

Dear Families,

Key Dates for Your Calendar – February 2026

We have a number of important dates coming up in February, so please do take a moment to add these to your calendar.

- **Year 9 Options and KIT Evening – Thursday 5th February 2026**
Our Year 9 Keeping in Touch and Options Evening will take place on Thursday 5th February. Further details will be shared nearer the time, but for now, please save the date.
- **Collaboration and Professional Development Days – Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th February 2026**
As outlined in our term dates, Spring Half Term runs from Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026. This will be followed by a Professional Development Day on Monday 23rd February and a Collaboration Day on Tuesday 24th February. Students will study from home on the Collaboration Day while staff from across our Trust come together to develop shared strategy and strengthen our work for all children and young people. Information about home study tasks will be shared closer to the time. Students are expected to return to school on Wednesday 25th February 2026.

Drop off and pick up

A reminder that the Whitchurch Rugby Club have kindly allowed us to formally share the following plan on a trial basis to help our families with an alternative for drop off and pick up. This trial is currently in place until the end of Spring 1 (Feb Half Term) to be reviewed:

- SJT families are welcome to drop off or collect their children from the Rugby Club car park
- Please note families are advised not to use the entrance as a turning circle
- Families are asked to drive up to the club house to turn and drop off
- Children can then walk to and from school along the foot path
- Families are asked not to access the site before 8am for morning or before 3pm for afternoon
- Families are advised that they drop off at their own risk
- Families are advised to be mindful of children crossing, reducing speed and road safety
- We will review this as part of a trial for Spring 1 and update families on future plans
- Families are asked to be respectful of the grounds at the Rugby Club and understand the generosity of their agreement to undertake a trial

We hope this proposal helps us reduce congestion in the car park by working together as a community.

A Reminder About E-Bikes on School Site

We've recently noticed an increase in students arriving to school on e-bikes. While we appreciate that families are exploring different ways to get to and from school, e-bikes are **not permitted on campus**. This decision is based solely on safety. Our site layout, traffic flow, and the speed of e-bikes create risks that we want to avoid for all students, staff, and families. Staff have been speaking directly with students and parents who are currently using e-bikes, but we'd like to make sure the whole community is aware of the expectation. If your child uses an e-bike, please help us by making alternative travel arrangements.

Thank you for your support in keeping our school environment safe and welcoming for everyone.

Opportunity to Become a School Governor

The Trust is currently looking to recruit new Governors for the Woodlands School in Wem. This is a great chance for parents, carers, and community members to play an active role in supporting the school's direction and helping shape its future.

If you're interested in finding out more or would like to apply, please get in touch with Bee Lopez on Belen.LopezBloor@mmt.co.uk, who will be happy to share further details.



Mr Tim Stonall
Headteacher


Timetable w/c Monday 19th January 2026 – Week A


Road Safety Reminder

As we move further into the darker months, we are asking for your support in reminding students about the importance of staying safe when travelling to and from school, as well as when they are out in the community. Whether walking or cycling, it is essential that students are aware of their surroundings and visible to other road users. Please encourage your child to wear bright or reflective clothing so they can be easily seen, especially during early mornings and late afternoons.

For those cycling, a properly fitted helmet is necessary, and bikes should be equipped with working lights to help keep them safe on the roads. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe as they travel.


The Shore – Mrs Lewis


 This week the Crews have been reflecting on their last guest speaker and what it entails to be a Paramedic. They have also been busy researching different careers that they are interested in, they have been finding out all about the skills needed for the career, qualifications that you would need and lastly what different salaries you could receive in the job. All of the Year 7 students will be presenting these to their crews over the next couple of weeks.


 The Year 7 boys football team played their first ever competitive match, losing away to Madeley Academy in the County Cup. They all played exceptionally well, full of enthusiasm and did brilliantly for their first competitive match.




The Harbour – Mr Hawke


 This week in The Harbour, Year 9 have been completing their non-core subject exams, including their first formal exam in the sports hall for History. Students have risen to the challenge admirably, and I have seen lots of flash cards and revision notes out during lunch times! Exams continue next week for all Year 9 students.

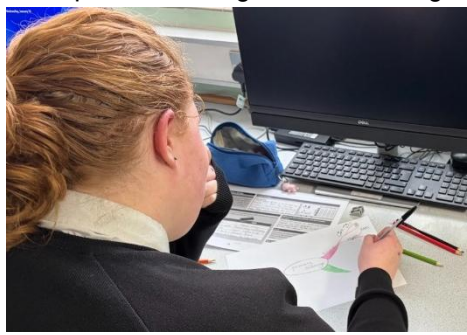
 Students in both Year 8 and 9 have continued with their Wednesday Period 5 enrichment sessions which are proving popular, with staff and students enjoying the opportunity to work together in new ways.


 In Year 8, students have practised giving "appreciations" in our year group Community Meeting, with many choosing to appreciate their families for their wonderful support at home!

 The School Immunisation Team will be visiting the school on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th January 2026 to administer the 3-in-1 Teenage Booster Vaccination (DTP) and Meningococcal (MenACWY) vaccination to all Year 9 pupils. A consent form has been emailed and a reminder that the deadline to complete this is 9am on Saturday 24th January 2026.

The Quay and Sixth Form – Mrs Elms

 On Tuesday, Year 11 enjoyed a fantastic off-timetable day for their Quay to Success event. Students took part in tailored sessions covering wellbeing, quick revision tips, and strategies for achieving at least a grade 4. In the afternoon, we welcomed guest speaker Karim Al-Abbas, founder of Enlighten Education, who delivered an engaging workshop on revision techniques, including mind mapping. A fun highlight was the whole year group learning to count to 10 in Japanese! We're already seeing the impact in lessons, with students putting these techniques into practice and creating mind maps for upcoming assessments. Well done to Year 11!



 Year 12 and Year 13 have made an excellent start to their mock exams this week, arriving prepared and focused. It's fantastic to see so many students approaching the exams with a positive attitude. Year 13 students will continue with their exams next week and receive their results during a special mock results day on 11th February.

Our Curriculum

At Sir John Talbot's, our curriculum reflects the values we live by - excellence, integrity, empathy, creativity, and equality. We use learning journeys to help students understand how each subject develops, so they can follow their progress with confidence and support. For more information, please click on the link here: [Our Curriculum - Sir John Talbot's](#)

ABM Catering Menu – W/C Monday 12th January 2026 – Week 2

Our Spring Menu is located on our school website in the Family Information section under School Life. You can also click on the direct link here: [Family Information - School Meals](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click [here](#) to view our upcoming events. Events at a glance:

- w/c 12th January – Week 1 of 2 Mock Exams Y12 & 13
- 13th January – Year 11 Quay to Success – Y11 off timetable all day
- w/c 19th January – Week 2 of 2 Mock Exams Y12 & 13
- 29th & 30th January – Y9 Vaccination Clinics
- 30th & 31st January – DofE Gold Training, Cynwyd Mountain Centre

Click [here](#) to view our Term Dates.

Stay in the Loop

Catch up on our latest news [here](#), or follow us on Facebook ([SirJohnTalbotsSchool](#)) for updates and celebrations.



For stories across our wider school community, visit [MarchesAcademyTrust](#).

