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w/e 21.03.25



# The WBSpotlight

SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR AMAZING SCHOOL

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# The WBSpotlight

What a week it's been....



Dear WBS families

This week has been marked by numerous outstanding achievements and developments within our school community. The Year 7 and Year 8 Interhouse Competitions proved to be an incredible success, showcasing the students' enthusiasm and talent in sports. While the results of these thrilling events are eagerly awaited, they will be announced in due course. Additionally, the winners of the World Book Day reading competitions will be revealed next week, providing an exciting opportunity to celebrate the literary accomplishments of our students.

In terms of leadership and school improvement, this week we were delighted to welcome Mary Davies, an experienced school leader and Ofsted-trained inspector, to support us in reviewing key aspects of our development strategies. Her insights and expertise have been invaluable. Furthermore, I had the privilege of collaborating with Cal Knight Deputy Headteacher from Priory School, to evaluate lessons and identify both strengths and opportunities for growth. This reflective and outward-looking approach is a powerful step towards fostering continuous improvement within our school.

A notable highlight this week has been the exceptional efforts of our Year 7 students in organising the upcoming Easter event. Their hard work and dedication have been commendable, and their sense of responsibility is a credit to their commitment. Their initiative has been further supported by the unwavering guidance and encouragement of staff members.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Miss McCombie and Mrs Aston, who led the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions this week. The participating students demonstrated exemplary teamwork and resilience, reflecting the strength of character and collaboration that is encouraged within our school.

Mrs Mincher, Deputy Headteacher

- 1) Year 10 parents evening booking closes on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Parents should check their email or refer to page 6 with the letter within this Spotlight. PCE is Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2) Munich visit – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March – 6.30am departure – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April arrival approx. 2.00am.
- 3) There will be a PE kit taster day on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Students can wear their PE kit.
- 4) Easter holidays – Break up at 3.20pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Return 08.45am Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.
- 5) Easter transition event Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April – see page 7 for further details.



Dear WBS Families

Thank you to all the students, governors, parents and staff that contributed to the change of school uniform consultation. Your cooperation with the process is appreciated.

The changes in school uniform were proposed to facilitate the more active curriculum on offer at William Brookes School. This also links to our new school vision 'Healthy Body. Healthy Mind'.

Following the consultation process, I am pleased to confirm **the decision has been made to adopt the school PE kit as the main uniform**. For Key Stage 3 students, this change will come into effect after Easter (w/c 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025). Current Key Stage 4 students will have the choice to adopt either uniform, as long as it is worn correctly and in its entirety.

In order to ensure that all students are wearing the correct kit, we will be running a uniform taster week w/c 7<sup>th</sup> April. During this week, students in Key Stage 3 (plus any students who intend to wear their kit in Key Stage 4) should wear their correct PE kit so that we can check for compliance. We can then support families to solve any discrepancies or misinterpretations.

At student, parent and staff request, we are working with our suppliers to:

- Design a suitable school branded fleece, gilet, coat and hooded sweatshirt – these items are not compulsory.
- Design a style of girls cycling shorts that could replace the cut of the existing shorts.
- Source a manufacturer who can supply us with a cheaper version of the leggings, training pants and t-shirt.
- Source suitable non-branded leggings and shorts to sell from school which give families a cheaper, non-branded option.

Students will be allowed to wear their existing school sweatshirt up until Christmas 2025. The Pupil Premium Mentor will work closely with those families that are in receipt of pupil premium funding to ensure families are well supported.

The consultation process was suitably robust: almost 100 parents responded in writing; all students at Key Stage 3 responded and over half of the staff responded. The change of uniform was discussed at Student Council; students had a Broadcast specifically about this topic and completed a poll. Parents were written to and details provided around the proposed changes via the WBSpotlight. Parents were invited to share their thoughts via email to the Headteacher which many did. An evolving list of FAQs were published via the WBSpotlight. The Trust have worked closely with me throughout the process to guide and advise, ensuring compliance.

[FAQs updated](#)  
[Uniform Expectations](#)

Please see the school website for any further updates.

We look forward to working with you during this exciting change for the school.

# Extra-curricular



## Dance Clubs

2025



William Brookes School PE Department  
After School Clubs (15:20-16:30) \*unless stated  
Starting Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024 until Easter 2025



For more live information please subscribe & download the squad in touch app <https://aop.squadintouch.com/#register>

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 7 Dance Club Studio 3 Kieran Howorth	Year 11 GCSE Dance Rehearsal Space Available Mrs Leason	Year 8 Dance Club Studio 2 Kieran Howorth	Elite Dance Studio 2 Mrs Leason
Year 9-11 Dance Club Studio 2 Sixth Form Dance Leads		Year 11 GCSE Dance Rehearsal/Revision Mrs Leason	

All Dance clubs run from 3:20-4:20pm.

Please come along to join and be a part of our annual Summer Dance Production in July 2025!



## Music Clubs

	Lunchtime	After-School
Monday	Rehearsal/Practice time	
Tuesday	Rehearsal/Practice time	Modulo Band
Wednesday	Year 7 Band	Year 8 Band
Thursday	Choir	Choir
Friday	Rehearsal/Practice time	

All years welcome.

See Ms Adams in advance if you would like to sign up for an activity.

	Outdoor Space MUGA, Grass, Astro turf		Sports Hall	Swimming Pool
Monday				Performance Swimming Club (Lane Swimming)
STAFF				Miss Bagnall
Tuesday	Y7-11 Netball	Y7-9 Boys Rugby	Y7-11 Basketball	Improvers Swimming Club
STAFF	Mrs Jardine	Miss Johnson	Mr Wilson	Miss <del>Spurlock</del> & Ms <del>Colburn</del>
Wednesday	Y7&8 Football	Girls Rugby	Badminton * Y7&8 3.20 - 4.10pm * Y9-11 4.10 - 5pm	
STAFF	Mr Boak	Miss Johnson	Mr Bourton	
Thursday	Y7-11 Girls Football	Y10-11 Rugby		Beginners Swimming Club
STAFF	Mr Boak	Miss Johnson		Miss <del>Spurlock</del> & Ms <del>Colburn</del>
Friday	Y9-11 Football	Y7-11 Hockey	Wenlock Lightning Netball Club * Y7-9 5.00 - 6pm * Y10-13 6.00 - 7pm	
STAFF	Mr Parkes	Mr Wilson & Mrs Hennessy	Mrs Jardine	

#heathybodyheaslhyminds

## Year 11 After School Masterclasses

DAY	Lunch session	After-school session
Monday		STAFF MEETING
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports Science: 221</li> <li>Science Café with Mrs Hards (215) 13:45-14:00</li> <li>Health &amp; Social Care: 101</li> <li>French &amp; Spanish: invite only or students request to attend</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maths: Higher GCSE in 007/8</li> <li>Further Maths: 004</li> <li>English: 109</li> <li>Chemistry revision online Tuesday 19:30-20.30. All students have had Teams invite. Suitable for all from Feb. Topic timetable posted on window of 214.</li> </ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Science Café with Mrs Hards (215) 13:45-14:00</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art: 111 / 113</li> <li>History: 110 or 114 or 115</li> <li>Food: food room</li> <li>Geography: 207</li> <li>Drama: studio</li> </ul>
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Science Café with Mrs Hards (215) 13:45-14:00</li> <li>French &amp; Spanish: invite only or students request to attend</li> </ul>	OCCASIONAL PARENTS EVENINGS WHICH WILL MEAN SESSIONS CANCELLED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maths: Foundation/higher GCSE crossover - invite only 007</li> <li>Product Design: Mr Colburn's room</li> <li>Computer Science: Code Club (Mr Jeffries' room)</li> <li>Geography: 206</li> <li>Biology with Mrs Thomas: Week B only (210)</li> </ul>
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports Science: 221</li> <li>Physics: Week B only (213) 14:00-14:25</li> <li>French &amp; Spanish: invite only or students request to attend</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English: 109</li> <li>Maths: Foundation GCSE - 009</li> <li>Product Design: Mr Colburn's room</li> <li>Business: 106</li> <li>Computer Science: Mr Jeffries' room</li> </ul>

# Amazing Us!



On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March a group of our young musicians travelled to Birmingham to the CBSO centre, where the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra rehearse. Having seen the Orchestra perform last month this was

particularly exciting. The students rehearsed with instrumentalists from two other schools to form an Orchestra. They rehearsed three pieces that we have been learning in school, and were able to gain specialist support on their instrument from professional musicians in sectional rehearsals. They worked with a professional conductor to bring the different sections of the orchestra together and performed the pieces all together in the afternoon. This was a very useful, informative and enjoyable day of music making which helped everyone to gain experience of playing in large ensembles. This was part of the Orchestras for All Modulo programme. Well done to Natasha, Theo, Arthur, Arthur, Eve, Alex, Jiawei, Daniel, Naomi and Sophie for excellent performances on the day. The young musicians will continue to rehearse the music in school and will be performing at our next 'Live Lounge' concert on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025. More information about the Modulo programme can be found at: [www.orchestrasforall.org](http://www.orchestrasforall.org)



The girls won 3:1 against Shrewsbury school. Year 7 and 8 had a fantastic time during interhouse this week! Been a fantastic week for sport at William Brookes School!



Miss McCombie and Mrs Aston have been working hard to ensure that DofE Bronze and Silver students have a successful week!



# Year 10 Parental Consultation Evening – 27<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to you to advise that our face to face Year 10 Parents Evening is taking place on the **27th March in school from 3.30pm to 6.00pm**. The booking system will be live to book appointments from 9am on 17th March and will close on 25th March at midday to allow time to print appointment schedules.

To access the booking system please use your Arbor Parent Portal or Arbor App. Please ignore appointments for previous school years on the booking area and only book appointments with your child's current teachers for the academic year 2024/5. Please be aware that no time slot will show to be selected when a teacher is fully booked.

We very much value your attendance, so that you can be kept up to date with the progress your son/daughter is making and how further improvement can be achieved. Our intention is to try and ensure that all parents can attend the evening, but we understand that there may be work commitments and exceptional circumstances that sometimes prevent this. If this is the case, please contact [wbs-reception@wbs.318education.co.uk](mailto:wbs-reception@wbs.318education.co.uk) and we will ensure you are able to communicate with your child's teacher.

If you have any problems logging in to your Arbor Parent Portal or Arbor App – please click here for assistance - [Troubleshooting login issues - why can't I log in to my school's Parent Portal or Arbor App? – Arbor Help Centre \(arbor-education.com\)](#)

The system allows you to book appointments with your child's subject teachers at times to suit you. May we please ask that, if possible, you **leave 5 minutes between your appointments** to ensure you have enough time to get to your next appointment on time as staff will be situated on all 3 floors of the building.

On arrival, please head to your child's house table to sign in and collect your appointment schedule.

Should you need any further assistance with making your appointments, please don't hesitate to contact our Student Services Department via email on [wbs-info@wbs.318education.co.uk](mailto:wbs-info@wbs.318education.co.uk) or alternatively please call reception.

Kind regards

Student Services Department



# Year 7 & 8 Parental Letter

Dear Parent/Carer

I am seeking a group of enthusiastic Year 7 and Year 8 students to assist Mrs Leason and me in running an upcoming Transition Event. This event will welcome Year 5 and Year 6 families to participate in a range of activities, including Easter crafts, refreshments, and an Easter egg scavenger hunt!

The event will take place on Saturday, 5th April, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Students who wish to help will need to be dropped off at 10:15 am.

The purpose of this event is to provide prospective students with an opportunity to meet some of our exceptional current students. We hope this interaction will help alleviate the nerves often associated with transitioning to "big school."

If your son or daughter is able to assist, please complete the following form: <https://forms.office.com/e/uUtM72Y45X> to provide your consent.



Thank you for your support.

Mrs Mincher and Mrs Leason





# Opportunities

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME DOFE UK YOUTH AMBASSADORS!**

Do you know a DofE Award holder who:

- is passionate about the DofE?
- has been positively impacted by taking part in the Award?
- wants to share their story to inspire others?
- will use this platform to ensure the voices of young people are heard?

We're looking for inspiring young people who are:

- Positive role models who are passionate about the DofE and happy to share their personal stories to motivate and inspire other young people to take part in the Award
- Team players who are excited by the prospect of working collaboratively with other DofE participants from a range of backgrounds and lived experiences across the UK
- Open to sharing their views and experiences to ensure the voices of young people are heard on the issues that matter to their generation

We're committed to ensuring that UK Youth Ambassadors represent all young people who take part in the DofE across the UK. We encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds, religions, cultures, gender identities, abilities, and perspectives to apply.

We are committed to ensuring that our UK Youth Ambassadors represent all young people who take part in the DofE across the UK. We encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds, religions, cultures, gender identities, abilities, and perspectives to apply.

The programme has a duration of 12 months and there are 30 places available. To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- Be aged between 16 and 24 at the time of application
- Have completed at least one level of their DofE Award (Bronze / Silver / Gold)
- Have enough time to commit to the role (approximately 6 hours per month)
- have obtained parent / carer consent to apply (if under the age of 18)

The window will close on Wednesday 30 April 2025 at 5pm.

Recruitment opens during April each year, anyone wishing to apply will be directed to our [webpage](#) where they'll be asked to complete an online application form, with a series of questions designed to assess their suitability for the role. They'll also be invited to upload a short video alongside their application, where they have the opportunity to talk about their own DofE experiences.

For any additional queries, please email [ambassadors@dofe.org](mailto:ambassadors@dofe.org)

# Careers & Destinations

## Year 10 Work Experience Essential Updates for 2025

Work Experience Dates: Monday 1st – Friday 5th September 2025

Make sure your placement is added to Grofar by the end of Easter holidays.

Grofar Login Instructions:

- Search for the 'Grofar invitation' email in your school inbox.
- Use the link to sign in and change your password.
- For future logins, visit [auth.grofar.com](https://auth.grofar.com).

Adding a Placement to Grofar:

- Click 'Placements' in the left menu bar.
- Use the pen icon to edit and enter your placement details.
- Only starred fields are required.
- The school will handle safety and insurance checks and seek parental consent.

Information Required from Employers:

- Business name and address (including postcode).
- Contact person's name, phone number, and email address.
- Your job role and a brief description of duties.

Need Help?

Visit Mr. Boak or Mrs. Jones in the Beijing corridor offices near Student Services.

Email Template for Potential Employers:

Introduce yourself as a Year 10 student from William Brookes School and explain why you'd like to work with their company. Include your contact information for follow-up.

## Opportunities:

Apprenticeship Opportunities at Ricoh UK Products Ltd:

Applications for September 2025 apprenticeships close on 31st March 2025:

- Technical Engineering (Level 3)
- Craft Engineering (Level 3)
- Business Compliance (Degree)
- IT (Degree)

Find details and apply via [RicoH UK Careers](<https://ukproducts.ricoh.com/careers/career-opportunities>). Attend the Telford Skills Show on 27th March 2025 to meet Ricoh representatives and current apprentices.

This condensed version should make the key information easier to digest for a newsletter! Let me know if you need anything added or tweaked.



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# WBS BINGO NIGHT

A PTA EVENT

FRIDAY 4TH APRIL

7PM - 8:30PM

£2 ENTRY ON DOOR, £1 PER GAME

BAR WILL BE  
OPEN FOR  
DRINKS AND  
SNACKS

**GREAT  
PRIZES!**

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