

December 2025

Newsletter Term 2



Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of this term, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support. It has been a busy and rewarding few months at Winterstoke Hundred Academy, and we are incredibly proud of what our students and staff have achieved together.

One of the real highlights was our Winter Showcase, where students from Year 7 through to Year 13 performed side by side in what was our biggest and most professional production yet. It was a wonderful celebration of talent, creativity, and teamwork, and we could not be prouder of our young people.

We also hosted a major careers event, welcoming over 50 providers as part of our commitment to high-quality careers education across the school. Our students engaged brilliantly with the opportunities on offer and gained valuable insights into future pathways.

I am particularly proud of how our Year 7 students have settled into life at Winterstoke Hundred Academy. They have embraced new routines and challenges with enthusiasm and maturity, and we look forward to seeing them continue to thrive.

This term has also seen us strengthen our support for the local community, with the launch of our food bank and a fantastic response to our Christmas gift donation initiative. Thank you to everyone who contributed, your generosity has made a real difference.

Please note that the attached uniform letter includes important reminders about updates and expectations for the return to school in January.

However you spend the festive break, we hope you enjoy some well-deserved rest and quality time together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

Warm regards,




Mr Randle
Principal

Term Dates 2025-2026

Term	Weeks	Start of Term for students	Last Day of term for students	INSET	Bank Holidays
1	8	Wednesday 3 rd September	Wednesday 22 nd October	Monday 1 st Sept Tuesday 2 nd Sept Thursday 23 rd Oct Friday 24 th Oct	
2	7	Monday 3 rd November	Friday 19 th December		
3	6	Tuesday 6 th January	Friday 13 th February	Monday 5 th Jan	
4	6	Tuesday 24 th February	Thursday 2 nd April	Monday 23 rd Feb Friday 6 th Mar	Friday 03 rd July
5	5	Monday 20 th April	Thursday 22 nd May		Monday 4 th May
6	7.2	Monday 1 st June	Tuesday 21 st July	Friday 3 rd July	


NEW YEAR ATTENDANCE PRIZE DRAW


Every day of the first week of next term Tuesday - Friday there will be a **PRIZE DRAW!**




To enter, all you need to do is turn up to school!

Every day in school (100%) earns 1x entry to the prize draw!







Term 3 Dates for Your Diary

Post 16 - Year 12 and 13 Vocational Exams	Commencing week of 5 th January 2026 - Friday 16 th January 2026
Post 16 - Level 3 BTEC Exams	Commencing week of 5 th January 2026 - Friday 9 th January 2026
Post 16 - Year 12 and 13 Mock Exams	Monday 9 th February 2026 - Friday 6 th March 2026 (continuing after half term into Term 4)
Post 16 - Year 12 and 13 Progress Evening	Wednesday 14 th January 2026
Year 11 Mock Exams	Monday 9 th February 2026 - Friday 6 th March 2026 (continuing after half term into Term 4)
Year 10 Mock Exams	Monday 12 th January 2026 - Friday 23 rd January 2026
Year 8 HPV Vaccinations	Wednesday 21 st January 2026

Reminder from Reception:

In the interests of keeping everyone safe and maintaining good relationships with our local community, could parents and carers please remember to park/drive considerately on roads surrounding the school during pick up and drop off. Residents have recently contacted us regarding blocked access and vehicles parked on pavements. Thank you!

Contacting Safeguarding over the holidays

We will be contactable over the next 2 weeks via 07902 370645. **Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have concerns outside of term time.**

Please also see the below notice for mental health support resources.

Mental Health and Wellbeing



otrnorthsomerset.org.uk



Free mindfulness apps – find the app that's right for you!



Online Safety



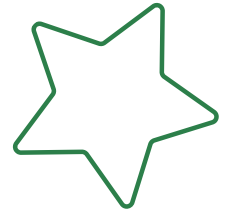
Personal Safety



Water Safety Code



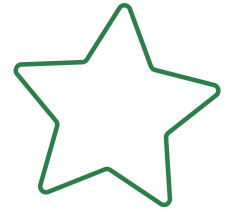
Head of House Updates



Clarence Cobras Newsletter – End of Term Update



It has been a busy and brilliant term in Clarence! Students and staff have taken part in a huge variety of activities, from academic challenges to creative celebrations. We're currently in the excitement of our ongoing **Masked Singer** but we've also enjoyed a number of special events that have made this term truly memorable.



Term Highlights

- **Odd Socks Day** – a fun and positive celebration of individuality and Anti-Bullying Week.
- **Careers Convention** – giving pupils valuable insight into colleges, apprenticeships, training providers and career pathways.
- **Blunt Truth Pop-Ups** – offering honest, supportive guidance around key wellbeing topics.
- **Trips to University** – inspiring pupils to think ambitiously about their futures.
- **Inspiration Train** – giving students the chance to explore big aspirations and engage with professionals.
- **Year 11 Mocks**
- **Interhouse Competitions**
- **Food Bank Challenge**

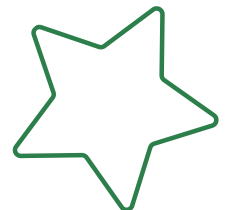
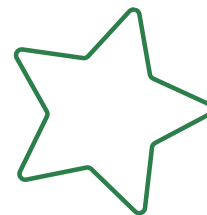
Attendance Update

Clarence attendance currently sits at **89%**, which we hope to improve as we move into the new year. Our lowest attendance at present is in Year 10, while the highest continues to be in **7CL2**.

A huge well done to 7CL2 for:

- **Leading in attendance, and**
- **Earning the most achievement points for the last two terms!**

A massive congratulations to 7CL2 — and to every pupil who shows up each day ready to learn. We appreciate you!



Clarence Champions

We are incredibly proud of two pupils who have achieved outstanding personal successes this term:

Lilly G – featured on the Lionesses' official Instagram, an amazing moment of recognition!

Charlie D – signed for a football contract for when he leaves school. A truly fantastic achievement! Well done to both of you — you represent Clarence brilliantly.

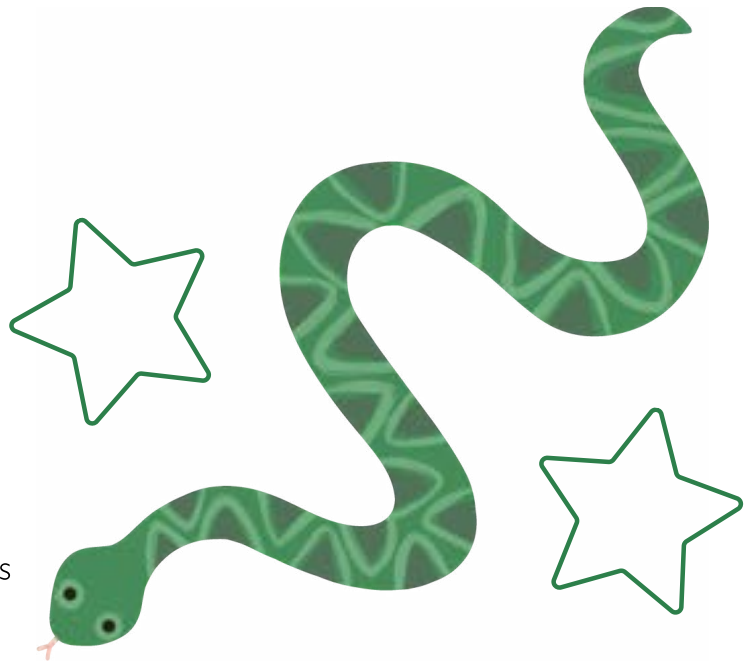


Uniform Expectations – January Reminder

From January, we will be tightening up on uniform expectations. This includes:

- **No leggings**
- **No non-school jumpers**

Students not in correct uniform will be asked to change. If they refuse, they will spend the day in **SLR**. Our uniform policy is clear, consistent and was agreed to upon joining the school. Your support helps ensure fairness for all pupils.

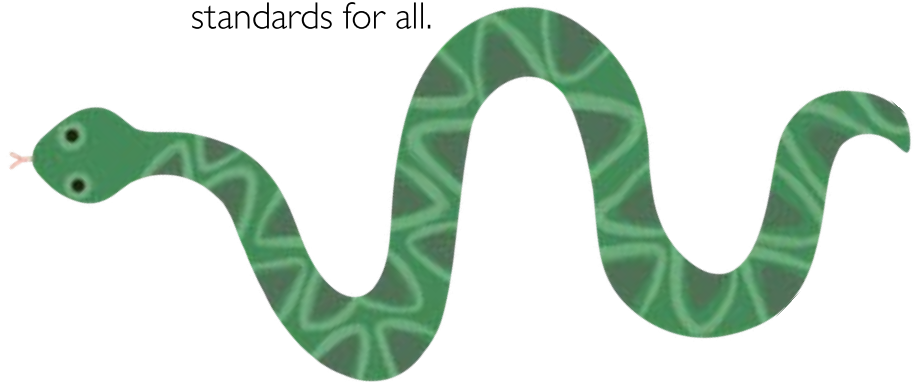
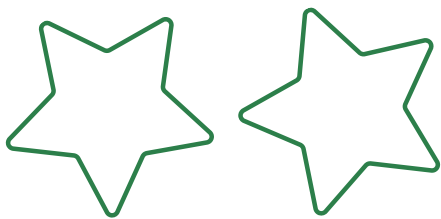


Peer Mentoring Success

Our Peer Mentoring programme continues to be a real highlight. Year 11 mentors have done a fantastic job supporting pupils in **7CLI**, **7CL2**, and **8CL**. It is wonderful to see confidence growing, positive relationships forming, and genuine progress being made each week.

Behaviour & Expectations

We are currently sitting **3rd in the standings**, with more negative points than we would like. Please support us by ensuring your child attends any detentions they receive. Too many pupils are relying on parents to get them out of consequences, which undermines consistency and expectations. Working together helps us maintain high standards for all.

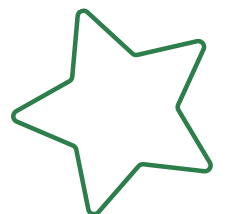


Looking Ahead to 2026!

As we head into the New Year — and hopefully towards lighter evenings — we are proud of everything Clarence pupils have achieved this term. We are looking forward to building on this progress in January.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a warm, joyful festive season however you choose to celebrate.

Mrs Metcalf



Head of House Updates



Dear Middle Hope Community,

- As we wrap up Term 2, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible events and achievements that have made this term so special. Our House values—**Loyalty, Community, and Resilience**—have truly shone through in everything we've done.
- We had **Odd Socks Day** on 10th November to mark Anti-Bullying Week. It was fantastic to see so many students and staff getting involved to promote kindness and individuality—showing loyalty to our shared values and standing together against bullying.
- Our **Remembrance Day** observance on 11th November was truly moving. Watching staff and students come together to show respect was a powerful reminder of the strength of our community and the resilience shown by those we remember. A big thank you to Ms Evans, who came back from maternity leave to play the last post.
- Last Tuesday, we enjoyed an amazing **Winter Showcase**, featuring outstanding performances from many of our talented Middle Hope students. Your courage and creativity demonstrated incredible resilience and pride in our House.

Please note the recent uniform updates:

As parents/carers you will have received letters, and Mr Randle delivered year group assemblies last week to explain these updates. Thank you for your loyalty in supporting these standards.

Our **Careers Fair** was a huge success, with many employers and universities visiting WHA.

Every student had the opportunity to explore future pathways—showing resilience as they plan for exciting challenges ahead.

Congratulations to our Year 11 students for completing the current cycle of PPEs. Your determination and hard work are a true example of resilience—we are so proud of you!

Peer mentoring continues to thrive every Thursday, with older students supporting younger ones. It's heartwarming to see these relationships grow—true community spirit in action. A big thank you to Caitlin T, Oliver J, Ben A, and Poppy B (11MH) for their dedication.

- We held our **Term 2 Celebration Assembly** on Monday, recognising students who have excelled this term. The House Leadership Team assisted, and even some comedy prizes were awarded—thank you for taking it in good humour! These moments remind us of the loyalty and resilience that define Middle Hope.
- It was lovely catching up with parents and carers during the **Year 11 Progress Evening**. Our Year 11s have been working incredibly hard, and we're proud of their efforts—another example of resilience paying off.
- So many of you joined in for **Christmas Jumper Day**, raising money for Save the Children (final figure to be confirmed). Our Christmas Lunch on Thursday was a joy to watch—thank you to everyone who made it special. These events showcase the strength of our community.



Head of House Updates

- Mr Randle hosted a **community brunch** with Year 7, and it has been wonderful getting to know our newest Middle Hope members better. Building strong community connections is what makes our House special.
- On the subject of Year 7's a special shout-out to **Mr Rivers**, tutor of **7MH**, whose tutor group has won all three Middle Hope competitions this term—the Doughnut Challenge, Haribo Challenge, and Chocolate Challenge. Their teamwork and loyalty to each other have been inspiring.



We also launched our exciting **Masked Singer Challenge!** Many teachers have submitted videos, and now it's over to the students to guess who's behind the mask. We can't wait to see your guesses and reveal the mystery singers in the New Year!

Another highlight was our **Foodbank Competition**, where we asked staff and students to collect food for Weston Foodbank between Monday 8th and Friday 19th December. Each House had a collection box by reception, and a daily count was taken to see which House collected the most food. At the time of writing, we don't yet know who the winning House was—but thank you to everyone who contributed to this important cause.

Regardless of whether you celebrate Christmas or not, I wish you all a restful break. See you in the New Year!
Warm regards,
Emily Robinson Head of Middle Hope House



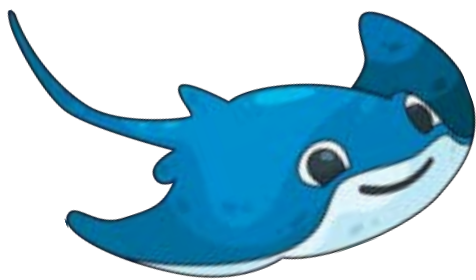


Head of House Updates

Steep Holm Stingray Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we approach the end of a busy and rewarding term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful Stingray community for your continued support and commitment.



Foodbank Contributions – Thank You

A huge thank you to all parents and students for your generous contributions to the foodbank. Your kindness and thoughtfulness truly reflect our Stingray values of **grace, resilience and unity – strength in every wave**. By working together and supporting those in need, you have shown what it means to be a Stingray, and I am incredibly proud of the compassion our community continues to demonstrate.

Creative Arts Winter Showcase

Our recent Creative Arts Winter Showcase was a real highlight of the term. Dance, Drama, Music and Art all shone, and I would like to say a massive well done and thank you to every Stingray who took part. The dedication shown during rehearsals, the willingness to practise, refine and push yourselves, and the confidence displayed in performance were outstanding. It fills me with pride to see our Stingrays flourishing, growing in confidence and creativity, and supporting one another so positively.



Interhouse Competitions

Well done to all Stingrays for your fantastic efforts in the Interhouse competitions. Participation, teamwork and determination were evident throughout, and it was wonderful to see everyone getting involved and giving their very best. We are also looking forward to the final rugby and netball results at the end of term, and regardless of outcomes, we are proud of the commitment and sportsmanship shown by all our students.

Stingray Peer Mentoring

Our Stingray peer mentoring programme has been going really well this term, with students supporting one another and building positive relationships. In the new year, we are excited to develop this further by introducing mentoring for Year 7 students led by our Year 10 Stingrays. We are very much looking forward to making this happen and strengthening our sense of unity across year groups.

Head of House Updates

Steep Holm Stingray Newsletter



Uniform Expectations

We would like to remind families of the importance of students wearing the correct school uniform. There will be a renewed drive to ensure all students are meeting uniform expectations. This includes:

- Only **school-branded jumpers** if jumpers are worn
- **Blazers and ties to be worn at all times**
- **No leggings**

Correct uniform helps promote pride, equality and readiness for learning, and we appreciate your support in maintaining these standards.



Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is vital to your child's education. Being present in lessons ensures students can fully engage with learning, make progress and benefit from the opportunities school provides. We thank families for your continued support in ensuring students attend school regularly and on time.

Festive Fun at School

We are right in the middle of some exciting festive activities at school, including our much-anticipated **Staff Christmas Masked Singer!** Students have been thoroughly enjoying trying to guess which member of staff is behind the mask as we perform as various popstars – a wonderful way to bring some festive cheer and shared laughter to the end of term.

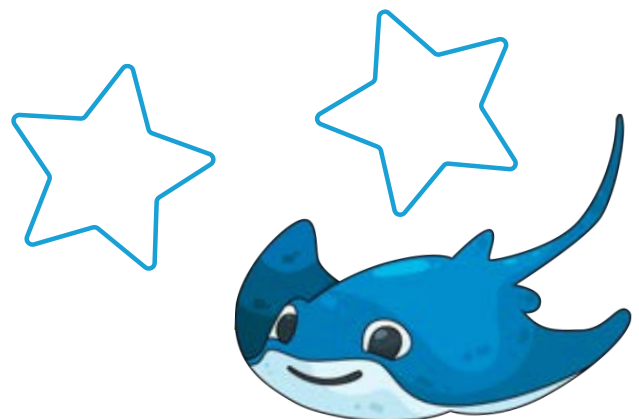
Finally, I would like to thank you all once again for your ongoing support. On behalf of the entire Steep Holm team, I wish all our families, parents, carers and students a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.** We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026 for another exciting chapter of Stingray success.

Warmest wishes,

Ms Dolling

Head of Year – Stingrays

Grace, Resilience, Unity – Strength in Every Wave



English Department – Creative Writing!



We had lots of great entries for this term's competition! Well done to all who wrote a poem. Here are the results followed by the winning poem on the theme: I Have A Dream.

1st place: Payton S, Year 9 (Clarence Cobras)

2nd place: Grace V, Year 10 (Birbeck Bears)

3rd place: Alexander M, Year 7 (Clarence Cobras)



Sonnet for a Dream

**I have a dream, to be is to achieve,
I dream, believe and I become success,
I will become truthful, never deceive,
Grateful, I am, never leaving excess.
Not only I will find myself freedom,
Others, they shall come too, and find themselves,
They shall flee this place, my arboretum.
Together stacked, like the dusty bookshelves.
The freeing wind, blowing against the Life,
The wind wishes upon dandelions.
Glowing, beauty, blooming- like man to wife,
Together they stand as strong as iron.
For it is just like this reality,
Yet see, better. Superiority.**

By Payton S



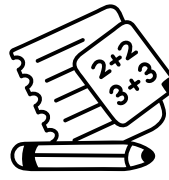
Proof-reading in English



Specs, our proof-reading mascot, has made many flying visits to classrooms in year 7 to encourage students to check their work carefully and make corrections. We have seen some fantastic examples of proof-reading, with students' accuracy improving across the term.

Here are some photographs of our students having a hoot in their final lesson before presenting their work as part of the suitcase project. They are busy redrafting work, improving their vocabulary and ensuring that all their spelling, punctuation and grammar is as accurate as it can be!





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Intermediate Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge will take place next term, on 28th January. A total of 40 students from Y9-11 will be taking part.

This is a national competition consisting of a 60-minute paper with 25 multiple-choice questions. The challenge is designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency, pushing students to think creatively and logically.

In previous years, several of our students have performed exceptionally well and have progressed to later rounds of the competition. We look forward to seeing how this year's participants perform and we wish them all the very best of luck.

Maths Walking Talking Mock (WTM)

Next term, on Monday 26th January and Tuesday 27th January, Year 11 students will sit their second Walking Talking Mock (WTM), during P1&2.

The Walking Talking Mock is a vital part of our exam preparation at WHA Maths, as it mirrors the exact setup students can expect in the summer GCSE examinations. It plays a key role in developing exam technique, mathematical thinking and student confidence.

Attendance at the Walking Talking Mock is essential, as students gain the greatest benefit from experiencing the full process in real exam conditions. Following the first Walking Talking Mock (Paper 1) in September, we received very positive feedback from students and saw some really encouraging results.

We are confident that with consistent attendance, hard work and targeted revision, students will be well placed to meet, or exceed, their target grades in the summer examinations.

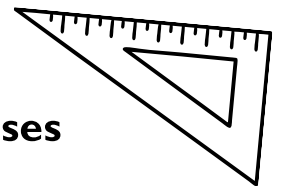
Royal Institution Year 8 Mathematics Masterclasses

At WHA, we are delighted to have signed up five Year 8 students to take part in the Royal Institution (RI) Mathematics Masterclasses at the University of the West of England. These sessions take place across a series of Saturdays during the spring term.

The masterclasses consist of engaging workshops led by mathematics enthusiasts from industry, academia and education. They aim to inspire young people by exploring the beauty and wonder of mathematics, while also developing a deeper sense of enjoyment and curiosity in the subject.

We are proud to have five Year 8 students confirmed to attend, with a further couple of students currently on the waiting list should additional spaces become available.

A huge well done to all students who have signed up. We are incredibly proud of you and we hope you have a fantastic time.



Winter Creative Showcase

On Tuesday 9th December we hosted our Winter Creative Showcase, a night filled with dance, drama and music. Students from Year 7 to Year 13 demonstrated creativity and resilience throughout to make this our record selling show to date! We have over 100 students perform in the show and over 200 audience members.

This would not have been possible without the dedication of the students who spent hours behind the scenes preparing their pieces. We would like to thank our creative teachers: Miss Bartlett (Dance), Miss Barros (Drama), Mr Rogers (Music), Miss Ford (Art), Miss Carter (DT), Mr Skidmore (DT) and Mr Brown (Computing) for their hard work and effort in the lead up to this show. Also, our tech team - Alfie and Morgan (P16 students) who worked behind the scenes in the lead up to the show, as well as rehearsals all day, to ensure that the show looked phenomenal.

Finally, thank you to our PTFA who provided refreshments for the audience members! We look forward to seeing you at the Easter Show in Term 4!



Duke of Edinburgh Awards

We were delighted to host a very special afternoon tea with the principal to celebrate our DofE graduates.

Congratulations to the class of 24-25!



-DofE Team



WHA Selected for UK-Ukraine Partnership

Winterstoke Hundred Academy has been selected by the British Council as one of just 100 schools across the UK to take part in a landmark groundbreaking international project celebrating 100 years of UK–Ukraine relations.



As part of this initiative, the academy has been partnered with Balta Lyceum No. 4, based in Balta, Odessa, with Ukrainian teacher Olga Kotovich leading collaboration from the partner school.

The British Council project aims to promote reading for pleasure and foster cultural connections between young people in the UK and Ukraine through shared learning and creative exchange.

Earlier this year, teachers from both nations travelled to Poland to take part in joint training sessions, collaborative planning, and cultural exchange workshops designed to strengthen school partnerships and inspire future projects.

Since forming the partnership, students at Winterstoke Hundred Academy have exchanged welcome letters with their Ukrainian counterparts and have also written to Ukraine students on a range of cultural topics including how Halloween is celebrated in the UK.

Students have produced a video tour of the school to share with their partner class in Ukraine.

They have also chosen a bilingual English Ukrainian book to read together as part of the project, encouraging language learning and shared enjoyment of storytelling. Looking ahead, the school hopes to organise a live online meeting between students and teachers in both countries, to continue building on these international links.



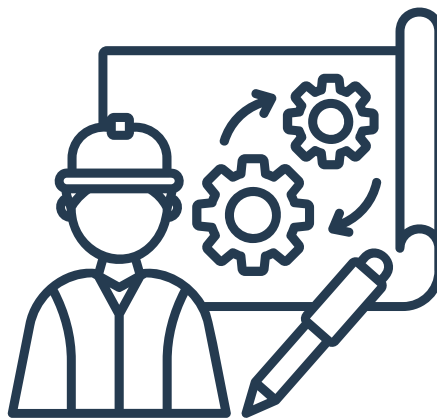
Juliet French, Head of Faculty for Languages said: “This partnership is a wonderful opportunity for our students to connect with their peers across Europe and to develop a deeper understanding of different cultures.

“Through reading, language learning, and creative collaboration, our young people are discovering that stories and ideas can build bridges, even across borders.

“We’re incredibly proud to be part of this initiative and excited to see how it grows.”

Into University Trip – Year 8

Year 8 had a fantastic time visiting the University of Bath last month. They took an in depth look at the subject of Engineering and the future careers that might lead to, as well as have a tour of the campus and learn more about life at university. They conducted themselves fantastically and represented WHA well.



Hot Chocolate Friday – Year 7



Mrs James has been really pleased to launch our Hot Chocolate Friday with Year 7 this term. Pupils have been nominated by their teachers for a number of things including an improvement in focus, excellent effort in their lessons and being a kind friend to others.



Community Brunch – Year 7 /

This term we held our second community brunch with Year 7. We had an extended tutor time where students had the opportunity to discuss their start to life at Winterstoke Hundred Academy. Students shared experiences of where they have demonstrated or seen others demonstrating our school values, Be Safe, Be Kind Work Hard, while enjoying some food together.





WINTERSTOKE
HUNDRED
ACADEMY

Please see below notices that
may be of interest:



Safer Stronger
North Somerset



Violence Reduction Partnership

Please follow the link here to add your views to North Somerset's Violence Reduction Unit - 2025/26 Consultation

BOOMBOX YOUTH PROJECT



For young
people aged 11-17 years

Starting Tuesday 11th November
the Boombox Youth Project mobile will
be at Italian Gardens,
Weston Town Centre

5-7pm

Drop by for a chat, tell
us how your day is going, chill,
meet and make new friends,
games, hot chocolate,
friendly youth workers



Attendance is Free of charge

For more information contact:
Elaine Harris, Project Manager:
elaine@creativeoutbursts.co.uk

Creative Outbursts CIO is a registered Charity: 1206221





Avon and Somerset Police
ROADS POLICING

E-SCOOTERS AND THE LAW

It is against the law to ride a privately-owned electric scooter (e-scooter) on a public road or pavement. We understand that buying an e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can buy them from many popular retailers.

Current law

You can buy an e-scooter, but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place those e-scooters can be used is on private land with the landowner's permission.

As e-scooters do not have number plates, signalling ability and do not always have visible rear lights, they can't be used legally on the roads.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEV's), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as:

- MOT
- licensing
- tax
- insurance





A musical treat for the festive season!

Holiday Singing Days

Two fun and engaging singing days during the Christmas Holidays. One for children in years 3-6, and one for those in years 7 upwards. With WEMA musician, composer and conductor Joe Galuszka.

Monday 22 December: KS2 Singing Day

Tuesday 23 December: Secondary Singing Day

More Information:

wema.org.uk/music-activities-and-workshops

