



DIARY DATES

28 th January		Year 8 Options Assembly
7 th , 8 th and 9 th February		Inspector Calls trip to the Mayflower
11 th February		School Production – The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe
14 th February	2.55pm	Year 8 Options Evening for Parents & Carers
		College closes for half term (normal day)

Dear parents,

I am bewildered and frustrated at the recent Facebook page in which many Wyvern parents are discussing the presence of so called “furries” in the college. I want to make it absolutely clear that the college does not recognise students are furries and does not permit them to identify themselves as such. We do not permit the wearing of pet collars (without or without bells), furry ears, whiskers or tails. Our Uniform Policy is quite clear about what is acceptable and the adjustments we make for those with protected characteristics – which does not include being a furry. This has been made clear to any student that has queried that.

I would like to remind parents about the responsible use of social media when discussing school issues. If you have a concern about any aspect of your child’s education or college policies, the responsible thing to do is to pick up the phone or email us and let us know what you are concerned about. We work really hard to teach students about appropriate social media use and to be careful about accepting all they read as true. We all have a role to play in stopping the spread of misinformation through a pack mentality. What we do as adults is what our children will do too.

Absence reports

You will have received your child's absence report for the period of September to December and students have been given copies of these too in tutor time. There are several things you can do with the information it contains: most importantly, talk to your child about it. Please do praise your child for high attendance, for good punctuality, for improved attendance or for attendance that would be high or improving if it wasn't for a single case of an illness which meant they couldn't come in and which skew their figures. In doing this, please do reinforce the key message that high attendance has the biggest correlation to strong academic progress than any other factor and that high or improved attendance is therefore something to be proud of.

Behind every student's absence data there will be a context and a set of individual circumstances which you will know better than we do. In many cases, these circumstances cannot be helped; we recognise that sometimes it is absolutely the right that a student does not come into college. Our own guidance, and the government's, has affected the absence rate of many students - we have requested that students with symptoms of infectious illnesses do not attend college. We are very grateful that parents followed this guidance, even though this means that students are not in lessons.

Similarly, at this early stage of the academic year, a student's absence rate can be significantly affected by even one day of genuine illness. In these examples, we would anticipate that the student's absence rate will not stay as high over the year or the student's remaining years at Wyvern. We are not therefore concerned about these absences because the context and circumstances are unlikely to be repeated. From our perspective we are less concerned about one period of illness compared to the drip, drip effect of frequent short absences which span several weeks.

If your child has a high or increasing absence rate unrelated to a single period of ill health, then please do discuss this with your child and gently probe as to how it can be improved. Please do look for any patterns to absence in terms of the days and times of the week, which might help identify the causes. If there is anything that we can do to help your child to improve their attendance, then please ask us, via your child’s tutor.

Student Wellbeing and Sleep Deprivation

The Sleep Charity estimates that at any given time, 40% of adults and 50% of children have difficulties with sleep. For children who have a special educational need, the estimate is 80%. In his book "Why We Sleep", Matthew Walker explores all the research into sleep, including the causes and consequences of poor sleep patterns. You can find a comprehensive summary, chapter by chapter here, which will only take you 5 minutes to read. It really is worth the time as it explains how many problems faced by children (and adults) can be directly explained by poor sleep. [Why We Sleep: A Comprehensive Summary of Matthew Walker's Groundbreaking Book](#)

It is well known that students with sleep difficulties often struggle to pay attention, to concentrate and focus on pieces of work; many struggle to regulate what they think, say and do. However, what is less well known, is that sleep problems often prevent students from regulating their emotions too and this can lead to increased aggression, stress and/or anxiety.

There is a strong link between insufficient sleep and ADHD-like symptoms. Sometimes, adults can assume a child has ADHD when in fact have poor sleep patterns. Lack of sleep has been strongly associated with an increased risk of mood disorders, including depression and anxiety. In fact, Walker argues that the relationship between sleep and mental health is two way – poor sleep can contribute to mental health issues, and mental health problems can, in turn, disrupt sleep, creating a vicious cycle. So what is a sufficient amount of sleep? Experts say that a child between the ages of 6-12 should have 9-12 hours sleep per night and those between the ages of 13-18, between 8 and 10 hours. Clearly, there are many, many children who routinely get far less than this and for some of them we can see the effects that Walker describes when they are in college.

Interestingly, Walker explains that LED lights have made the situation worse compared to the softer, longer wavelength light from tungsten filament bulbs. The higher blue content delays the production of melatonin needed for sleep. Computer screens, phones, and other modern devices generate this blue light. Reading by iPad is much worse than reading a paper book, significantly depressing levels of melatonin. The Sleep Charity helpline is run by trained sleep advisors, many of whom are specialists in working with SEND. They can talk to children directly, or parents (they can also talk to adults about their sleep issues). The helpline number is 03303 530 541 and you can read more about this charity's work here: <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline/>.

With best wishes
Mr Rule

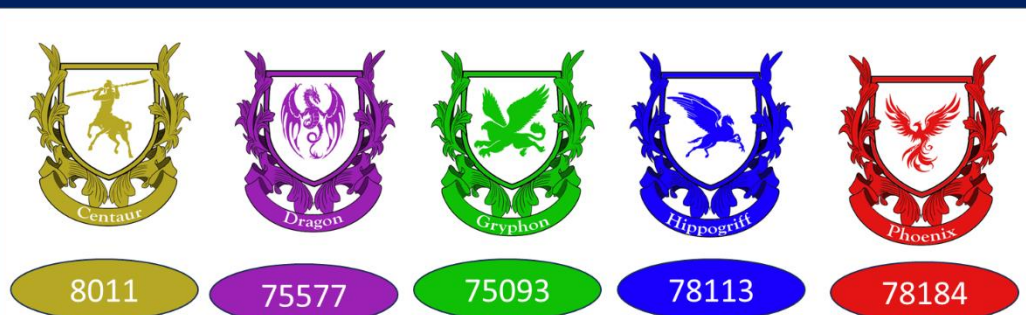
COLLEGE CULTURE

House Competitions

[Please click here for details of our house competitions for this term.](#) We'd love as many people as possible to be involved and look forward to seeing all the fantastic submissions.

Miss Read and Mrs Wiseman

House Points Update
23rd January 2025



COMMUNITY NEWS

WYVERN COMMUNITY CHOIR

Do you enjoy singing? then why not come along and try our Community Choir, the emphasis is on having fun, meeting new people and developing vocal skills. Try out a free taster session, register your interest with us on 023 80 692678 / community@wyvern.hants.sch.uk

[Click here for more information.](#)

WYVERN SPORTS & FITNESS OFFERS

New Year, New You - Our new year offer runs until 15 Feb 2025. Click the picture for more.



PHOENIX JUNIOR NETBALL CLUB

A brand new junior netball club set up in Fair Oak for children aged 7-11 years. (Junior School Aged children) Starts: Thursday 6th February - 5.45-6.45pm - Wyvern Netball Court Please contact if you would like more details [click here](#) or email - phoenixjnnetball@outlook.com or find us on Facebook

THE QUEST FOR PEACE 7pm 4th February 2025

Hamble Valley Rotary are pleased to host this keynote lecture by Ed Arnold, Senior Research Fellow at RUSI (The Royal United Services Institute) an independent think-tank. RUSI embodies nearly two centuries of forward thinking, free discussion and reflection on international affairs, defence and security matters. The lecture will be followed by a question and answer session. [Click here for more details.](#)

COMMUNITY ORCHARD WORKSHOP

Please can you advertise our design workshop for the new community orchard at Knowle Park in your newsletter please. <https://www.fairoakgreening.org/communityevents>. Alongside this, the planting of the orchard will take place this Spring – details to follow soon.

VACANCIES: We have a vacancies for a **Maths Teacher, an ELSA and Early Year Practitioners**. For more details and to see our other vacancies – please go to [Recruitment - Wyvern College - Think Grow Care](#)

GENERAL NOTICES

Childcare Pathway Request.

The pathway between nursery and the art block must NOT be used by staff or parents as a cut through to the car park or other schools. There are signs up stating this, but these are being ignored by a small number of people. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

NHS Parent & Carers Webinar – Tuesday 25th March 2025

This free webinar is designed to assist parents and carers to support their children with their relationships, sexual health, and wellbeing. [Click here for more information.](#)

Lost Coat

A coat has been handed into reception from Learning Support. They think it may belong to a parent who has left it after a meeting as it does not belong to anyone in the department. It can be collected from our reception.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

VOCAL FESTIVAL 2025

Wyvern Choir will be performing alongside our primary cluster schools: Fair Oak, Stoke Park, Durley and Upham in this year's Vocal festival at Thornden Hall on **Thursday 13th March**. This wonderful event brings together around 200 voices of infants, juniors, and seniors in song and is such a memorable day for all involved. Our Vocal coach this year will be Hannah Drury, a fantastic singer, performer, director and teacher, who will be leading the children in song on the day. Rehearsals have begun and we are all learning songs with the theme of 'Into the Night Sky'. The choir is still welcoming members so if there is anyone who would like to join who has not been attending rehearsals please come along next week. Choir rehearsals are Tuesday after school 3-4pm.

Tickets will be £7 and are available from Monday 3rd of February from <http://www.thorndenhall.co.uk>



SCHOOL PRODUCTION 2025 – THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE – TICKETS ON SALE NOW



Wyvern College Presents

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Thursday 6th February (7pm)

Friday 7th February (7pm)

Saturday 8th February (1.30pm & 7pm)

Tickets via www.ticketsource.co.uk/wyvern-college



CAREERS NEWS

St Swithun's School Open Event

St Swithun's School is having an open event for their 6th form on the 24th June. [Please click here for details.](#)

Parent and Supporters Webinar - Winchester University

'[Parents and Supporter's Webinar](#)' taking place on Wednesday 12th February, 18:00 – 19:00 on MS Teams. Any questions about the event can be sent to: schoolsandcolleges@winchester.ac.uk

NHS Virtual Webinars

There are two webinar coming up that cover (and click to see more):

- [Midwifery 6th February 2025](#)
- [Health Professionals 10th February 2025](#)

Please can I remind you that the **deadline for Barton Peveril Sixth Form College, will be on the 14th of February 2025**. If your child needs any support with their application, then please ask them to contact myself – j.gough@wyvern.hants.sch.uk


Kind Regards
Mrs Gough
Careers Leader

COLLEGE TASTER DAYS

Please see 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 other Colleges that you would like to attend, then please do contact your child's Head of Year 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



WYVERN CAREERS WEEK

3RD - 7TH MARCH 2025

We would love it if you could come and inspire our students' young minds by speaking about your job and company.

Assembly: 15 minutes
Class session: 45 minutes

Please get in touch with Mrs Gough at j.gough@wyvern.hants.sch.uk if you would like to find out more about the week's events.

SETA Engineering Apprenticeship Jobs Fair.

[Click here for more information](#) about the event being held on the 11th February 2025.

RICHARD TAUNTON OPEN EVENING

- Our next open evening is on Wednesday 11th June 2025 from 6 to 8pm. Please encourage anyone to book via this booking page: <https://www.richardtaunton.ac.uk/open-events/> I attach an A3 and A4 poster and digital screen display. It would be great if you could kindly put them up around school. If you'd prefer, I print and send, please let me know the correct address.
- Our year 10 taster day is on Monday 7th July 2025. Please let me know if you wish to bring groups of students. I will share a booking form in the coming weeks.
- Our year 11 applicant day is on Monday 30th June 2025. Applicants will be invited directly.



RICHARD TAUNTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025
6.00 - 8.00pm

BOOK NOW

RESPECT
AMBITION

SPORTING NEWS

Junior School Cross Country Championships

Tue 14th January Wyvern our Year 7 and 8 teams were taken by Mrs Lowe to the championships at St George's Fields at In Winchester. It was a strong field with close to 70 runners in each race. All our runners represented the college admirably performing to the best of their ability.

In Year 7

- Rosa came 5th and is selected for the County Championships to represent E&W at Basingstoke 4th March

- Alyssa came 9th and is selected for the County Championships to represent E&W
- Sienna came 37th
- Rhys came 6th and is selected for the County Championships to represent E&W at Basingstoke
- Ethan came 33rd
- Harrison came 56th

In Year 8

- Jack was 1st and is selected for the County Championships to represent E&W at Basingstoke.
- Hector came 44th
- Theo came 40th
- Lyra came 5th and is selected for the County Championships to represent E&W at Basingstoke.
- Fern came 6th - selected for the County Championships to represent E&W at Basingstoke.
- Flo came 17th.
- Sophie came 18th.

A good job done by all the students and we will await an update from the County Championships in March.

County Cross Country – 18th January.

More shout outs for our athletes who competed in the U15 and U17 age categories representing Eastleigh and Winchester at the County Cross Country Championships in Aldershot on the 18th January, they were a credit to themselves and Wyvern

UNDER 15: Jack and Lyra were running as talented Year 8's at the bottom end of the age category. Jack finished 40 out of 68 finishers and Lyra placed 21st out of 70 finishers. Jasper in Year 9 also had a strong race, placing 32nd.

UNDER 17: Congratulations to Jacob in Year 11 who placed 15th out of 59 finishers and stands a strong chance of being selected for the Hampshire County Squad at the Inter Counties. Good luck Jacob. Also well done to Hugo, running as a talented Year 10 at the bottom end of the age group, and demonstrating grit and determination to place 38th.

YEAR 7 NOTICES

Year 7 continue to make the Year Team proud with their positive attitude towards their learning, their energy and enthusiasm and their smart appearance. The latter of these was clearly evident when, on Wednesday, they brushed their hair, smartened their ties, adopted their best smiles and posed for the Year 7 photograph. It was no easy task manoeuvring 280 pupils into height order, onto high tiered platforms and then to get them all standing still, looking the right way, and smiling all at the same time! Needless to say, all pupils listened carefully, followed the instructions, were patient and understanding and were polite and respectful to the photography team - we were very proud of them. We are looking forward to seeing the final edit later this term.

Year 7 are continuing to work hard during their tutor sessions focusing on their STRIVE booklets and tasks. It has been really lovely to see pupils bringing in evidence to show their tutors of the various projects they have been working on and the new skills they have been trying to master. I was lucky enough to be in a tutor group whilst a pupil was explaining that they had been trying to learn how to bake and then promptly produced a batch of homemade cookies to be shared amongst the tutor group.

As a Year Team we are shifting our focus this term onto helping people other than ourselves and are subsequently immersing ourselves into some fundraising exploits. Tutors are currently voting on which charities we are going to champion this year and then we will be moving onto planning some fundraising ventures. With this at the forefront of our minds,

I would like to say a big thank you and well done to the following pupils who are flying the flag for being helpful and kind by currently achieving the highest number of points in this category so far this term. So well done to Alexa (7C2), Esther (7G2) and Indie (7C1).

Thank you again for your continued support with regards to uniform -there has been a marked improvement this week. However, please could I remind everyone that leggings are not permitted under skirts, girls should be wearing socks or tights (not both) and that smart watches are not a permitted item.

Katie Taylor-Watson
Year 7 Team

YEAR 8 NOTICES

Hello

Firstly, let me apologise for this being my first submission to the newsletter this term – it has been a busy start! Assemblies are currently being undertaken virtually as the stage is set up and we can't all fit in the hall. That said, students had an options assembly this week from Mr Stocks which they have hopefully found very informative. They should now have also had an RPS lesson about options. Please remember that this is a process, and no decisions need to be made or finalised for some time – I have already had some worried Y8s coming to me about options even though Mr Stocks made very clear that there is nothing to be done for now.

Praise news this week - I would like to congratulate 8G2 for earning the highest number of P1s so far this term (1503), very closely followed by H1 (1473) and in third place D2 (1466). The leader board for students this term is as follows Erwann (H1) is in first place with 110 P1s, Anna also (H1) with 104 and in third place Steph (G1) with 103 points – well done to all of you!

Mrs D.Howard
Pastoral Leader Year 8
Wyvern College

Year 8 Options 2025

Information about the options for Year 8 are now being uploaded onto [the Option page on our website](#). [Please click here for a letter](#) to parents and carers of Year 8 students regarding the timetable for this year's process.

YEAR 9 NOTICES

No notices this week

YEAR 10 NOTICES

No notices this week

YEAR 11 NOTICES

Inspector Calls Trip – Mayflower Theatre 28th January

If your child is attending the year 11 trip to see Inspector Calls at the Mayflower on Tuesday, you will have now received an email with the details for the evening. The information is also on the notice board outside the finance office.

Period 6 Revision Sessions.

Period 6 Revision Sessions

[Please click here for details of next week's Period 6 revision sessions.](#)