

SUMMERHILL TIMES

November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

It has been an absolute pleasure to be in school over the last few weeks and I am already immensely proud to be part of the Summerhill team. I have now met all of our students in assemblies and have reiterated what a great school we have and how privileged and fortunate they are to be part of such a caring and vibrant community. We will always have the highest of expectations in all aspects of school life, both on-site and in the local community. These expectations are based on traditional values and underpinned by honesty, integrity and transparency in the way we do things. Our ethos of 'Success through Caring' is the cornerstone of our community and we will continue to develop our values over the coming months and make them an intrinsic part of who we are and what we do.

Summerhill is a wonderful place to be. Our finalised 2019 exam results, which are now in the public domain, were the best in the school's history. These re-established us, rightly so, as one of the best schools in Dudley. This is testament to the commitment and dedication of our brilliant staff team and the effort and determination of our Year 11 'Class of 2019'. We were delighted to welcome them back and celebrate their success this week at our Presentation Evening, held at the Copthorne Hotel.

I have talked to our students about what I call the 'non-negotiables' of being a Summerhill student and how these positively impact the running of the school and the education they receive. Things like excellent attendance, punctuality, smart uniform and correct equipment are fundamentally important and need to be right every day. I have made it clear that students will be challenged where they are not meeting these things. We need to be relentless in our drive to make further improvements and excel in all we do.

In the first week of November, we celebrated 'Remembrance' with the production of 16,000 poppies, which created a new 'Garden of Remembrance' at the front of the school site. We offer our grateful thanks to the local schools and parents who supported us with this. We were delighted to welcome many members of the local community into school and are so proud of our affiliation with the Kingswinford Royal British Legion. We were honoured to have approximately 50 representatives join us for our Remembrance event on Thursday 7th November and were then part of the annual parade in Kingswinford on Remembrance Sunday.

I am delighted to be able to confirm that we have now established a 'Friends of Summerhill' association. In the old days we would have referred to this as a PTA (Parent, Teacher Association) or similar. We want this to have representation across our local community, with people who are interested in working with the school and developing a programme of community activities and events. The first 'FOS' event will be a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 14th December 2019 from 11am till 2pm. If you are interested in being involved in this, please get in touch.

As I said in my first letter, I believe that a true community school is a partnership between staff, students, parents and community stakeholders. Working together, we can ensure that students enjoy school, make good progress and leave as responsible, well-qualified, mature and ready to make a valuable contribution to society.

I am really looking forward to meeting you over the coming weeks and months and will be holding a series of informal drop in sessions on the following dates in December: Wednesday 4th at 9:45am, Thursday 5th at 11:30am, Monday 9th at 2:30pm and Tuesday 10th at 5:00pm. If you'd like to pop in to meet me for a cup of tea and a mince pie, please book a slot with my PA, Keeley Stone via kstone@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk

Thank you for the lovely emails, conversations and comments received since I started as Headteacher at the beginning of November. I am in no doubt that together, we can make Summerhill a truly brilliant school!

Yours sincerely



Martyn Palfreyman
Headteacher



Our Remembrance Service with 16,000 poppies.




Here are two of our Draco families working together during October half term dedicating time for those whom we shall not forget. A massive production from both families! Big Thanks to The Cox's and The Pardoe's!



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the making of the poppies and to the veterans and visitors who supported our Remembrance Service on the day.

Summerhill School Presents

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



Thursday 6th - Saturday 8th
February 2020

Tickets £8

Available Soon ParentPay & School Reception



Alex has excelled this year in Taekwondo, with his current medal tally at 14, a cup at national level plus two international caps! He is hoping to join the England team next year for the European championships. Good luck Alex!



Thanks to everyone who helped raise a fantastic £676 from our charity fun run.



Election fever has gripped Media students this term! Classes have been exploring political bias in national daily newspapers and considering how that can impact on the electorate. A very timely topic to cover before our in-school election on December 11th!





Before



Mr Wollerton's donated his hair in aid of 'Children in Need' after students and staff beat the £500 target that was set for him to have it shaved. Well done Mr Wollerton!



After



BBC
**Children
in Need**



Along with the £507 from Mr Wollerton's head shave, we also raised £1896 from our 'Mufji Day', giving a massive grand total for Children in Need of £2403

Children in Need

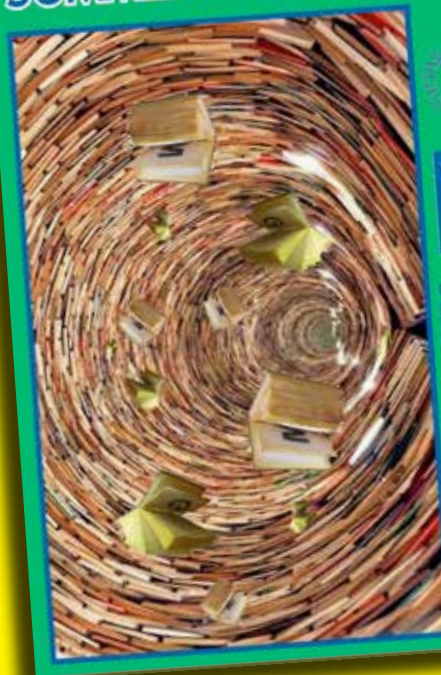
£2403

Grand Total



Travel Writing Madness!
Kameron in Year 7 has taken to travel writing like a duck to water. He has dedicated many a cold, dark evening to produce some amazing pieces of homework.

SUMMERHILL SCHOOL



ACCELERATED
READER

Accelerated Reader has got off to a flying start in Year 7 and 8: students have read and quizzed 864 books, totalling with 22,813,544 words.

The top 10 students are:

Sadie Richardson
Millie Webb
Sophie Scrivens
Holly Pargeter
Joe Bullas
Amelia Hickman
Lewis Green
Mollie Jeavons
Kristoff Polgar
Mason Woodfield

Well done to these students and to everyone else, keep reading! Remember, the government advise you to read 20 minutes every night to improve your reading age. Go and get lost in a good book- there's no better time of year to do it.

CHANGE
STARTS
WITH

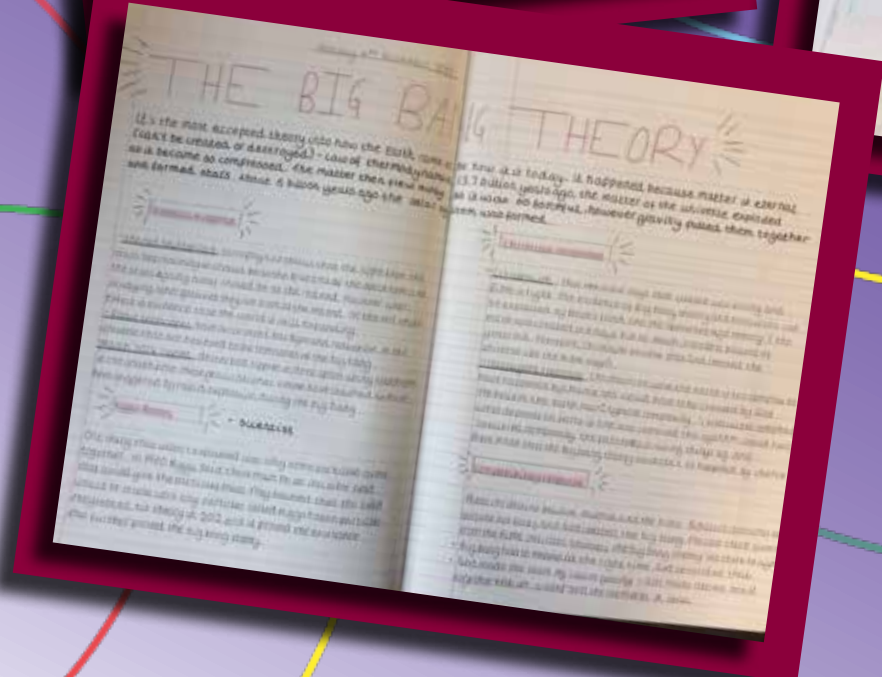
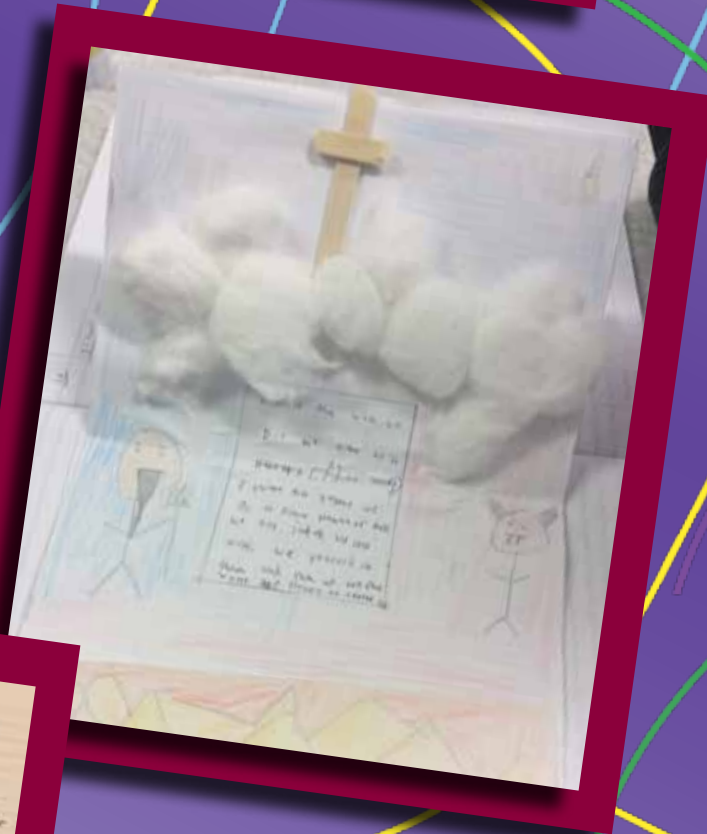
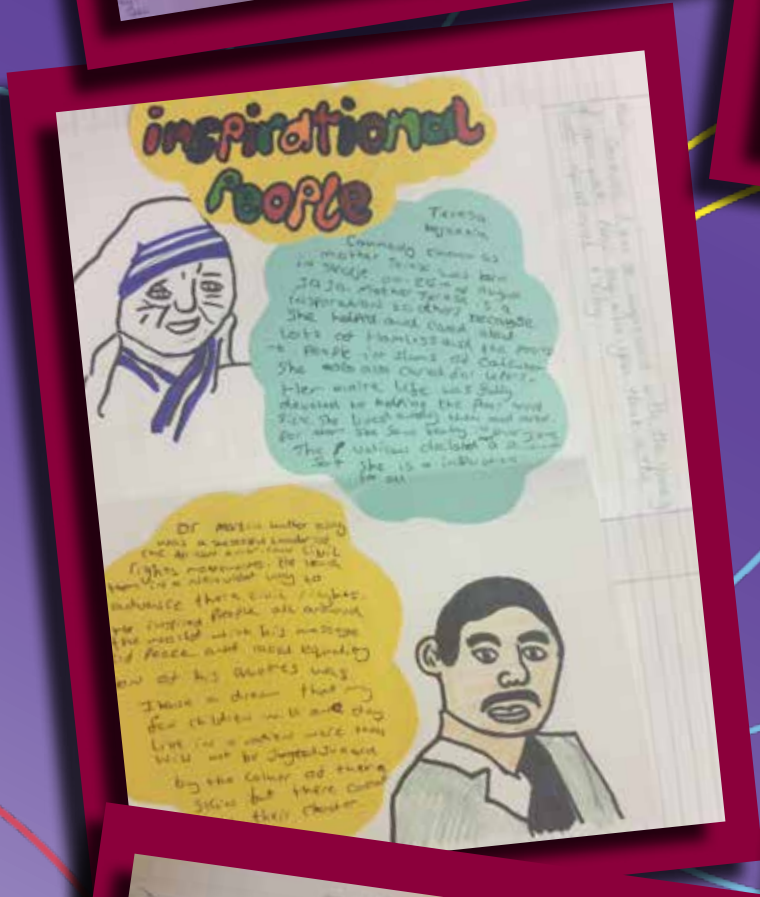
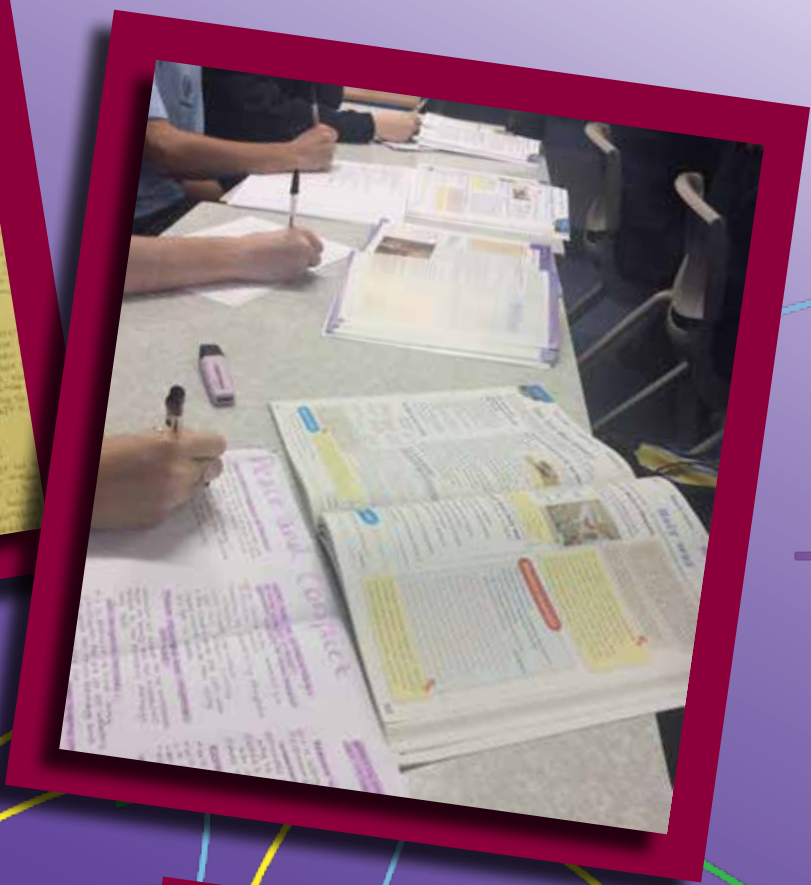
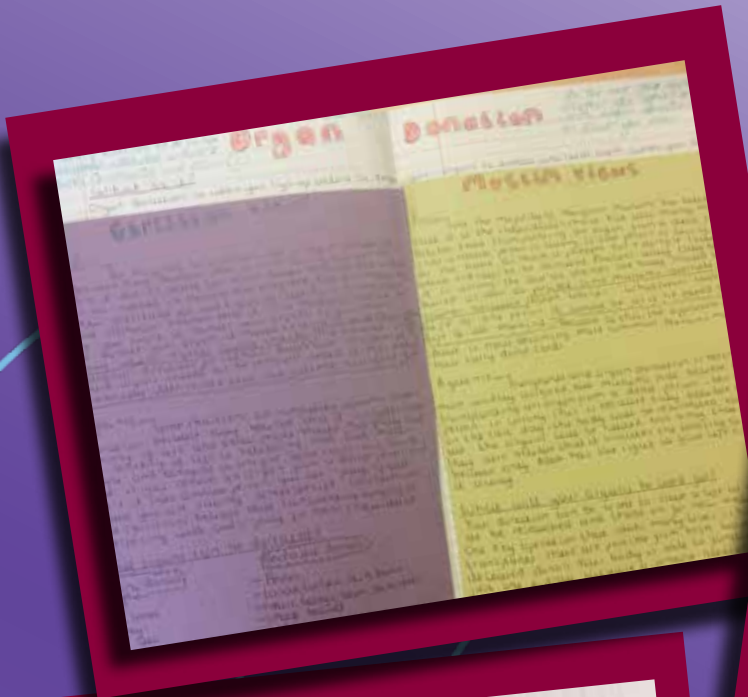


#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

In order to tackle the sensitive issue of bullying, 9X EN1 developed persuasive articles designed to raise awareness for #AntiBullyingWeek.

Students were provided with a thought-provoking stimulus then were asked to write articles in order to empower students who may be suffering at the hands of this unnecessary plight. During the lessons, we had some very sincere and honest discussions about the impact that bullying has on both teenagers and adults alike. I am incredibly proud of the way students conducted themselves, their messages and the work that they produced. Well done!





Wonderful work produced by students of RS in KS3 and KS4. Well done for all your hard work this half-term. Keep up your excellent effort!



The nights might be growing darker but that's not stopping the KS3 Netball club who are making sensational progress at Speed Netball every Tuesday.



Our gymnastics team showed phenomenal potential, competing against some of the best performers in the borough at Kingswinford School in the Dudley School Games Gymnastics competition.



We are looking forward to the Ski Trip in Austria's Ziller Valley in April 2020.



Year 8 Rugby students, accompanied by KS4 ambassadors, enjoyed a game at Stourbridge Rugby Football Club

We are pleased to welcome Worcester Warriors in to school over the next few months. They are offering training sessions to all students and all abilities.

KS3 Years 7/8/9
10th December 2019
7th January 2020
21st January 2020

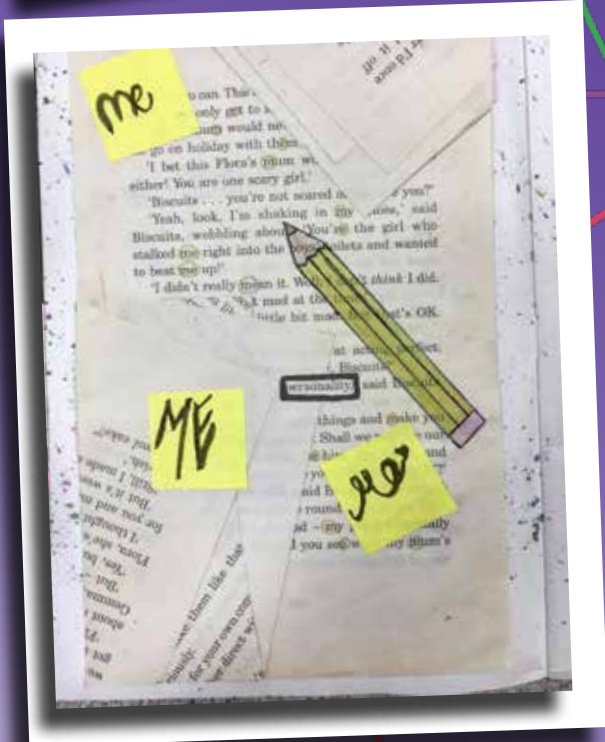
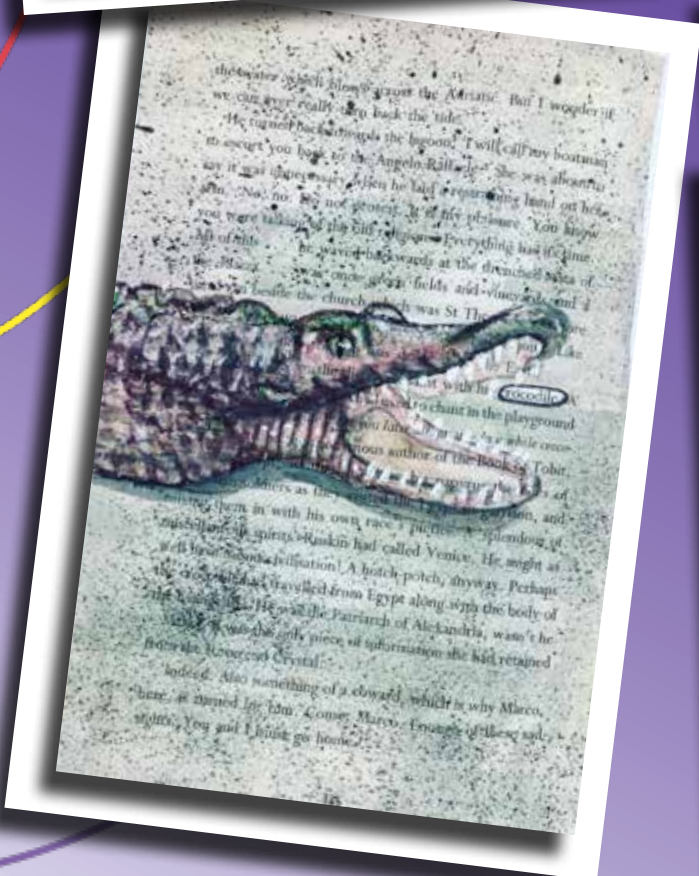
KS4 Year 10/11
17th December 2019
14th January 2020
28th January 2020

Training will be held from 3.30pm - 4.30pm





KS3 students have been creating some superb artwork.



Friends of Summerhill

All Welcome

Summerhill School

Christmas Fayre

Donations Appreciated

Saturday 14th December
11am - 2pm

Food & Entertainment

Tombola & Craft stalls

Success through Learning

If you would like to book a stall, please contact fos@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk
Stalls cost £10 or £5 for students

Summerhill School's

Christmas Cracker

Tuesday 17th December

Doors Open 6.30pm

£5 Refreshments included

Summerhill Steel Band raised £475 in Kidderminster on Saturday for Birmingham Children's Hospital, bringing the total amount raised to £2,692.



House News



At the end of Term 1 Pegasus went into the half term holiday in first position in the House Championship after winning the Best House Attendance 640 HP competition. In second place was Draco, in third was Ursa and in fourth place was Orion.

Term 2 in the Summerhill House Championship has gotten off to a great start! We have lots of House competitions coming up this term, so there are plenty of House Points up for grabs.



Remembrance Day competition

On Friday 8th November we asked Summerhill staff and students to make six identical cupcakes with the aim of judging them in a true "Great British Bake Off" style before selling the cupcakes in the Main Hall, so that we could make the most amount of money we could for the British Legion. We raised £112.91 due to the awesome generosity of those who baked and the many staff and students who bought cakes at lunchtime. Well done to Milo M who won with his six identical lemon drizzle cupcakes, they were incredible. Thank you so much Summerhill!

Results:

- 1st – Milo (Pegasus)
- 2nd – Poppy (Ursa)
- 3rd – Ava (Orion)
- 4th – Emilia (Draco)

Now That's What I Call Music competition

On Friday 15th November we asked the Houses to assemble their teams for our first music competition of the academic year! Students and staff sung along to the hits in the Main Hall at lunchtime and at the end of the competition we were able to reveal that the £500 mark had been hit for Mr Wollerton to have his head shaved by Mr Palfreyman! Well done to all the teams who took part, it was the closest competition yet!

Results:

- 1st – Orion
- Joint 2nd – Pegasus & Ursa
- 4th – Draco



House News



House Football and House Netball competition

At the time of writing, Year 11 and Year 10 have taken part in their round of the House Football and Netball competition. We have seen some super displays of sportsmanship on the courts and on the MUGA and at present Orion are leading both tables. We are due to play the last round of Year 7 matches on Tuesday 10th December. Keep checking twitter to see the scores of each round!

Christmas Card competition

We have received some brilliant Christmas Cards for the Christmas Card competition this year. We asked the students to ensure that the cards hit three different judgement criteria; creativity in design, that it was House & community themed by involving all four Houses and that it was festive in its design. Congratulations to Alice T from Orion who has won this competition for second year running! We can't wait to see your Christmas card produced professionally. Unfortunately Ursa failed to submit an entry to this competition, so the points for fourth place were shared between 1st, 2nd and 3rd.



Results:

- 1st – Alice (Orion)
- 2nd – Ben (Draco)
- 3rd – Amelia (Pegasus)

We have a number of other House competitions coming up – the 'Friends of Summerhill' logo design, Christmas Tree competition, House Community Christmas Dinner, Best Attitude Competition and on Friday 29th November our very first 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here' House competition!

Create a "Friends of Summerhill" logo for the new community project running at Summerhill School.

Judgement criteria:

- Must incorporate the "Success Through Caring" school motto.
- Incorporate the theme of unity
- Include House colours.

Your entry needs to be submitted to Miss Stone by breaktime on Friday 13th December, so that it can be judged at the Summerhill Christmas Fayre on Saturday 14th December!

Thank you all once again for your continued support of the Summerhill House Championship. We currently have 987 followers on twitter, let's see if we can push this up to 1000 before the Christmas holidays!



Dates & Reminders

Thursday 28th November

Year 11 Mock Exams begin

Friday 6th December

Year 11 Mock Exams end

Saturday 14th December

Christmas Fayre 11am - 2pm

Tuesday 17th December

Christmas Cracker

Wednesday 18th December

Christmas Dinner served in café
House Christmas Community Celebration

Friday 20th December 2019

End of Term 12.30 pm finish

Monday 6th January 2020

Staff Training Day - school closed to students

Tuesday 7th January 2020

Start of term for students

Wednesday 8th January 2020

Year 11 Mock GCSE Results Day

Tuesday 14th January 2020

Year 11 first Parents' Evening for
surnames A-L

Thursday 23rd January 2020

Year 11 second Parents' Evening for
surnames M-Z

Monday 27th January 2020

Holocaust Memorial Day

Thursday 6th February 2020 -
Saturday 8th February

School Production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'

Friday 14th February 2020

Last day of half term

Monday 24th February 2020

Start of half term

Friday 3rd April 2020

End of term 12.30 pm finish

Monday 20th April 2020

Start of term

Friday 8th May 2020

May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 22nd May 2020

Last day of half term

Monday 1st June 2020

Start of half term

Friday 26th June 2020

Staff Training Day - school closed to students