separate e-mail to this if invited). **There is a separate Science session that all students are welcome to attend.**

If your child's teacher feels that they really SHOULD come to their subject, then they will have been informed, **but all sessions are open to all.**

You will also notice there are some opportunities for 'Library Study' should students just need a quiet space to work.

We look forward to seeing them over half term.

Year 8 Longtown Trip

Wrenn School are pleased to have offered the opportunity for 100 Year 8 students to go on a residential trip to Longtown Outdoor Learning Centre in Hereford. The centre offered a range of outdoor activities such as **high ropes, canoeing, caving and mountain walking**. The aim was to promote resilience, self-confidence, consideration for others, caring for the environment and bring education to life in the outdoors, looking at mountain and rock formation.

Miss Earl: *"I have got to say I was so proud to be Wrenn when the students over the week grew in resilience and went above and beyond what they thought they could, challenging themselves really showing our Wrenn ethos."*

Students:

"Never thought I would get this opportunity to experience this landscape and see what else is around me"

"Looking at the different rock formations and landscapes has brought everything to life, I understand it more because I have seen it"

"I never thought I would try new things and go out of my comfort zone but it showed that I can do more and challenge myself more than what I thought"









CET Orchestra and Choir Rehearsal (18th Jan)

Preparations are underway for the **CET Orchestra performance on 23rd April**. We are honoured to host at Wrenn for our fellow schools to practice. They should be proud to have created such a diverse orchestra with a strong sound from each section:

Strings

Brass

Woodwind

Percussion

and...

Choir

To have so many get involved, we only hope to grow for the following year. If you have a keen interest, please get in touch with one of your schools music teachers, and we can discuss options for how you could get involved (even if you are a beginner), play and make friends in great sounding places

We'll catch up with them at our **next rehearsal: 19th March**



1 - CET Orchestra



2 - Choir



3 - Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello



4 - Woodwind: Clarinet. Brass: Trumpets



5 - Woodwind: Bassoons and Saxophones





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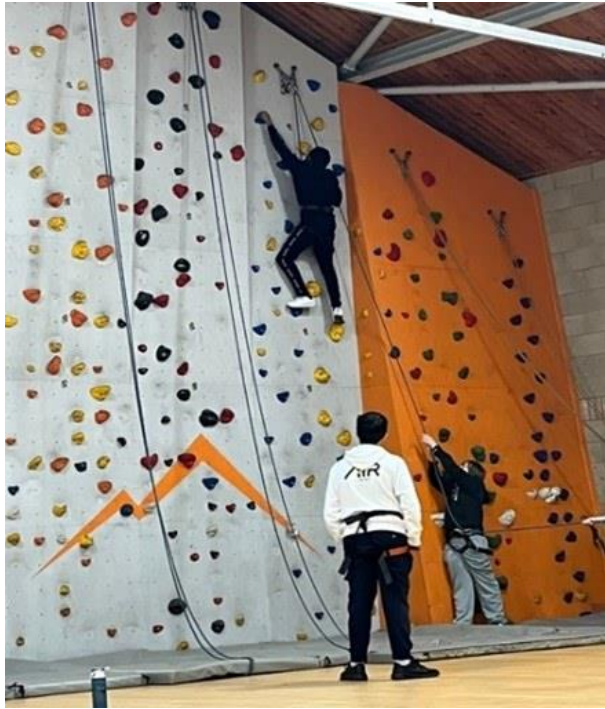
Maths Residential Yr 11

We took 48 Year 11 students to the **Frontier Centre** for an overnight Maths residential. They experienced a range of team building activities during their stay in addition to completing 5 hours of Maths lessons to develop their resilience and challenged themselves. In the evening of the first day, they competed in a Maths quiz with some hot chocolate and marshmallows! On the second day they had the opportunity to try some climbing activities, they scaled the rock-climbing wall, took part in crate climbing and the high ropes.

We would like to thank all the staff who supervised and delivered the sessions to ensure that the trip was a success.









Business trip to Kettering Park Hotel

The Year 12 business students who are completing their **Cambridge Technical coursework** based on customers and communications, were on a visit to **Kettering Park Hotel**. They were treated to a business conference experience including, drinks, snacks and a 2 course business lunch.

Thankyou to Andrew Whollett and his team for hosting and making us feel welcome. Students even left with a goody bag!



Knowledge Connected

Year 7

An immersive experience where students were able to study and recognise the **Patterns** that occur in Forensic study

feedback from their Form Tutors:

"It was lovely to see the students being so excited this morning going into the conference room to see the crime scene. When they came out some of them were really discussing what they had found and what could have happened."

"It was brilliant - my form was so engaged and pretty much jumping up and down to refute each other's claims of who they were thinking the prime suspect was."

"My science class, lead their own discoveries, engaged in active learning the whole time, had probably a 75% success rate, showed amazing teamwork in their groups, and through it all they maintained an amazing energy level. It was honestly one of the best moments of my career in and around the education field. "







Year 8's Knowledge Connected day was focused on Patterns. They are everywhere, every subject and many subject intertwine using the same vocabulary. eg. An ensemble can be both an outfit in textiles, or a group of musicians. Cooking uses science and pretty much everything uses Maths. We get huge amounts of engagement from the students on these days where they see how relevant they subject is in our world.

Spotting the patterns in:

Art: Pop Art

ICT: Computer thinking to solve problems

Dance: Set-up, developing and vary/break the patterns in a dance

Drama: Creating dramatic tension, climax and anti-climax

DT: The rules that generate a surface pattern and writing their own rules for their own pattern

English: In language - Creating a semantic field

Food Studies: Patterns which are used to standardise the mass production of food

Geography: Identify 'push' and 'pull' factors that generate patterns of international migration

History: Using the resources from the patterns of information found in historical sources

Maths: The Golden Ratio - recognising it in shells, roses, art... even our Wrenn logo

Music: Minimalism - Taking a simple musical pattern and developing it into something far more creative

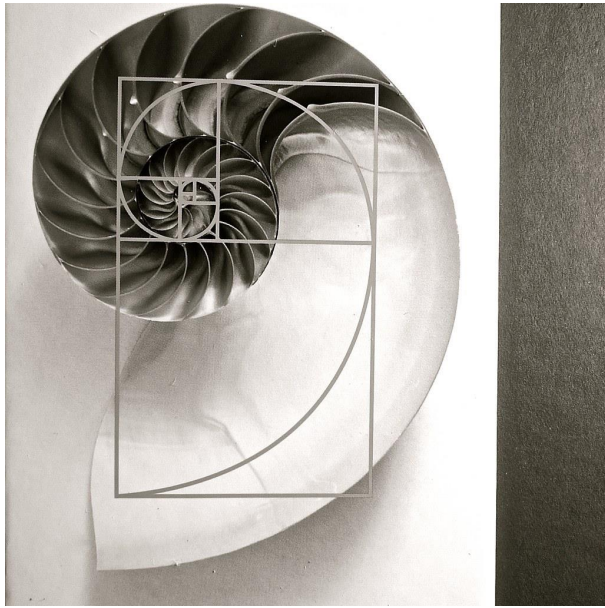
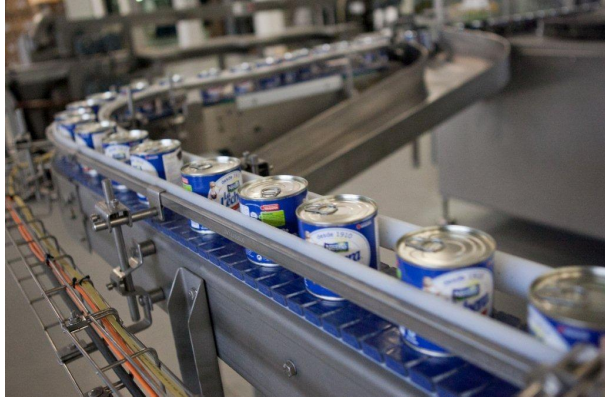
PE: Recognising patterns from your opponent, and how to outwit them

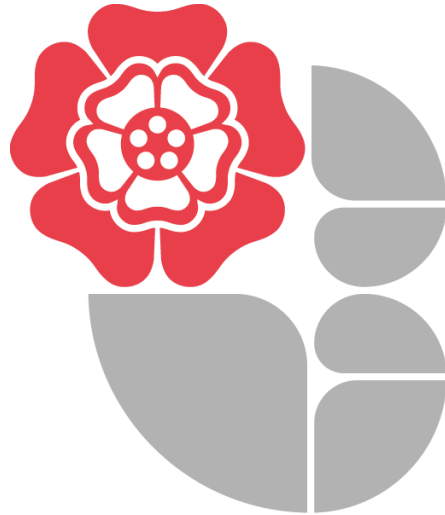
RE: Cultural and religious practices - identifying common moments and experiences that people mark with ritual

Science: Groups of substances by their properties of density, atomic radius and boiling points

If we dive deeper into these patterns, we may unlock more potential than we ever thought possible







**WRENN
SCHOOL**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Yr 9 Options Evening

So many choices...

Thank you for the huge turnout of 209 out of 258 students.

We hope we have answered all your questions to help you and your child make an informed decision when making your subject choices for year 10.

It's worth considering:

Do you enjoy the subject? - you are far more likely to succeed in an area you have a keen interest in.

Are you doing well in that subject? - You may or may not like the subject, but if you are naturally good at it, it could be a way of achieving more GCSE's.

Does that subject help you reach your career goals?

Do you need a certain subject qualification to move onto further education?

If you still have more questions, please seek out your child's teacher and they may be able to guide you

or check: <https://www.wrennschool.org.uk/ks4-curriculum>

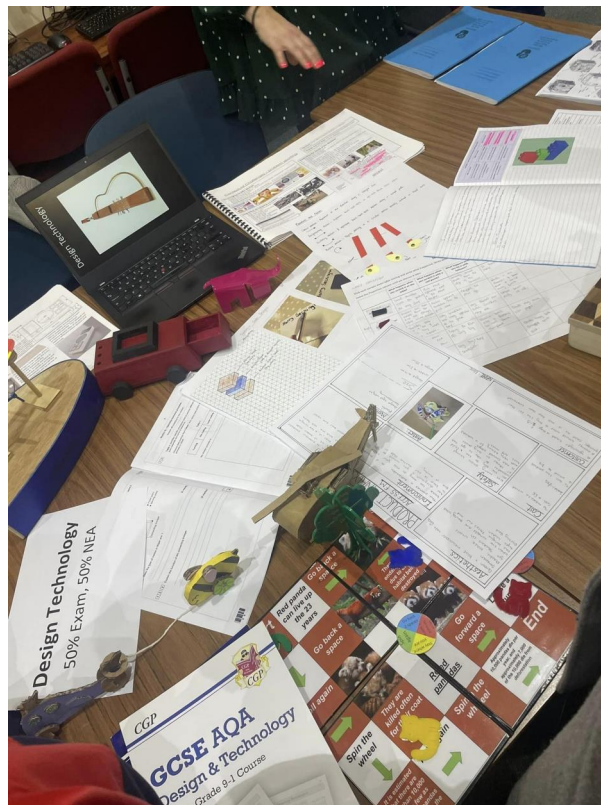
REMINDER:

Options deadline looms on the **15th March**

Thank you too for your lovely comments:

"Thank you for running this, it was really helpful."

"Was really impressed 🙌 , thanks to all involved 👍💜"





Careers News



We have some amazing activities and workshops coming up in the next Half Term.

Careers - What's Been Happening?

Year 11 Destinations Assemblies

Our Year 11 students have now had all of their destinations assemblies. We have had assemblies from all subjects on offer from Wrenn Sixth Form as well as all 3 of the local colleges in to talk about College as an option for our students. (Northampton, Moulton and

The Bedford College Group.) Our students also received an assembly delivered by Starting Off, who are a company specialising in office based apprenticeships.

We hope that by giving them this information it might help them with the big decisions they have to make. These assemblies will also happen through lower years later on in the academic year.

Year 11 Careers Meetings

All of our Year 11 students have now received their Careers Meeting with an independent Careers Advisor from Prospects to discuss what their post GCSE options are. Should students still require some more information they are welcome to request another meeting or to speak to their form teachers / heads of year who can always request another.



Careers - Upcoming Events

Careers Half Term

All year groups will focus on the different aspects of Careers during the next half term. Students will explore all aspects around their future decisions such as apprenticeships, colleges, universities and dreaming big.

STEM Roadshow - Year 7

We are excited to say that we have arranged for the STEM Roadshow which is hosted by the Royal Navy, RAF and BAE Systems to come to our school for our Year 7 students. The roadshow will explore electricity, it is a highly interactive show, exploring what electricity is and how we generate it.

Young Inspirers Programme - Year 8

This is a 1 hour workshop where Year 8 students get to meet a panel of young people who have undertaken an apprenticeship as their career options. Students will be prepped beforehand so that they have some questions that they might want to know the answer to.

Motivational Assembly - Year 9

We are thrilled to say that we have got an external speaker in to speak to our Year 7 and our Year 9 students about how to motivate themselves to do well at school.

Barclays Life Skills - Year 10

Our year 10 students started their Barclays Life Skills journey back in December. All year 10 students will have 4 workshops spread across the academic year. Their next session is dedicated to how to write a CV.

Year 12 Work Experience - 4th March - 8th March

Our Year 12 students have been hard at work finding and securing work experience placements. Students are going out for 1 week in March to gain some experience of the working world. We wish all of our students the best of luck for this week and hope they have an amazing time.

National Apprenticeship Show - Year 12

We have the amazing opportunity to take all of our Year 12 students to the National Apprenticeship Show in Milton Keynes. This show features hundreds of local employers who offer apprenticeships, the students are free to walk around and ask any questions they may have.

Your Feedback

We are encouraging all parents / carers to give their feedback on the Careers Programme this academic year. The full Careers Programme can be found on our website at the following link.

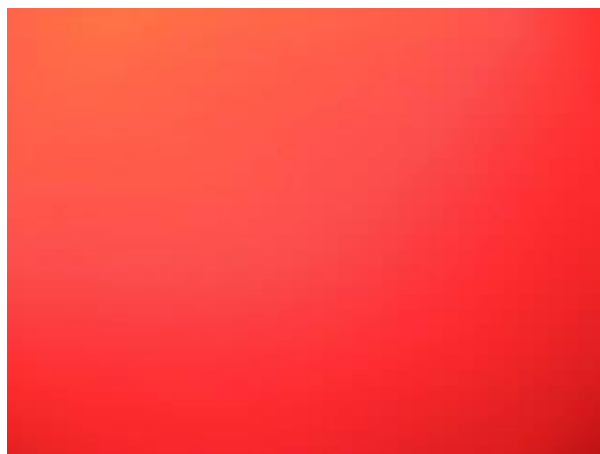
<https://www.wrennschool.org.uk/ks5-curriculum/careers-advice>

Please leave your feedback on the following MS Form.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Srey53u84W>

Your feedback will help us to ensure that we continually improve our programme to ensure that we provide the information that is required.

Sports



Futsal Champions!



30th Jan

The Girls team (under 17's) beat Manor School 6-5 in the District Tournament, with Phoebe scoring the winner in the last 30 seconds and what a goal it was. Top Bins!

The Boys team (under 17's) won their Futsal tournament too, becoming District Champions. Most importantly beating Weavers in their last game!

Table Tennis Tournament



Charity Events



Mental Health Week

As you are aware, as a school we celebrated World Mental Health Day last week in support of the charity Young Minds. With your support, we raised **£166.70**; this donation will help support young people with mental health issues.

2nd November 2022 is National Stress Awareness Day.

There's plenty of reasons for teens to get stressed, and they will vary based on what's happening in their life and their personality. In small doses, stress can be a great motivator, helping us get things done. The problems set in when we experience high levels of stress over extended periods of time. That can be damaging, both to mental and physical health. Parents can't stop their teens experiencing stress; however, they can help them develop ways to deal with it more effectively. The parents guide have launched a free book to help parents and students with any anxiety or stress they may be going through, which is attached to this email. In this guide, they cover:

- How to spot the signs of anxiety and stress
- Ways to help right away
- Long term strategies to build their resilience
- Coping with rejection
- Encouraging healthy routines
- Looking after the basics
- Habits that can make stress worse
- Where and when to get help and support

PJ Day

Sixth Form helped raise money for the Wellingborough Food Bank

They raised a whopping total of **£135**

All these little things can make a massive difference, and in the comfort of... well your own Pyjama's







Charity- Totals for this year so far

Cancer research - £81.00

Jeans 4 Genes - £84.00

Macmillan Cancer - £73.00

Young Minds - £100

Children in Need - £69.00

Poppy appeal - £93.90

Food bank - £135.00

Grand Total £635.90

Dates for the Diary



28th Feb - Photography Trip - Science Museum

4th - 8th Mar - WEX Yr 12

7th - 8th Mar - Barclays Life Skills

7th Mar - World Book Day (Students **do not** dress up). Can take part in Staff costume competition - 'Who's Behind the Book?'

19th Mar - MD Photo Prize (CET)

19th Mar - CET Orchestra Rehearsals

25th - 26th Mar - Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice

27th Mar - Y8 Parents Evening

28th Mar - Last school of day. End of term- early finish at 1.30pm (Easter Holidays)

29th March & 1st Apr - Good Friday & Easter Monday

Mon 15th Apr - School open

15th March - Y9 *Options deadline*

15th - 19th Apr - Y9 Isle of Wight Trip

25th Apr - Yr 10 Parents' Evening

29th Apr - Creative Writing Final - CET Yr8

6th May - May Day

9th May - Yr 7 Parents' Evening

24th May - Last day of school

27th - Late May Bank Holiday

3rd June - School Re-opens to students

19th July - Last day of School- early finish at 1.30pm

22nd July - Teacher training day

23rd July - Teacher training day

26th Aug - Bank Holiday

Have a lovely Half term break!

Proud to be Wrenn

"AMBITION AND EXCELLENCE WITH CARE FOR ALL"

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