



Oldbury Wells Journal

February 2023



Welcome

Welcome to our midterm newsletter. The half term has been short in terms of working weeks (only 5), but full on with regards to student activity across the school.

It has been tremendous to see students across all year groups being further focused since their return in January, particular with regards to the support they give to each other. From Year 9 Sports Leaders who have worked with several local primary schools, through to Year 11 & 13 students who are highly focused on preparing for final examinations. We have lots happening in the weeks ahead and no matter what year group we focus on, there are goals and achievements to be made by all.

We are looking forward to guiding our year 9 students through the GCSE options process, there have been several talks and presentations in school, and we look forward to welcoming families into school to support final decisions made. This is an important time for all concerned and we aim to ensure that all questions are answered.

Our newsletter includes some information on school uniform; there are some updates for the new academic year and we are reminding all families of the uniform requirements to ensure all students are supported across the school. We are tremendously proud of all our young people's successes and want to ensure that everyone looks smart to present the very best version of themselves; my thanks goes to all families for their continued support in this important area.

I would like to wish everyone a restful half term, the period running through to Easter is again only 5 weeks so there is lots to achieve in what will have been a shorter than normal Spring Term. We look forward to continue sharing our students' successes and progressing towards the Easter period.

HAPPY HALF TERM!

Mr Tristham (Headteacher)

Science club goes from strength to strength

Students looking forward to flying high.

It has been a busy half term in the Science department. We have welcomed a new colleague, Ms Hubbard, who has moved all the way from Cambridge to join the Science team at OWS and is doing a great job of supporting our Oldbury Wells Scientists in their studies.

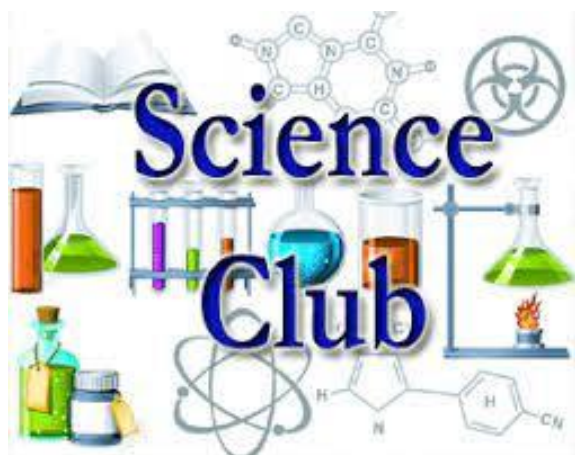
Our exam classes in Y11 have been reflecting on their examinations, while our Y13s have sat theirs. All are busy now finishing courses and looking forwards to their examinations. We are providing revision sessions for all exam groups and it is important they attend these as often as possible in the run up to those all-important assessments.

The Science Club goes from strength to strength and our recent bridge building competition showed off the calibre of STEM related talents in the group. They will be finishing the half term by flying the gliders they have designed in the Sports Hall with Mr Johnson.

We have been involved in discussions to start an ENTHUSE partnership with other schools in the Trust. I am happy to announce this is going ahead and will lead to some new developments around the department, particularly enrichment activities - watch this space!

Have a great holiday and thanks for all your hard work in Science!

Mr Cox
Head of Science



5-11 FEBRUARY 2024

#NAW2024

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

National Apprenticeship Week

Lots on offer, keep your eyes open as to what is available.

This week we promoted National Apprenticeship Week which included a talk to Year 12 by OWS alumni Chloe Bailey who is completing a degree level apprenticeship with Capgemini. Chloe is also speaking to Year 10 in assembly following half term.

Miss Silverstone is running targeted sessions to Year 11s interested in Apprenticeships and T-levels. Students will also be streaming into content from the Marches Career Hub on local apprenticeship providers in areas of interest to them.

There have been lots of events happening including virtual events that students can access at home, a selection of which are outlined below; remember to keep an eye out on social media channels for more information.

Main local live events:

- Apprenticeship resources (amazingapprenticeships.com)
- The 'My Story' films. Or the arcade style learning games: Apprenticeship Arcade - Amazing Apprenticeships
- You might want to try an online apprenticeship fair. Look out for adverts on social media. This one looks interesting - You don't have to be in a Unifrog school to attend (Unifrog is a paid for careers platform that some schools use). Unifrog Apprenticeships Fair (vfairs.com)
- If you are in Year 11 you might be starting to look for vacancies. There are a few really great local ones that have been advertised this week which are aimed at school leavers with a start date of September 2024. All year groups can learn more about this option here: Become an apprentice (apprenticeships.gov.uk)

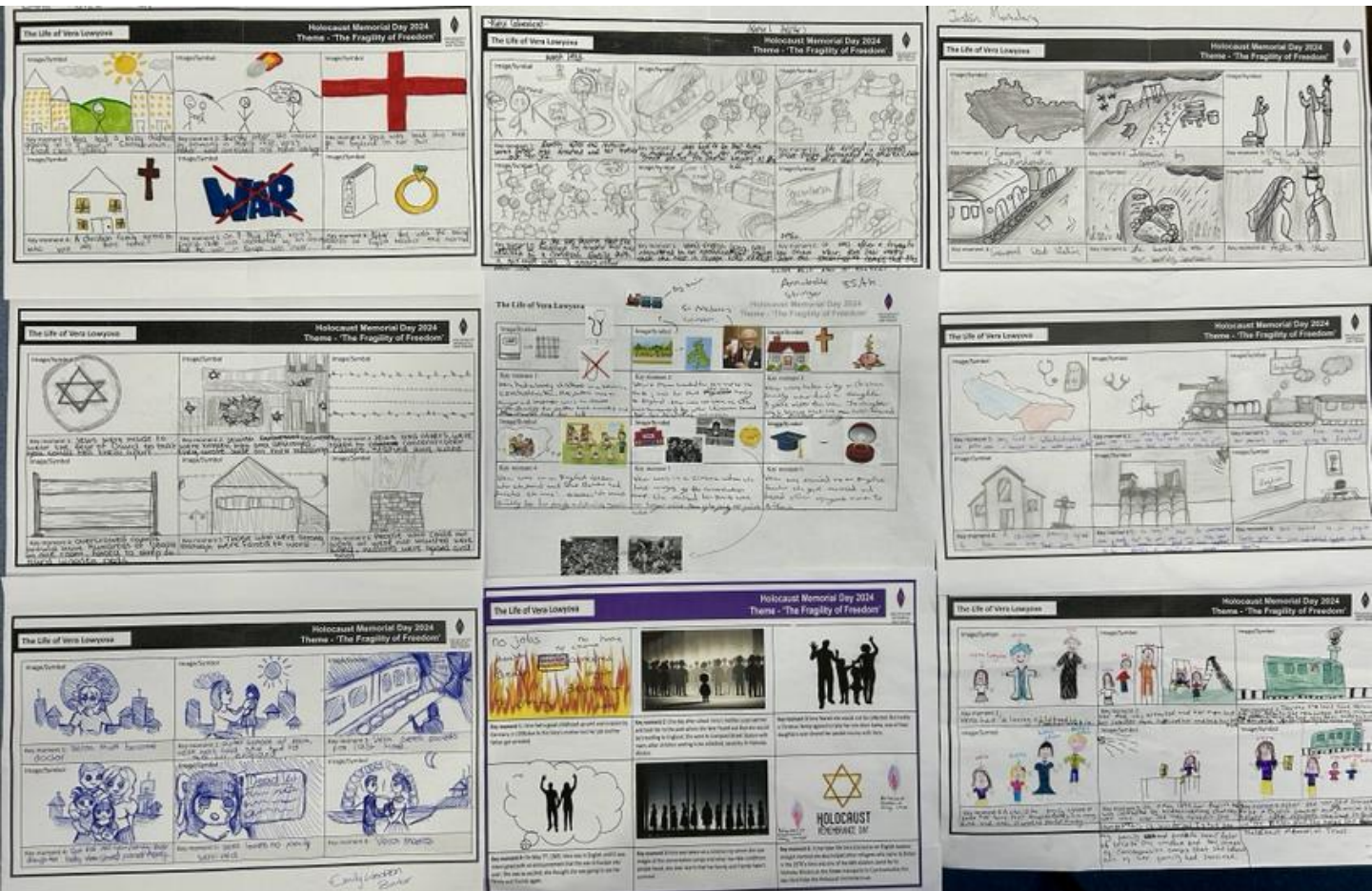
Expect to see more vacancies that are open to school leavers coming on in the next few months - from childcare to business admin, to dental nursing to agriculture, to catering to legal administration, to IT and many more.

History

Holocaust Memorial Day

The 27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day. The theme this year was 'The Fragility of Freedom'. Inspired by the recent film 'One Life', KS3 History students have been completing home learning on the Kindertransports that saved the lives of 669 Czech and Slovakian Jewish children before World War II. A selection of the beautiful storyboards detailing the life of Holocaust survivor Vera Lowyova can be seen below.

Well done to all concerned.



Galette des Rois

Year 11 celebrate the tradition of the Galette des Rois

"In January, the Y11 French students enjoyed the tradition of eating the Galette des Rois, or King Cake. The cake, normally eaten on the 6th of January for the Epiphany, celebrates the arrival of the Three Wise Men who came to Jesus to offer him gifts. However, the cake is a popular dessert in France regardless of its religious meaning. It contains a porcelain bean and whoever finds it in their slice becomes King or Queen for the day. Sam Morris and Samson Ward were the lucky ones and got to proudly wear their King's crown in lesson."

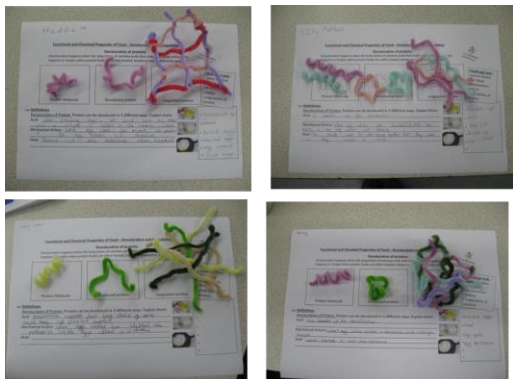


Food Technology

Food Technology

Year 7 have been creating protein strands!

This term, the year 7 Food Preparation and Nutrition group has been learning about the functional and chemical properties of proteins. They have been modelling how protein molecules in foods act when they are subjected to heat, acid or mechanical action, to understand how the molecules change shape and interact. They have learned how proteins look when denatured and coagulated.



Artists of the Month

Excellent commitment from students in Art

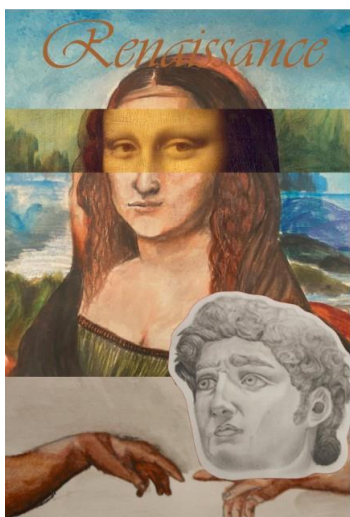
Year 7: Lily Darby

Lily worked really hard on her end of topic final Architecture Skyline piece using creative features and great building shapes. She has also used the style of the artist Hundertwasser, who we studied in class, to add colour and pattern decoratively. Well done to Lily.



Year 9: Evie Prosser

For an excellent commitment to Art with a fantastic artist study on Alfred Gockel, showing a great visual understanding. Strong sketchbook work including a great grid drawing and media studies.



Year 10: Sophie Rafferty

Year 10 have recently been developing graphic designs using Adobe Photoshop for the GCSE portfolio project. Sophie created some lovely ideas inspired by her theme of the Renaissance using her own artwork, creative use of text and imagery to design a series of posters.



Year 11: Enya Moorcroft

For a lovely acrylic canvas created as part of her exam preparation artist research on Kings and Queens, linked to chess pieces. An amazing effort Enya, well done!

Pop Art Project

Year 8 complete their final pieces.

Year 8: 8MRB and 8EMA have been working on their final pieces as a conclusion for the Pop Art project. Pictured here are some of the completed pieces and finished final designs from Megan Scott, Jack Kinnersley, Grace Fellows, Thomas McGettrick, Jonathan Arinysdokiari, Pollyanna Evans, Amelia Hotckkiss and Amelia Galley.



Pop Art Competition

Deadline Extended



The deadline for the 3D Pop Art competition has been extended to Friday, 23rd February so students can complete this if they want to over half term:

BRIEF:

To decorate, pattern and customise an OBJECT with Pop Art patterns, images and shapes:

- A shoe, cereal or small cardboard box.
- A found object Eg. Shoe, old lamp, bag, cricket bat, old record etc
- Buy an object online E.g. Craft shop blank box etc.
- You could make the object from Papier Mache.

We look forward to your competition entries.

Young Artists Summer Show

Now in its sixth year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–19 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Registration and submission is open until 27 March 2024, find out more and get involved at <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

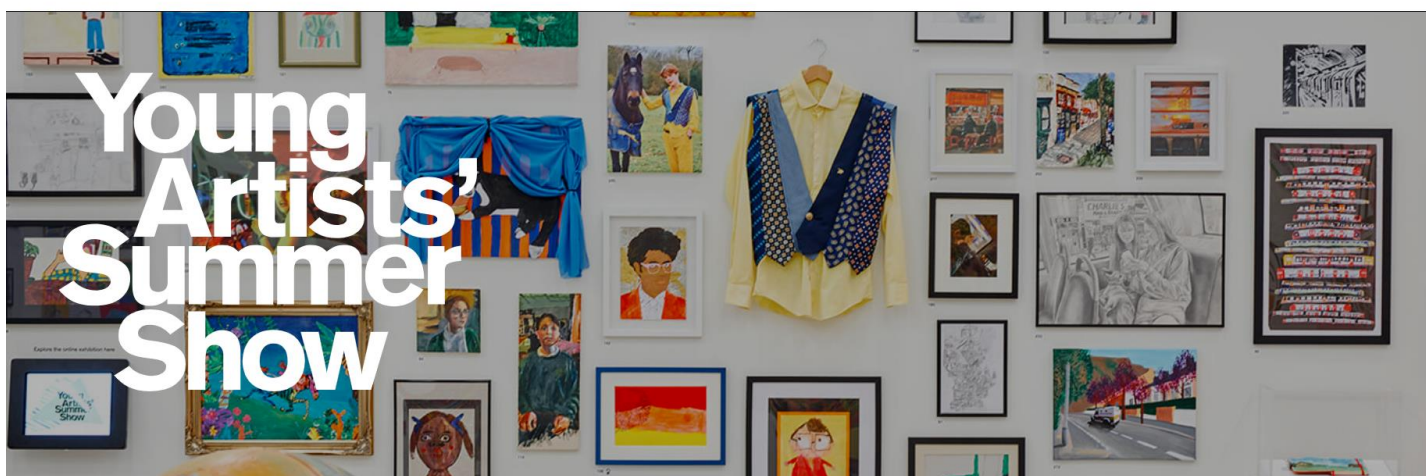


[Get involved](#) [FAQs](#) [Past exhibitions](#)

[Log in](#)

[Register >](#)

Young Artists' Summer Show



Y7 TSA Cup

Teams finish top of the league

OWS took on the next round of the TSA Cup this half term and competed in an activity that we have a good tradition of dominating in the county – Dodgeball! The Year 7 teams did not let this reputation down at all. In the competition between ourselves, Meole Brace, Belvedere, Mary Webb and Church Stretton both the girls' and boys' teams finished in 1st position! This was a fantastic effort from all involved and they competed brilliantly in some very close games.

In the overall scores for the year this puts the boys in 3rd place and the girls moved up to 2nd spot, hot on the heels of Meole Brace. Well done to everyone who took part, and we look forward to the next round after half term.

BOYS:

- 1st – CSS = 12 points
- 2nd – MBS = 10 points
- 3rd – OWS = 8 points
- 4th – MWS = 7 points
- 4th – BS = 7 points



GIRLS:

- 1st – MBS = 12 points
- 2nd – OWS = 10 points
- 3rd – MWS = 8 points
- 4th – CSS = 7 points
- 4th – BS = 7 points

Cross Country

Cross Country Superstar!

The PE department would like to extend a HUGE WELL DONE to Year 10 student **Jack Stockton**, who has been putting in some superb performances recently in cross country.

Jack competed for OWS on Saturday, 3rd Feb at the Shropshire Schools' Athletic Association Annual Cross Country Champs at Oswestry School. It was a cold and slightly wet morning, but this didn't stop Jack, who was competing in the Intermediate Boys (Y10/11) 5k against many pupils a year older than him. Despite being off school ill the previous week, Jack smashed the race in 18m 55s, coming 4th in County, which is a phenomenal effort! He also qualified for English Schools, which is a real honour!

To top it off, Jack has been invited to go to France and train for 2 weeks with some of the England squad in October/November later this year. It's an amazing opportunity and both school and family are very proud of him. Well done Jack!

Sports Leaders

Tennis Workshops are a huge hit

Well done to our Year 9 Sports Leaders who supported the tennis activities at OWS for Year 5 & 6 students from our primary partners. A great time was had by all and a fantastic opportunity for our leaders to develop their skills and support everyone involved.

Well done to all.

Rock Climbing

Climb to success!

Over a 3-week period since the Christmas break, Mr Farish and Miss D' Laney have been taking 12 of our Year 11 GCSE PE students for an intense course in rock climbing in order to help enhance some of their practical NEA grades.

The students have been fantastic and represented the school incredibly well - with the instructor relaying that he had never taught such a polite and hardworking group!

The improvement was phenomenal - with pupils starting on low wall traversing exercises and finishing on routes designed for A level students!

Well done to all involved - you were a real credit to us! I have pictured some of the candidates - but I will let you guess who they are!

Mr Farish



Sports Leaders





Handball

Exciting News from OWS!

Handball is thriving at OWS, and we're thrilled to share the latest updates with you!

U13 Girls Team Triumph: Our U13 girls handball team secured a spot in the West Midlands Regional rounds after an outstanding performance at the U13 County competition. They achieved a remarkable draw against Charlton and a decisive victory over Newport High Girls School. Special mention to Amelia M for her exceptional goalkeeping skills!



U13 Boys Success: Despite a tough loss to Thomas Adams School, our U13 boys displayed remarkable grit and determination which led to an impressive victory against Charlton. We extend a special recognition to Austin W for outstanding goalkeeping and Samuel T for exemplary leadership.

After School Club: Every Wednesday Y7, 8 & 9 students are invited to join our vibrant handball after-school club. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills, make friends and have fun!

Squad Training for Girls: Our Y7, 8 & 9 girls have been training hard in preparation for the upcoming regional competition on 15th April at Oxstalls Sports Park in Gloucester. Their dedication and commitment are truly inspiring!



County Handball: Several OWS students have now been invited to join the U14 Shropshire County training squad! This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to further develop their skills and represent our school at County level. We're incredibly proud of their achievements and wish them the best of luck as they embark on this exciting journey. Go Team OWS!

School Uniform

Uniform Update

New Skirt to be introduced from September 2024

We are updating our school uniform for our new intake from September 2024.

The new skirt will be the expected uniform item for Year 7 students and students who join the school mid-year.

We would ask parents that when they update their child's uniform, that they do so with the new skirt. The new skirt will be available from our stockists and will cost £23-25.

As part of our parent/carer consultation about our PSHE and RSE curriculum, you will also have the opportunity to see the new skirt and to talk to Mrs Warner (Deputy Headteacher) about this change.



Uniform item
NEW - Trutex GST
Gisburn tartan
skirt

The evening will take place in our **West Hall** on:
27th February 6.00pm-7.00pm

Uniform Policy

[A reminder of school uniform policy](#)

The uniform policy is available on the website however, for further reference please see the additional guidance below to help you when purchasing unbranded items of uniform.

[Uniform Policy](#)

Skirts – standard mid-grey skirt. To be worn no shorter than two inches above the knee (see below)



X



Shoes – plain black **polishable** leather or simulated leather, please see examples.



No boots, canvas shoes or trainer style shoes are permitted. No branded sports *makes* including (but not limited to) Nike, Adidas, Reebok, Converse, Stan Smiths and Vans. Please see below examples of **prohibited shoes**:



Socks – plain black, white or grey, **no trainer socks**.

Tights – plain black no patterns.

Coat – A black or grey waterproof coat.

Hoodies and Sweatshirts are prohibited from school

Trousers – should be formal, mid grey, full length and either regular or tailored fit (see below)



Jeans, tracksuit bottoms, cropped trousers, chinos, leggings, or skinny fit trousers are **prohibited** (see below)



Spring Quiz!

We're reading books in Year 7 and Year 8 – and Year 11 are revising books, plays and poems – so this Newsletter's SUPER CHALLENGE quiz is all about BOOKS ...

First, a simple warm up.

CHOCOLATE!

Can you make an alphabetical list of ten types of chocolate? (There are two different ones beginning with F – one is the name of a character, and the other is a very old chocolate bar... deliciously crumbly!)

A --- B ---- C ----- D --- F -----
 F ---- H ----- K -- K -- L --- M -----

CHALLENGE. Can you answer the questions, all of which are chocolate bars or types?

1. This chocolate is a huge system of stars.
2. This chocolate bar is just a planet.
3. This chocolate treat is two words. The first word means "children" in German; the second word means "good" in Italian.
4. This chocolate bar breaks into pieces that contain broken chocolate sweets; its name is one letter and another letter.
5. The first part of this bar's name sounds like somewhere birds might live. The second word of its name is onomatopoeia!
6. This one is a chocolate biscuit, but it has chocolate filling, chocolate covering. Polar bears can't eat them (because they can't get the wrappers off!).
7. This one contains peanut butter – you either love it or hate it.
8. 8 These are really only meant for clever people (it's a joke – links to the name...)
9. If you break the rules of the game and end up on the subs bench, you might be given one of these.
10. This is the name of a city in northern England, where there is a very good Uni, there are walls to walk and a Cathedral – ie...

SUPER CHALLENGE

1. Who wrote The Woman in Black?
2. Who starred in the film of The Woman in Black – and what is the character's name?
3. Stone Cold is a novel by Robert Swindells, about a boy who lives on the streets. Which city is he living in?
4. In Stone Cold, a serial killer is attacking homeless people: what is the killer's name?
5. The writer of The Woman in Black also wrote a series of novels about a police inspector. What's the name of the Inspector?
6. The writer of The Woman in Black was married to Stanley Wells (a well known Professor of Literature). Which famous playwright did Stanley Wells study and teach about?
7. Who wrote the novel Jekyll and Hyde?
8. Which city is the setting of Jekyll and Hyde? And for a bonus point, which part of the city?
9. Who wrote the novel A Christmas Carol?
10. Which city is the setting for A Christmas Carol?
11. In the play Romeo and Juliet, there are several deaths. Can you name three characters that die in Romeo and Juliet?
12. In the play Merchant of Venice, there are three pairs of lovers who marry in Act 5. Can you name two of the lovers? For another bonus point, can you name all of them?
13. In Macbeth, who dies in Act 3? And who survives, by running away?
14. Who is King at the opening of Macbeth?
15. What was the name of the theatre Shakespeare and his company built in London?

NOTICE BOARD

READDIT

Answers are below

1 Susan Hill 2 Daniel Radcliffe/Arthur Kipps 3 London
 4 Shelter 5 Simon Scallier 6 Shakespeare
 7 Robert Louis Stephenson 8 London (Soho) 9 Charles Dickens
 10 London 11 Romeo, Juliet, Tybalt, Mercutio
 12 Bassanio and Portia; Jessica and Lorenzo; Gratiano and Nerissa
 13 Banquo (Fleance escapes) 14 King Duncan 15 The Globe



SUPER CHALLENGE

- 10 Yorkie
- 9 Time Out
- 8 Smarties
- 7 Reece's Pieces
- 6 Penguin
- 5 Nestle Crunch
- 4 M&Ms
- 3 Kinder Bueno
- 2 Mars
- 1 Galaxy

CHALLENGE

Maltesers

ALPHABET CHOCOLATES : Aero Boost Crunchie Dime Freddo Ficke Hershey Kit-Kat Lion

Equipment Reminder

- ✓ Black pens
- ✓ Green Pens
- ✓ Red Pens
- ✓ HB Pencil
- ✓ Ruler
- ✓ Rubber
- ✓ Scientific calculator
- ✓ Spanish or French Dictionary
- ✓ Highlighter pens
- ✓ Glue Stick
- ✓ Colouring Pencils
- ✓ Compass
- ✓ Protractor
- ✓ Earphones

Can we remind all students to bring a refillable water bottle to school.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2024

Term Starts – Tuesday, 9th January 2024

Half-term

Monday, 12th – Friday, 16th February 2024 inclusive

Term Ends - Friday 22 March 2024

PD Days - Monday 8 January 2024

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