



## DIARY DATES

17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> December	7pm	Christmas Concerts
18 <sup>th</sup> December	12.15-13.15	Christmas Lunches for Year 10
19 <sup>th</sup> December	12.15-13.15	Christmas Lunches for Year 11
20 <sup>th</sup> December		Last day of Autumn Term – 12.30 finish
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025		INSET DAY
7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025		Beginning of Spring Term

Dear Parents/Carers

With only a few more days to go before the Christmas break, there is no let-up in the activities around the school. Years 7, 8 and 9 have now had their Christmas lunches: each tutor group decorated their tables in competition to win house points and a prize; they ate their meal together, pulled crackers, wore their Christmas jumpers, sang along to Christmas songs, and played quizzes and games. Students are also busy decorating their tutor group classrooms, again in an inter-house competition. Other are preparing for our concert next week. Through my assemblies this term I have managed to make references to my favourite novel: A Christmas Carol which our students study for their GCSEs. One of the important messages of this novel is that the Christmas spirit of charity, kindness and care for others is something we should show all year round. But at Christmas time there is a particular opportunity for us to reach out to others beyond our circle of families and friends; whether that is to neighbours who we vaguely know or, through charity, those we do not know.

We were delighted to welcome a number of our Trustees (Governors) into college to undertake learning walks with college leaders. A learning walk is when a member of staff visits the classrooms of others to identify best practice, check college processes are being followed and provide feedback on how things can be even better. We are focusing this year on making learning more active, collaborative, and engaging, as well as ensuring teachers regularly check that students are understanding what they are teaching. We very much appreciate the support that our Trustees give the college throughout the year.

The Year 11 trial exams are now coming to an end and the particularly good behaviour and conduct of students was specifically commented upon by some external visitors earlier in the week, which is lovely to hear. Teachers will now be marking their papers and updating their predictions for students' grades in the summer. I do hope that year 11 students get to have some time off from their studies over the holidays.

## Safeguarding

Parental mental health problems are not in themselves a child safeguarding concern. However, case reviews show that without the right support a parent with poor mental health can sometimes struggle to provide the safe and loving care for their child that they would like to provide. Parental mental health often suffers with the pressures of Christmas and sadly many do not know where they can get help and support if they need it.

So, I would like to raise awareness of two very important services: **Family Lives** offers a confidential and free helpline service for families. You might know this service by its previous name: Parentline). You can call them on 0808 800 2222 for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. If you don't get an answer first time please do try again. All calls, emails and chats are confidential. They will only break confidentiality if there is a life-threatening situation, or a child or adult is felt to be at risk of significant harm. Calls are not recorded.

The **Stop Domestic Abuse** service number is 0330 0533 630 and this will also take you through to the **Hampshire Advice line** number 0330 0165 112. If you are in an emergency situation you should phone 999 and if it is unsafe for you to speak you can press 55 after 999.

You can also access advice on loneliness and financial anxiety with tips and strategies via [Looking after your mental health during the holidays | Mental Health Foundation.](#)

Best wishes  
Mr Rule

## COLLEGE CULTURE House Points Update – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024



**VACANCIES:** We have a vacancy for a **SENDCO/Deputy Manager of our Childcare Unit**. For more details and to see our other vacancies – please go to [Recruitment - Wyvern College - Think Grow Care](#)

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

**LEARN KARATE** - Monday nights on the Wyvern Sports Hall. A family friendly club run by Wado Sports Karate Academy. [Click here for more details.](#)

## WYVERN SPORTS & FITNESS OFFERS

**New Year Fitness**  
2 Month Membership special

Option 1  
**£39.99**  
No contracts, no obligations

Option 2  
**£9.99**  
For 2 months of full use, if you sign up for a monthly or annual membership

T&C's Apply  
Sign up between  
1st Dec 24 - 15th Feb 25

TEAR UP YOUR GYM IF YOU DON'T MAKE IT BY 15TH JAN 2025 (GREEN DATA)

023 80 603229 www.wyverncollege.org.uk/sport-fitness/ Botley Road, Fair Oak, SO50 7AN

**Temporary Festive Memberships**

Available to all over 16's visiting over the Festive period.

1 Week Full Adult Access:  
£12 per week

1 Week student / Concessionary Access:  
£10 per week

This offer is available inhouse  
**TODAY!**  
Merry Christmas

www.wyvern.hants.sch.uk - Wyvern College, Botley Road, Fair Oak, SO50 7AN - 023 80 603229

[Click here for the Christmas Opening Times for the Gym.](#)

## MUSIC NEWS

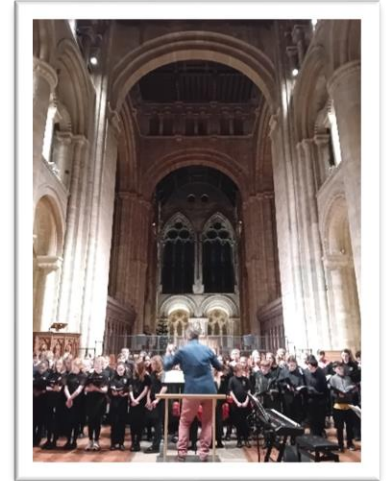
The Wyvern Choir took part in a spectacular performance at Romsey Abbey on Thursday 5th December and sang alongside the Barton Peveril Sixth form singers, the Rose singers adult choir, the Hampshire Youth Choir, and singers from Wildern School.

The main item was Wassail!- Songs of Comfort and Joy which is a collect of songs arranged for choirs by the fantastic choral director Alexander L'Estrange. Alexander worked with the choirs leading up to the event including evening rehearsals at Barton Peveril Rose Theatre in preparation for the concert. Alexander is a truly inspirational leader and was wonderful to work with.

On the evening the choirs performed alongside Alexander's ensemble including a double bass, recorders, harmonium, and percussion, which really brought the songs to life. There were also performances from Barton Peveril chamber ensembles which sounded superb in the acoustics of the Abbey.

Singers of Wyvern choir were fantastic and sang beautifully as well as being excellent ambassadors for the school. The choir also had the wonderful opportunity to meet other singers from across the globe, as they were joined by singers from the Kinard choir from Colorado- who joined us for rehearsals the evening before and the concerts on the Thursday. The Kinard singers were full of fun and instantly friendships were made between Wyvern singers and the American singers.

It was magical to hear all these voices joining together in song, as well as seeing them striking up friendships through music. Scott Wheeler is the director for the Kinard choir and led all the singers in performing 'Where you There on The Christmas Night' and 'An Irish Blessing'.



### Congratulations

Amazing result for Michela in year 11 who has achieved a Distinction for her Grade 6 Percussion exam. Well done Michela, this shows so much dedication and hard work.

### Christmas Concerts.

**Wyvern Christmas concerts are taking place on Tues 17<sup>th</sup> and Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Dec in the main hall.** All of our college choirs and ensembles will be performing, and the evening will be a fantastic celebration of music at Wyvern and start to the festive season. Please see the poster below. Tickets are now available via [TicketSource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wyvern-college)



## GENERAL NOTICES

### Cycling Safety

Can we please remind parents that students are only permitted to cycle to school if they adhere to the safety agreement in either page 35 (Years 7-8) OR 36 (Years 9-11) of the logbooks. We would highlight that they should all be wearing helmets.

### Tesco Stronger Starts

From the first week in October, to the middle of January 2025, local Tesco stores will be running the 'Stronger Starts' blue token vote, with Wyvern College Learning Support department hoping to fundraise some money to improve the sensory environment that is currently in use; we hope to enhance the environment with new furniture, sensory lights, soft furnishings, and other aids that will support to provide a calm and relaxing environment. The area will help to improve alertness, levels of concentration, calmness and general awareness, whilst providing a supportive setting so the students can manage their day whilst in the school environment. In order to support Wyvern, please ensure when shopping in one of the local Tesco stores, that you pop a little blue token in the Wyvern box each time you shop. During the three-month period that the fundraising project is running, the winner could win up to £1500, which will make a huge difference to the students that access the Learning Support department.

The following shops are where Wyvern has a voting box:

2452 Eastleigh The Swan Centre Large unit SO50 5PN  
2511 Ashdown Chndlr Rd Exp Small unit SO53 5RD  
2520 Fair Oak Express Small unit SO50 7HD  
3338 Valley Park Soton Exp Small unit SO53 4ST  
5250 Twyford Rd Eastlg Exp Small unit SO50 4HP  
6795 Eastleigh Bshpstk Exp Small unit SO50 6LA



### Post 16 Transport Consultation

This is a reminder that Hampshire County Council's consultation on its Post 16 Transport Policy is open until Sunday, 15 December.

The policy outlines the County Council's transport provision for young people over 16 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) travelling to further education or training. The consultation seeks feedback on a number of small, proposed changes to make the policy easier to understand and provide greater clarity on how the service is delivered and managed. The proposals are not part of a savings programme.

Those wishing to comment on the proposed changes to the Post 16 Transport policy can share their feedback by calling or writing to the service or submitting an online form. Contact details are available on the [consultation webpage](#) and on the County Council's [School Transport website](#).

### Online Safety

The latest edition of our [Online Safety Newsletter can be accessed by clicking here](#). Past editions can be found on [Keeping Students Safe - Wyvern College - Think Grow Care](#).

### LOST PROPERTY

The lost property that we have in college will be displayed in reception on Thursday 12th & Friday 13th December 2024 from 3-4pm. Please ensure that you or your child come to reception on those days to check for any missing items. All lost property will be disposed of over the Christmas break.

## CAREERS NEWS

### Sparsholt Open Event

Registrations are now open for Sparsholt College's Open Day for Saturday 1 February 2025 [Experience Sparsholt - Sparsholt College Hampshire](#). Timings for the event depend on the tour/tours that you book.

## T-LEVELS WEEK

**South Hants Colleges** are holding some information evenings relating to T-Levels. [Click her for more.](#)

## EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITY – JUNIOR CHEF PROGRAMME

Eastleigh College are running their exciting 6 week programme within their Hospitality and Catering department. Hospitality and Catering is one of the fastest growing, exciting, and ever-changing industries providing many different job opportunities.

The Junior Chef Programme is designed for years 9, 10 and 11 to give them an insight into the professional cookery experience within the Hospitality and Catering industry. The programme will help develop confidence, communication and cookery skills as well as encouraging them to use their creative flair. On completion of the course your son/daughter will receive a College Attendance Certificate at a ceremony where they will prepare a two-course meal. [For more information, please click here.](#)

## Interested in apprenticeship programmes with BAE Systems?

Closing date for applications: 4pm, Friday 20 December 2025

Taking place over four days in January and February 2025, students will be matched with a BAE Systems mentor and visit Portsmouth Naval Base. There will also be opportunities to meet current BAE Systems apprentices, who will provide insights into their role and share their experience.

We'll offer some guidance on how to apply for our apprenticeship programmes, starting in September 2025.

Programme dates and times are:

- Wednesday 15 January, 5pm – 6pm, Virtual via WebEx (joining instructions and links will be provided)
- Tuesday 21 January, 4pm – 6pm, Portsmouth Naval Base
- Monday 3 February, 4pm – 6pm, Portsmouth Naval Base
- Tuesday 18 February (half term), 9am – 3pm, Portsmouth Naval Base

Places are limited, so you must commit to attending all dates/times listed above. Access to Portsmouth Naval Base is subject to MOD security checks and permissions. You will need valid photo ID (e.g. passport or provisional driver's license) to gain access to Portsmouth Naval Base.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Please see that BAE Systems have business Apprenticeships for school leavers for September 2025, as well as engineering and electrical apprenticeships.

[Job Search | BAE Systems](#)

[https://jobsearch.baesystems.com/search-and-apply?location\\_checkboxes=portsmouth&areas\\_of\\_work\\_checkboxes=business-development-and-sales&level\\_of\\_experience\\_checkboxes=advanced-apprenticeship%2Cundergraduate-placement](https://jobsearch.baesystems.com/search-and-apply?location_checkboxes=portsmouth&areas_of_work_checkboxes=business-development-and-sales&level_of_experience_checkboxes=advanced-apprenticeship%2Cundergraduate-placement)

## YEAR 7 NOTICES



### *From Year 7 Pastoral Office*

That Christmas feeling is definitely in the air and Year 7 are very much into the full swing of our Christmas celebrations.

On Tuesday over 200 of the year group, plus tutors, members of the Year 7 learning support team and pastoral team all met together to share a Christmas dinner. Being new to Wyvern myself I wasn't really sure what to expect but it was a truly a wonderful sight to behold! Each tutor group were given the task of decorating their tutor table (all in the name of friendly competition and additional house points) and my goodness did they decorate... Some groups had been working hard at making items such as snowflake place mats, personalised elf and Santa hats and Christmas tree name settings. We had wrapping paper tablecloths, tinsel and garland table runners and a whole multitude of characters adorning the tables ranging from your traditional Father Christmas, angels, reindeer and my personal favourite, that well known nativity figurine - the Christmas rhino complete with tinsel head band. All pupils sat with their tutor group (many in Christmas jumpers) and ate their dinner, laughed, sang, and generally had a really lovely time together. I am pleased that

this is a Wyvern tradition and I hope that the pupils continue to engage in this as wholeheartedly and as excitedly as they did this year, every year.

Another Christmas house competition is up and running with pupils decorating a space within their tutor bases. Many have opted for a full festive window display; others have created Christmas corners within rooms whilst some have taken over the display boards. Pupils are fully committed to this particular house competition and judging begins this week...It has been really lovely to witness the tutor groups



working together, planning displays, making decorations and really throwing themselves into this team activity.

Our final nod to celebrations comes on the last assembly of the term where we will be having a Christmas themed celebration/prize giving assembly. We will be looking back

at our first term together, celebrating pupil achievements, playing some interactive games, more singing and generally sending our first term off together with a bang. Year 7 have had a really successful first term at Wyvern and I look forward to congratulating and celebrating with them all.

As an additional Christmas themed message....a number of pupils are currently arriving at lessons without their full equipment. Lots of comments of 'I've lost this' or 'it has broken' etc... Please can we ask that over the break that perhaps some replenished stationary supplies makes it way into some stockings?!

As always may thanks for your continued support,

Year 7 Pastoral Team

## YEAR 8 NOTICES

### MARWELL TRIP

The Geography Department has organised a visit for Year 8 pupils to Marwell Zoo on either Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 (exact students on each day will be confirmed when final numbers are in).

The visit is taking place on a day when students have Geography and will coincide with the teaching of a unit on World Environments in Geography lessons. Deadline for applications in Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. [For more details, please click here.](#)

### ***From Year 8 Pastoral Office***

What a week it has been this week. I am delighted to see so many Year 8 tutor bases decorating their rooms for the House Competition and I am looking forward to judging for Centaur house.

I delivered our assembly this week about Human Rights. We started by considering the question “Is this Freedom?” and then various slides were shown with examples such “choosing a career that interests you” and “choosing your own relationship”. We explored why we need human rights and looked at some of the articles from the Human Rights Act including those for people at work and those of our students. I reiterated the message that with our rights come responsibilities.

On Wednesday we had our Christmas lunch and over 170 Year 8s attended which was amazing. Our Tutor Reps did an excellent job of decorating their tables and in the true spirit of Christmas, students from other tutor groups shared some of their table decorations with a class that did not have any – well done! I would like to give Jyot from H2 a special mention here for his efforts in creating a lovely table box decoration for his tutor group's table - the picture is below - amazing Jyot, We're really proud of you! The winner of this year's “best dressed table” will be announced in our Christmas Celebration Assembly on Tuesday but look below for a couple of photos to give you an idea.

Praise news this week - I would like to congratulate P2 for earning the highest number of P1s last week (520), very closely followed by D2 (514) and in third place H1 (490). The leader board for students last week is as follows Juci D2 was in first place with 36 P1s, Ben from H1 with 34 and in third place Kieran from D1 with 33 points – well done to all of you! There were three students last week on 32 points so very close indeed. Finally, a big thank you again to everyone who has sent in a prize donation for our Christmas Celebration assembly on Tuesday. If you have something and just keep forgetting to bring it in, then we would still really appreciate it but by the end of college on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Howard  
Year 8 Pastoral Leader



## YEAR 9 NOTICES

### *From Year 8 Pastoral Office*

Some of the spectacular tables at our Year 9 Christmas Dinner. A brilliant effort from the tutor groups



## YEAR 10 NOTICES

### **RE: Save the Dates - Year 10 College Taster Days 2025**

Dear Year 10 Parents / Guardians

I just wanted to send you the Year 10 Colleges Taster Days for next year. We can't take the students to all of the events, so if there are any that you would like to attend, then please do contact your child's Pastoral Leader in advance to let them know.

Please can I also make you aware that the Barton Peveril College Taster Day will be on our Inset Day in June. So, if you wish to go then please keep Friday the 27th of June 2025 free. We will still be running a minibus from Wyvern College and back for those who wish to travel with us, though seats are limited.

Date	Name of College
Monday 23rd June 2025	Peter Symonds College
Inset Day Friday 27th June 2025	Barton Peveril College
Thursday 3rd July 2025	Itchen College
Wednesday 9th July 2025	Eastleigh College

Kind Regards  
Mrs Gough  
Careers Leader

### **Christmas Lunches**

Staff and students are looking forward to Christmas lunches this year. Christmas lunch and festive dessert will be at a cost of **£4.50**.

Options for lunch will be Roast Chicken with trimmings (DF), Roast Chicken with trimmings (GLF) (DF) and Vegan Quorn fillet with trimmings (VEG) (VE) (DF)



**Year 10 lunch will be Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Payment must be made via Parentmail by 3pm Friday 13th December.** Free School Meal students will have a form to complete instead of a payment option.

Please email [finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk](mailto:finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk) with any additional dietary requirements.

## **YEAR 11 NOTICES**

### **Year 11 English Trips**

In the Spring term, the English department are running two exciting and enriching trips.

Firstly, on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025** an opportunity to watch and listen to the AQA GCSE poets reading and discussing their poems. The event '**Poetry Live**' takes place at the **Bournemouth Pavilion**. This will be a valuable and enriching experience for students in Year 11 as they will gain a unique insight into the language and context of their Power and Conflict poems in readiness for their GCSE English Literature exam.

There will be readings and discussions by Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy, and John Agard amongst others. We will also hear from one of the chief examiners who will go through sample responses showing how marks are awarded.

Our second trip is to the **Mayflower Theatre in Southampton on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025** to see a performance of the acclaimed National Theatre production of '**An Inspector Calls**'. This JB Priestley play is one of the set texts that your child has studied for their English Literature GCSE.

[Please click here for a letter giving further details on both trips.](#)

Parents are welcome to apply for both trips, but we do request that a preference is made in event of either trip being over subscribed. The trip form and payment details can be found on [ParentMail](#)

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Options for lunch will be Roast Chicken with trimmings (DF), Roast Chicken with trimmings (GLF) (DF) and Vegan Quorn fillet with trimmings (VEG) (VE) (DF)

**Year 11 lunch will be Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Payment must be made via Parentmail by 3pm Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.** Free School Meal students will have a form to complete instead of a payment option.

Please email [finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk](mailto:finance-office@wyvern.hants.sch.uk) with any additional dietary requirements.

### ***From Year 11 Pastoral Office***

Year 11 have now completed their mock exams. We have been really impressed by the level of maturity and commitment shown by them. The behaviour shown throughout has been excellent from; all students arriving on time to start promptly, to the polite and kind behaviour shown to the invigilators, to seeking out staff looking for help and support prior to their exams.

This has been a full-on experience for them, completing, at points, two exams per day, so the break has come at the perfect time for them. Students will be receiving feedback from their exams from now onwards so please encourage them to share this with you and celebrate their achievements.

Please reaffirm with them how proud of them we are and encourage them to give themselves some time off over the holidays to recharge and get ready for the last push in the new year.

Kind Regards  
Mr Merriman  
Year 11 Pastoral Leader