

## Message from the Headteacher

We do hope your child/ren have enjoyed their last week of this autumn term. We have ensured that learning has continued to take place throughout the week, right up to the very last minute! There has also been a number of events throughout the week, which we do hope students have enjoyed, such as the 'Christmas Karaoke' on Wednesday lunchtime and again at break today. The Student Leadership Team also kindly ran a stall selling items that students might wish to consider for presents for friends/loved ones. Students were also permitted, if they wished, to wear a t-shirt/jumper in a festive themed colour or Christmas jumper to school today.

This week's word of the week was 'rejoice': verb 'feel or show great joy or delight'. Students have been encouraged throughout the week to incorporate into their learning.

Thank you to Ms Smith, Careers Leader, and Mrs Winter who kindly accompanied a group of Year 8s to a Work Ready Workshop with the BT Group on Tuesday in London. The workshop provided students with an insight into digital skills career pathways. Increasingly employers are looking for school leavers with a blend of practical, technical and human focused skills and for those students attending it was a great opportunity to develop and practice these skills.

I had the absolute pleasure of accompanying our Year 7 students, together with members of the staff and student community who supported the Year 7s, to the Cliffs Pavilion yesterday afternoon for the matinee performance of Cinderella starring Rylan and Ross King. Watching the students, mesmerised by the panto, was such a joy and their enthusiasm to join in with the audience participation was just delightful; for some this is the first time they have been to a performance at a theatre! A huge thank you to all who supported but special thanks to Mr Austin-Summers and Mrs Clark for their support in organising the trip.

We were delighted with the response we received from the school community this week in support of some of our more vulnerable members of the local community. The food/present hampers have now been delivered to those most in need and thank you again if you very kindly donated any items; it is much appreciated. As a school we would also like to extend our sincere thanks to both the Whittingham Mission Centre for their kind and substantial donation of food for the hampers and St Vincent's who also kindly donated five food hampers.

We are very sadly bidding farewell to Miss Wright and also to Mr Webster who is emigrating to Australia. The school community shall miss them both enormously and we wish them all the very best as they embark on the next exciting chapters in their lives!

We are delighted to be welcoming, at the start of next term, Miss Goodine who will be joining as Head of Year 8/Maths Teacher, and also Miss Smith, Cover Supervisor. We shall also be welcoming three Initial Trainee Teachers, for the first part of the spring term, as they join the school for their second placement: Mx Smollett, Miss Tomlinson and Mr Hawthorne.

If you have not already done so, please ensure you download the My Child At School (MCAS) App on a smartphone or other device before 1 January, 2026. From this date, MCAS will be the primary method of communication from the school to parents/carers. Paper copies of all letters will be available to collect from the school Reception, if required, but will not be routinely sent out following the Christmas holidays.

Finally, as this is the final newsletter of 2025, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish you and your families a wonderful festive holiday and a very happy 2026.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school for the spring term on Monday, 5 January.

Mrs Airoll  
**Headteacher**

## House points

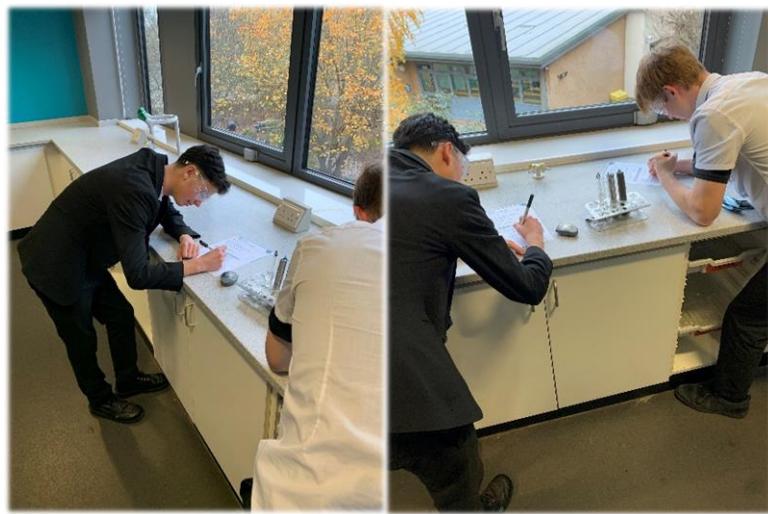


## Science

Some of our students in science club have been making robotic hands from cardboard!



Also, this week, year 11 have been completing a required practical investigating infrared radiation.



## Year 7 Cinderella Trip

Yesterday, our year 7 students and support staff and students went to see Cinderella at the Cliffs Pavilion.

The performance was excellent and all of the students and staff enjoyed this festive extravaganza!



## Key Dates

22 Dec – 02 Jan	Christmas holiday
05 Jan	Students return to school



## Art

7E has finished off this term with some wonderful observational studies of sea shells using tonal shading, mark making and watercolours. They were so proud of themselves and the outcomes and so are we!



## Year 9 and 10 Lille Trip

Last Friday, 5 staff took a coach full of excited Year 9 and 10 students to Lille, France.

Although we had an early start, leaving school at 4.30am, it was well worth it for the Christmas adventure we all had.

First, we stopped for breakfast in a French supermarket where students feasted on baked goods. We then headed to Lille where we were given a private tour of a nougat factory which had several opportunities for tasting the product while learning how it is made.

After our fill of sweet treats, we headed to the Lille Christmas markets where students bought gifts, rode the big wheel, and ate everything the market had to offer from hot chocolate to crêpes and Bavarian hotdogs.

We finished our day in City Europe Hypermarket where students spent the last of their spending money, bags and bellies full, ready to head home through the euro tunnel.

I think it's safe to say we all had a fantastic day out and the students have made memories that will last a lifetime.

I would like to thank them for their outstanding behaviour and the joy they brought to our day as staff too!

Mrs Langdon



The Student Leadership Team held a very successful Christmas stall on Thursday.

Thank you to all staff and students who supported this event.



## Art

Year 8 made a paper 3D spirit anima sculpture, inspired by British artists Phlegm and Iain MacArthur, and decorated it with fine liners and mark making.



## Year 11

Last Friday, Year 11 gathered for their first assembly since the Mock Exams. Students with 100% attendance were rewarded with exciting prizes, including tickets to Adventure Island and the Sealife Centre - congratulations to David and Lily. Well done to all our winners!

This Monday, we held our End of Term Reward Assembly. The top attendance prize, a festive Christmas Hamper, was awarded to Phoenix—congratulations! A special shout-out to Giuseppe, who won the Panto ticket.

We also recognised students for their consistent commitment to excellent behaviour and learning, setting a shining example for their peers and younger year groups.



## Fixtures

These are the fixtures for our first week back to school in January 2026!



## Vaccination Catch-up Clinic



Respiratory and flu-like cases are rapidly on the rise. We urge you to ensure your child receives the flu vaccination.

Our community catch-up clinic is available:

Monday, 22 December 2025

Southend Fire Station

Sutton Rd,

Southend-on-Sea SS2 5PX

Please use the link to book an appointment.

## Vaccination UK East Anglia Immunisation



Caring about others is fundamental to our happiness. Helping other people is not only good for them, it helps us too. It makes us happier and can help to improve our health. Giving also creates stronger connections between people and helps to build a happier society for everyone.

It's not all about money - we can also give our time, ideas and energy. When we do good, we feel good.

Have you done anything recently just to make someone happy or to help others?

Here are some suggestions. You can find more on the Action for Happiness website

<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/how-to-be-happy>

- Give up your seat
- Hold a door open for someone
- Give a (sincere) compliment
- Make someone laugh
- Give someone a hug
- Take time to really listen to someone
- Pick up litter as you walk
- Tell someone they mean a lot to you
- Tell someone if you notice they are doing a good job
- Pass on a book you've enjoyed
- Say sorry
- Forgive someone for what they have done
- Do a chore that you don't normally do

## Useful helpline details

Childline 0800 1111



<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/>

Samaritans 116 123



<https://www.samaritans.org/>

Young Minds



<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/find-help/i-need-urgent-help/>

Shout Text YM to 85258



Do not suffer in silence this Christmas period.

Samaritans 116 123

Age UK - 0800 678 1602

Alcoholics Anonymous - 0800 917 7650

Cruse Bereavement Care - 0808 808 1677

Men's Adviceline - 0808 801 0327

Narcotics Anonymous - 0300 999 1212

National Debt Helpline - 0808 808 4000

NHS 111

Relate Relationship Support - 0300 003 0396

Shelter - 0808 800 4444

Shout (confidential text service) 85258

Women's Adviceline - 0808 200 0247

Emergency Services / Police 999

# Library Corner



## Word of the Week:



**REJOICE**

Verb

Meaning: Feel or show great joy or delight



This week's theme is: Giving



Key date: Christmas Day

### Did you know?

- More than 2 billion people in over 160 different countries see Christmas as one of the most important days in the year.
- Christmas is celebrated in some capacity in almost every country in the world.
- 68% of people consider gift giving one of their "love languages."

		3			6
	6	5	2	3	
	3	6	9		5
1	3				8
2	5	8	3	9	7
8	9	4	7	6	1
		7			
3	9	8	5	7	4
		2	4		9

Fill the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains the numbers 1-9

Find the word in the puzzle.  
Words can go in any direction.  
Words can share letters as they cross over each other

Christmas	P R J S I B G A K B Y X N
Decoration	U N F I N N Z K A J U V O
Family	C E T C I O J O Y F U L I
Joyful	H E V G J V W E A H I K T
Laughter	R N N O L C B M D F J U A
Love	I I L Z L A I E C A E P R
Peace	S F I Y R L U V U L M E O
Singing	T F I W Y R G T L J W C
Snow	M E B Z U V L O H I N O E
Stockings	A K O V S R R O S T I V D
	S T O C K I N G S R E N C
	I Q K E K N X G L P H R H
	E C D H Y V U R A D P E Q



***Merry Christmas***



### Christmas Party

The students celebrated all their reading achievements this week with a party in the library, well done all.



### Chess Champions

Chess has been a great success this term and we have enjoyed watching and playing the students. Prizes and certificates have been awarded to our winners.

### Accelerated Reader

Well done to all of our students who received certificates and prizes during assemblies this week, for their amazing commitment to reading and quizzing on Accelerated Reader.

### Student librarians

Thank you to our student librarians for their hard work this term.

### Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from  
Miss Watson and Ms Strover.



### Accelerated Reader Whole School Results

Year group	Total Words Read
Y7	5,177,357
Y8	667,895
Y9	327,778
Y10	2,216,297
Y11	593,575
<b>School Total Words Read</b>	<b>= 8,982,901</b>

