

Timetable w/c Monday 23rd March 2026 – Week A

Crew Inclusion Leder – Miss Cooper – Year 9



This week, we're delighted to introduce you to our next Crew Inclusion Leader (CIL), Miss Ebony Cooper, who is supporting our Year 9 students.

Miss Cooper previously worked as an Access Leader at SJT and brings a wealth of experience in supporting young people. Alongside her work in school, she has also spent time at Wrexham Football Club, a role that reflects her love of sport. Outside of work, she enjoys playing football, going to the gym and spending time with her dog.

Miss Cooper shared:

"I am excited to work with Year 9, as it's such an important stage in their school journey. With students beginning to take more responsibility and make decisions about their future options, I am looking forward to guiding and supporting them through this key transition."

One Voice Students Shine in Dragon's Den Challenge

Our One Voice students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit our Trust Central for a Dragon's Den-style challenge on Thursday last week. Joined by students from across the Trust, they confidently pitched their creative ideas in the hope of securing funding to bring their projects to life.

We're incredibly proud to share that our SJT team proposed hosting a Summer Dog Show to raise money for the Bradbury Care Home, supporting the development of their cinema room. Their pitch focused on securing funds to cover prizes for the event, and they impressed the panel.

We're delighted to announce that they were awarded £100 to get their project underway. Keep an eye out for more details about the dog show. It's shaping up to be a fantastic community event.



Hockey Tournament

After securing first place in the County tournament, our U13 Boys Hockey team headed to the Regional Finals at Nottingham Hockey Centre on Wednesday. Facing the top school teams from Worcestershire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Staffordshire was always going to be a tough test, but our boys rose brilliantly to the occasion!

Across the day they delivered some outstanding performances:

- Won 2 matches (1–0, 1–0)
- Drew 1 match (1–1)
- Lost 3 matches

These results placed them 4th out of 7 teams in their pool, a fantastic achievement at such a competitive level! We are incredibly proud of every player for the effort, resilience, and energy they put into each game. The team showed huge improvement throughout the tournament, demonstrating maturity in their setbacks and real pride in their victories.

Well done to our amazing U13 boys, a brilliant performance all round!



Meningococcal Disease - Information for Parents

We want to make families aware of recent information from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) regarding a cluster of meningococcal disease cases in Kent. UKHSA has confirmed 13 cases, including two deaths and some of those affected had visited *Club Chemistry* in Canterbury between 5-7 March before becoming unwell. Preventative antibiotics have been offered to those who may have been exposed.

These cases are specific to the Kent area and there is no identified risk to our school community. UKHSA continues to monitor the situation and has already provided antibiotics to close contacts to limit further spread.

Symptoms to look out for

Meningococcal disease can develop quickly. Please be aware of:

- Fever and severe headache
- Rapid breathing
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Cold hands and feet, shivering
- Drowsiness or confusion
- A rash that does not fade under a glass (urgent medical sign)

What to do

If these symptoms appear in your child or anyone in your household, seek medical help immediately by contacting your GP, calling NHS 111, or dialling 999 in an emergency. Early treatment is vital.

Further support

- Meningitis Now: 0808 80 10 388
- Meningitis Research Foundation: 080 8800 3344

We hope this update is reassuring. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Road Safety

Please help us remind 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's essential that they stay alert, aware of their surroundings, and visible to other road users. Wearing bright or reflective clothing can make a big difference, especially during darker mornings or evenings. For those cycling, a properly fitted helmet is vital, and bikes should have working lights to help keep them safe on the roads. We also ask that students take extra care when crossing roads - looking both ways, avoiding distractions, and making sure it is safe to cross before stepping out, whether on foot or on a bike.

Arriving by car:

To help keep everyone safe during busy drop-off times, please be aware of the following:

- We have introduced a new zebra crossing and a dedicated walking route from the bus drop-off area. Please encourage your child to use these safer paths.
- Additional parking and a drop-off area are available at the Rugby Club to help reduce congestion.
- Please avoid dropping children at the school entrance or on the main road, as this puts students and other road users at risk.
- Please also follow the site speed limit at all times.

Behaviour on School Transport:

Our transport providers have shared some recent concerns, and we want to make sure all students travel safely and comfortably. We ask that students:

- Wear seatbelts at all times.
- Treat others with respect - fighting, physical disruption, or any form of harassment is not acceptable.
- Remember that vaping and smoking is not permitted anywhere on school premises, including on school transport.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our students safe as they travel.

Smartphone Free Childhood – Parent Resource

We would like to signpost families to Smartphone Free Childhood, a UK-based movement encouraging parents to delay giving children smartphones and social media access. The organisation provides guidance, research, and community support for families who want to help children enjoy more time to play, grow, and build confidence away from screens. You can find out more or explore their parent resources at: www.smartphonefreechildhood.org

Upcoming Coffee Events

Date	Focus	Booking Link
Wednesday 25 th March 2026 9:30am	Year 10 Work Experience and English Literature revision	Coffee Morning with Mr Timmis and Mrs Elms - Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 9.30am
Thursday 26 th March 2026 3:45pm – 6:30pm	Drop in for Year 11	In conjunction with Year 11 KiT booking not required
Thursday 16 th April 2026 6pm – 6:30pm	Phone Free School listening event with the Headteacher	Parent information session on phone-free school - Thursday 16th April 2026 at 6pm
Friday 17 th April 2026 9:30am	Year 7 Shore related matters	Coffee Morning with Mrs Lewis - Friday 17th April 2026 at 9.30am
Thursday 30 th April 2026 3:45pm – 6:30pm	Drop in for Year 8	In conjunction with Year 8 KiT booking not required
Thursday 4 th June 2026 3:45pm – 6:30pm	Drop in for Year 7	In conjunction with Year 7 KiT booking not required

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DofE Celebration Evening

The atmosphere was full of pride as parents, staff, and students gathered at Hill Valley Hotel in Whitchurch on Monday to celebrate nearly 70 young people at this year's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Evening. Students across Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels were recognised for their dedication, resilience, and personal growth.

We were honoured to welcome Darren Edwards, adaptive adventurer, speaker, and expedition leader, who presented the awards. His message about overcoming challenges and embracing a positive mindset left a real impact on everyone in the room.

A standout moment came from five of our own award recipients, who shared heartfelt reflections on their DofE journeys. They spoke about how the programme helped them grow as individuals, build resilience through tough hikes, develop teamwork skills, and gain confidence through volunteering and learning new skills. Their stories captured the true spirit of DofE: self-discovery, perseverance, and the friendships formed along the way.

It was a wonderful evening celebrating the hard work and character of every participant. We are incredibly proud of all our Bronze, Silver, and Gold award holders and can't wait to see where their next adventures lead them.



The Shore

Our Year 7 students have been throwing themselves into their Crew activities with fantastic enthusiasm, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence and creativity grow over the past four weeks. They're already looking forward to sharing what they've been working on in next weeks Crew Enrichment Showcase, and we can't wait for you to see it too.

This week, I had the chance to pop into the cooking enrichment session, and it was an absolute highlight. The room was filled with the smell of freshly baked banana bread and cupcakes... truly irresistible! The students were so proud of their creations, and I suspect there will be some very lucky families enjoying a delicious treat at home too.



Last Friday, Miss Williams led our Shore community meeting with a focus on the fantastic music enrichment opportunities that take place every Wednesday afternoon. She spoke about the many benefits of getting involved in music, from building confidence to developing teamwork and creativity.

Year 7 were then treated to a special performance from members of our school bands, "Infrared Rhythm" and "Ultraviolet Harmony." They performed 'End of Beginning' for the year group, and their energy, talent, and stage presence made for a brilliant moment. The students were fantastic and received well-deserved applause from their peers. It was a great reminder of how enriching and inspiring music can be for our young people.



The Harbour

This week, 8Y have been proudly sharing their brilliant animal mask homework projects. We've been so impressed by the thought and creativity that went into both their research and their mask designs. The effort and imagination on display have been wonderful to see.

A special congratulations goes to Lyla in 8.Alderford.31 and Ted in 8.Redbrook.31, who have each been awarded an Easter egg for their outstanding work. Well done to both, and to the whole class for producing such fantastic projects.



This week, I would like to take the opportunity to share some beautiful work produced by students in Year 9, who have spent this half term working on a "Model United Nations" project. Students have spent time researching different countries, analysing their environmental concerns, and developing sustainable development goals for each. Next week, we will finish the term with a Rewards Breakfast for students with the highest positive points, and reward students with outstanding punctuality with Easter treats!



The Quay and Sixth Form

It was wonderful to see so many of our students receiving their DofE Bronze Awards at Hill Valley this week. Their hard work and commitment really shone through, and we couldn't be prouder of what they've achieved.

We're also continuing to support students and families as we secure placements for Work Experience week, taking place from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July. Thank you to everyone who has already been in touch, your partnership makes a huge difference.

Looking ahead, we're excited to host our next coffee morning on Wednesday 25th March at 9.30am. Mr Timmis, Crew Director for Year 10, and Mrs Elms, Assistant Headteacher will be hosting the event. Together, they'll be available to chat about Work Experience and offer guidance on revision for the Year 10 English Literature exam. We hope many of you will be able to join us for an informal and supportive conversation.

Students have now received their detailed mock exam feedback in lessons ahead of their mock results afternoon on Wednesday 25th March. We encourage families to discuss these with their child so they can make the most of the support available before our Year 11 KiT Evening on Thursday 26th March. Details on how to book places have now been sent out, if you have not received any communication about this, please contact our Examinations and Data Manager, Mrs Elkin: Bryony.Elkin@sjt.mmat.co.uk.

We are incredibly proud of our Food students, who completed their second NEA task at the end of last week and produced some outstanding work. Their effort and creativity have been brilliant to see, and it tasted wonderful!

Next Friday, our Year 10 and 11 students will be running a fantastic range of activities, games, and competitions during lunchtime to help raise funds for the Year 11 Prom. It's always a lively event, and a great chance for students to get involved, have fun and support their peers.

Thank you to all families who joined us for our Sixth Form Keeping in Touch evening last night. It was an informative event, giving families the chance to discuss students' current progress and the steps they can take to keep moving forward. Teachers also spent time talking through future pathways, including further education and career options. Conversations covered everything from university entry requirements to the grades needed for specific courses, helping students make confident and informed decisions about their next steps. It was a valuable evening, and we appreciate the continued support from our Sixth Form families.

ABM Catering Menu – W/C Monday 23rd March 2026 – Week 3

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:

- 25th March – Parent coffee morning with a focus on Year 10 work experience and revision
- 26th March – GCSE Drama trip to see 'Teachers'
- 26th March – Year 11 Keeping in Touch evening and coffee with the Chair of Governors
- 26th – 28th March – DofE Silver training expedition
- 27th March – End of Spring Term
- 13th April – Summer Term commences

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](#).

