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Key Dates

11 th May	Year 8 Intercommunity
13 th May	Year 7 Intercommunity
15 th May	Year 9 Intercommunity
20 th May	CLF Big Kick Off
22 nd May	Last day of Term 5
1 st June	Start of Term 6

Principal's Message

End-of-Year Assessments: Celebrating Learning and Effort at JCA

As we approach the end of the academic year, students in Years 7–11 are completing their end-of-year

assessments. These assessments are designed to showcase the learning, knowledge and skills students have developed across the year. They are an opportunity for students to demonstrate not just what they know, but the effort, resilience and ambition they have shown throughout their time at JCA. We are proud of the hard work our students have put into their studies, and these assessments allow us to recognise, value and celebrate that effort.

English

Across Years 7–11, students have been developing their reading, writing and critical thinking skills through a rich and varied curriculum. Younger students have explored powerful stories, poetry and plays that build confidence in reading and creativity in writing, while older students have engaged deeply with literature that explores big ideas such as identity, power, conflict and responsibility. End-of-year English assessments give students the chance to show how they analyse texts, write with clarity and ambition, and craft thoughtful, well-structured responses. Most importantly, they celebrate the progress students have made in expressing their ideas and engaging thoughtfully with the world around them.

Mathematics

In Maths, students across all year groups have been building strong foundations while developing problem-solving skills and mathematical confidence. The curriculum follows carefully sequenced route maps, helping students to connect key ideas across number, algebra, geometry, probability and statistics. End-of-year maths assessments focus on how well students apply what they have learned, reason mathematically and persevere with challenging problems. We encourage students to see these assessments as a chance to demonstrate their effort and growth, not just their final answers.

Science

Science learning from Years 7–11 has focused on developing curiosity about the world, secure scientific knowledge and strong practical and analytical skills. Students have studied biology, chemistry and physics topics ranging from cells and ecosystems to forces, energy and chemical reactions, while also learning how scientists work through investigations and data analysis. End-of-year science assessments allow students to show their understanding, apply knowledge in new contexts and reflect the careful effort they have put into experiments, explanations and revision across the year.

Overview of End-of-Year Learning by Subject

Subject	What students have been learning	What assessments celebrate
English	Reading literature, analysing writers' ideas, developing vocabulary, and writing creatively and analytically	Progress in reading, confidence in writing, and thoughtful engagement with texts
Mathematics	Number, algebra, geometry, statistics	Accuracy, reasoning, resilience and

	and problem-solving through sequenced learning routes	mathematical thinking
Science	Biology, chemistry and physics knowledge, practical skills, and scientific thinking	Understanding, application of knowledge, and effort in scientific enquiry

We wish all our students the very best as they complete their assessments and look forward to celebrating their achievements and progress as we move toward the end of the school year.

How can you help at home? We have found that parents can best support their child by encouraging short, regular revision sessions, discussing what they are learning, helping them plan their time, and reassuring them that effort, persistence and doing their best matter more than perfection. This suggested approach is informed by research from the Education Endowment Foundation. If you're interested, please do follow the link [here](#).

Kind regards

Gemma Read
Head of School

Routine – Exams

As Gemma has mentioned above, all years are moving into their end of year assessment windows. With Y11 exams already under way and the first whole cohort exams happening this week. From next week (18th May) Years 7, 8 & 9 will start their end of year assessments and year 10 starting their mocks from 11th June. Parents of students in years 7 to 10 will soon receive information via email to give more detail and ideas on how to support your young person to prepare.

As we head into the exam series it is important to share the key government advice (JCQ exams guidance) to students for undergoing exams appropriately.



1

You **must** be on time for all your examinations.

2

Possession of a mobile phone or other unauthorised material **is not allowed** even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the examination or qualification.

3

You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.

4

You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.

5

You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.

6

You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.

7

If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.

The Warning to candidates must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.

From year 7 we begin to prepare students to meet these guidelines by performing our assessments in exam conditions. Once in Y10 and students begin exams in the hall, they are expected to follow all JCQ guidance, including not to have a mobile phone in their possession, this can mean that it is turned off and in their bag or not to bring a phone with them if not completely necessary.

If a student has a mobile phone on them, or it goes off in their bag, during an external exam in year 11, this must be report by us to the exam board. Whilst we will investigate how this happened and the extent it distracted students, the exam board will make the decision on consequences, which may involve a loss of marks, disqualification from that exam or even disqualification from all of that exam board's qualifications.

Please do support us by having a conversation with your young person about the importance of following exam instructions and having their phones turned off and in their bag during the school day / examinations.

Kind regards

Andrew Buck
Vice Principal

Year 10 Parents Evening

The date for the Year 10 Parents evening is fast approaching! We currently have bookings for 71% of our cohort- please do keep signing up!

Wednesday 13th of May from 3:30 to 6:30 pm.

Booking Appointments:

Please book appointments with your child's teachers using the MCAS (MyChildAtSchool) App. We recommend leaving a gap of 5 minutes between each appointment to allow you time to find the teacher, please do not use the quick book function as it will not leave appropriate gaps. If you are unable to attend after booking, please cancel your bookings so they are available for other families. If you cannot book an appointment but would like feedback please email JCAinfo@clf.uk with a heading including FAO: teachers name.

On the night:

Please enter through the hall (to the left of the main entrance). Upon entry you will be signed in by a member of staff. In the hall there will be a chance to speak to a number of P16/College providers and our careers advisor. This is a great opportunity to talk to providers and consider courses your child may wish to study after year 11. In the hall you will also be able to buy revision guides, at cost price, and there will be a tuck shop.

If you have any access needs, please email JCAinfo@clf.uk FAO: Deborah Butler

The appointments are a great chance to talk to teachers to find out how your child is getting on in each of their subjects. Teachers will also provide specific information on how students should revise for their subjects in preparation for the upcoming year 10 mocks.

Vaccinations

MenACWY and **Td/IP** vaccination catch-up clinics are available for **all Year 9** students who did not receive their vaccination at school. Please book an appointment at <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/dtp/2025/book?v=2>

If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

Intercommunity Day

INTERCOMMUNITY DAY



ROUNDERS

(Field)



Year 8

Monday 11th May periods 1 and 2

Year 7

Wednesday 13th May periods 3 and 4

Year 9

Friday 15th May periods 5 and 6

NOTE:

- **Students gather as they're going to a PE lesson.**
- **Please ensure everyone is in their PE kit and has a water bottle.**

Christian Union Club

We're pleased to share a great example of student agency this term. Following a student request, a Christian Union will begin meeting after school on Tuesdays in AF5. The club is student-led, with staff supervision, and provides a calm, respectful space for discussion, reflection and community.

We are committed to supporting students to express their beliefs and interests appropriately within school life. Students of any faith or belief who would like to explore setting up a community or belief-based club are encouraged to speak to a member of staff to discuss how this could be supported.

We're proud of students who take initiative and contribute positively to our wider school community.

Summer Reading Challenge



Make a difference this summer!

South Gloucestershire Libraries are looking for enthusiastic and friendly

Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers

Develop your skills in communication, team working and creative projects, have fun and make new friends.

Be part of the team running the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge: Read To The Beat. You will help primary school aged children doing the Summer Reading Challenge, talk with them about the books they're reading and help at library activities.

Age 14+. Training will be given. Closing date for applications 21 June 2026.

To find out more ask a member of library staff, visit www.southglos.gov.uk/library-volunteers or email libraryvolunteers@southglos.gov.uk



Read to the Beat illustrations by Harry Woodgate. Illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2026