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Key Dates

7 th May – 19 th June	GCSE Exams
15 th – 29 th June	Year 10 Mock Exams
15 th – 19 th June	Pride Week
16 th June	Year 11 Last Day of School & Leavers Assembly
25 th June	Year 11 Prom
26 th June	Sports Award Event
30 th June	Pride Non-Uniform Day and Cake Sale
1 st July	Year 7 Parent / Carer Evening

2 nd July	Year 10 Geography Field Trip (Other Group on the 6 th)
3 rd July	INSET Day – School Closed to Pupils
6 th July	Cabot's Got Talent Show
7 th July	Safety Day Parent / Carer Residential Camp Information Evening for Year 8 Pupils
8 th July	Culture Day
9 th July	Sports Day
13 th – 17 th July	Year 10 Work Experience Week
13 th July	Summer Concert
15 th July	Battle of the Bands
21 st July	Last Day of Term

Principal's Message

As we move through the final weeks of term, I continue to be incredibly proud of the positive attitudes, kindness and sense of community shown by our students each day. It is these moments—often unseen—that truly reflect who we are as a school and the values we are building together.

An example of this last week, a member of the public took the time to call and say that three 3 of our students helped her last week in Lidl. She said that they are all Yr7 boys.

She said that they saw her struggling with her shopping and offered to help. One of them carried her shopping to her car for her and, although she declined their help, she just wanted us to know what thoughtful, kind and helpful students we have.

Please do let us know of any other positive anecdotes as I will certainly share them with pride; not everyone has the time to call in to let us know!

This week coming is an important milestone for our Year 11 students, who will mark their final day with us on Tuesday. We are very much looking forward to celebrating their time at John Cabot Academy during the Leavers' Assembly—a chance to reflect on their journey, recognise their achievements, and wish them every success for the future.

Finally, your voice is a vital part of shaping our next steps. Later in this newsletter there is a survey on mobile phones (this is linked to an assembly I did with students at the start of Term 6 so you may already have heard about it). I would be grateful if you could find a few minutes to complete the survey; your feedback will directly inform how we move forward, ensuring we create the best possible environment for learning, wellbeing and positive relationships across the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Gemma Read
Head of School

Routine – Year 11 Exams and Year 10 Mocks

This week sees the final GCSE exams of the series. The year 11 cohort have worked really hard during this period and have conducted themselves well. The last scheduled exam is on Tuesday 16th June (Spanish Writing). Plans for the remaining days are as follows:

Monday 15th June: All students to attend in the morning for the last whole cohort exam (Physics Paper 2). Following this students who study Spanish will go to their double Spanish lesson P3-4 and then leave site at lunch time (12:20). Students who study further maths will revise in Ms Dutton's room and sit the exam in the afternoon. All other students will be able to leave site once they have completed their Physics exam.

Tuesday 16th June: Students who are taking Spanish will arrive on time as usual to sit their Spanish exam. All other Y11 students will arrive from 10:20, where shirt signing will take place from 10:20 - 11:15. We recommend bringing a Sharpie pen. Leavers assembly will then occur from 11:15-12:00. All Y11 students will leave site by 12:15 at the latest.

Students should attend in full school uniform, maintaining our high standards for this special occasion. They are warmly encouraged to decorate their Leavers' shirts to mark the moment, but these should be worn alongside uniform rather than replacing it. We will support any students who arrive out of uniform to ensure they are able to get changed and fully take part in the celebrations.

We really hope our Year 11's enjoy their final days of school at John Cabot and we look forward to celebrating with them at this event.

Y10 Mocks:

From Monday 15th June Y10's lunchtime will change to lunch 1 (12:20 - 12:50), this will help transition students into Y11 but also allows time for afternoon exams. Students should have received individual exam timetables, which are available by the MCAS app. The general timetable is shown below:

Monday 15th June	Art Exam P2-4	x
Tuesday 16th June	x	History 1
Weds 17th June	Photography P1-3	Stats
Thurs 18th June	English Lit	x
Fri 19th June	Maths P1	Chemistry
Mon 22nd June	Geography & Comp Sci 1	Maths P2
Tues 23rd June	Spanish 1	Business
Weds 24th June	English Lang	Hospitality & Catering and Music
Thurs 25th June	Physics	History 2
Fri 26th June	Drama & RP	Comp Sci 2
Mon 29th June	Maths P3	

Some exams will run into P3, however students will still receive their 20 minute break time. Students who sit some of the longer options exams in the afternoon may go beyond the end of the day, but will be able to go straight home.

Pens:

A reminder that from Tuesday 23rd all students will be expected to show that they have a pen as they enter school in the morning. Students who don't will need to swap an item to borrow a pen.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards

Andrew Buck
Vice Principal

Year 9 Options: The Final Furlong

A note of thanks to our year 9 cohort (students and their families) who have been really patient throughout the long, complicated and important options process.

All parents/carers should now have received subject allocations: if you haven't heard, please email JCAinfo@clf.uk.

Most students have a mixture of first and second choices. Please let us know if you'd like any more information about how subjects were allocated- it's a very complicated piece of work!

I'm running a waiting list for any requested changes. Please email them in or ask students to come and see me during year 9 lunch. I'll have a look at what's possible next week: it's a tricky year this year so not every request will be possible, but I'll do what I can!

The assembly I presented to year 9 students last Thursday is now on the website under *curriculum*.

Thanks again

Kate Searle

Assistant Principal

Poetry By Heart Competition

Congratulations to Arianna in Year 8 who has received the 'Best in County' commendation for her performances of the poems *The Witch* by Mary Elizabeth Coleridge and *Remember* by Matt Goodfellow in the national Poetry by Heart competition.

The English department is incredibly proud of Arianna's achievement in this prestigious competition; she has set the bar high for next year's competitors!

Congratulations again!

CLF Big Kick Off 10th June

A team of year 10 boys and year 9 girls attended the CLF big kick off on Wednesday 10th June.

The year 10 team participated in a football tournament, winning six of their seven matches, showing excellent consistency, determination, and teamwork throughout. The strong performances saw John Cabot establish themselves as one of the standout teams.

Despite their outstanding run, the team finished in 2nd place on goal difference. The tournament provided many positives, and the team can be proud of the effort and quality that they demonstrated throughout the competition.

The year 9 team played a football fixture against a strong opposition, despite a 5-1 defeat John Cabot produced a performance full of commitment, determination, and character. From the first whistle to the last, every player worked tirelessly and never stopped competing. This was recognised by the post-16 learners who organised the event, as the team were presented with the CLF HEART Award for their positive attitude.

Well done JCA!

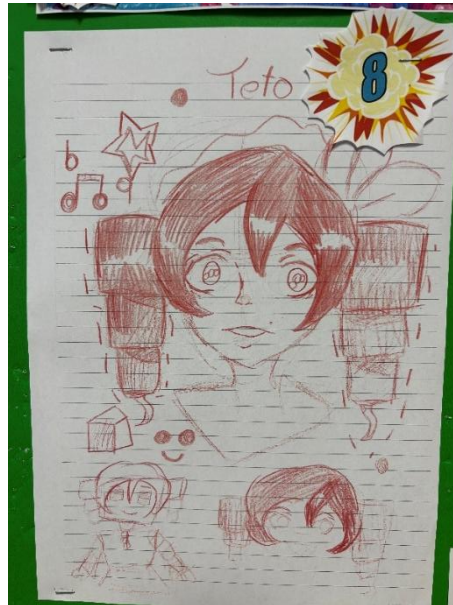
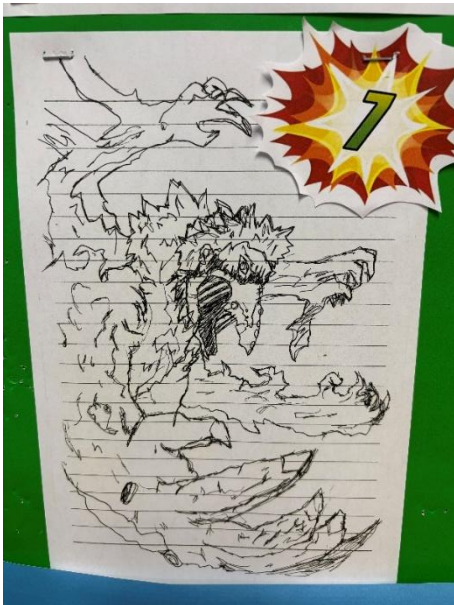
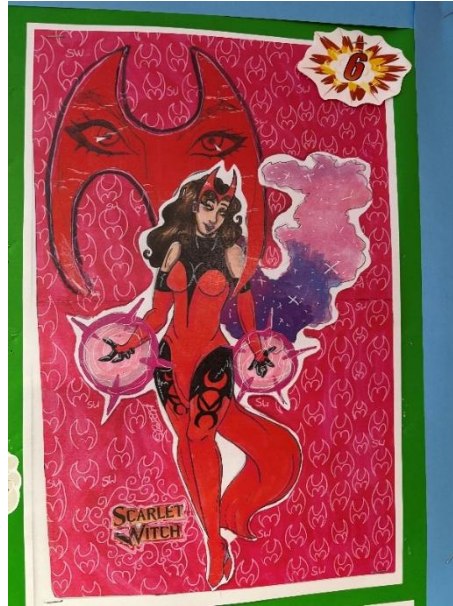
Comic Con 24th June

Our annual Comic Art Contest is now live. The 12 finalists artwork is on display in our Library for students to vote for their favourite.

Like and love your favourite on our facebook or Instagram pages [@JohnCabotNews](#) to be added to the vote count.

The winner will be announced at the Comic Con event in a few weeks time.







Cabot's Got Talent 6th July

CABOT'S GOT TALENT!
MONDAY JULY 6TH 6:30PM
TICKETS AVAILABLE ON SCOPAY
£3 adults, £1 students



Year 7 Parents / Carer Evening

The Year 7 Parent / Carer evening will be on 1st July.

The bookings will open on the 16th June at 6pm so please ensure that you are registered on MCAS as this is the only way to book your appointments,

For any questions please email JCAinfo@clf.uk

Mobile phones in school: how should JCA adapt to upcoming legislation?

We are reviewing how mobile phones are managed at JCA in line with national expectations for schools from September 2026.

Students have had an assembly from me at the start of this term to begin exploring their thoughts and views on the issue ahead.

While phones are already not allowed to be used during the school day, we know they can still affect focus, wellbeing and social interactions. We are therefore exploring whether any changes could better support a calm, safe and distraction-free learning environment.

We are keen to hear from parents and carers as part of this process.

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey and share your views. Your feedback will help inform our decision-making as we consider the best approach for our school community.

[Phones: our future focus at JCA: Parent/carers survey – Fill in form](#)

Phones: our future focus at JCA: Parent/carers survey



Mobile phones in school: Parent FAQ

Why is the school reviewing its mobile phone approach?

Schools nationally are moving towards stricter mobile phone expectations to reduce distraction, improve learning, and support student wellbeing.

At JCA, while phones are already not allowed to be used during the day, we know they can still:

- Distract from learning
- Contribute to social pressures and anxiety
- Lead to conflict or safeguarding concerns

We are reviewing how to make our approach more consistent, effective and supportive for all students.

What are the options being considered?

We are considering three main approaches:

1. No phones brought onto site
2. Phones secured during the day (e.g. locked pouches or handed in)
3. Phones kept in bags but not used (current system)

Why not just keep the current system?

While our current system works in many ways, it relies heavily on self-regulation and consistent enforcement.

In reality, this can lead to:

- Ongoing distraction
- Inconsistent application
- Time spent managing confiscations
- Tensions between students and staff

We are exploring whether a different approach could better support students' focus and wellbeing.

What is a 'pouch system' and how would it work?

A pouch system allows students to:

- Bring their phone to school as usual
- Lock it in a secure pouch at the start of the day
- Keep the pouch with them
- Unlock it at the end of the day

Phones are therefore:

- Still with the student
- Not accessible during the school day
- Not subject to confiscation

This creates a clear, consistent "phone-free" school day without removing phones entirely.

How does this support student wellbeing?

Research and experience from other schools suggest that reducing phone access during the school day can:

- Improve focus and engagement in lessons
- Reduce social media pressure during school hours
- Support more positive face-to-face interactions
- Lower anxiety linked to constant notifications and comparison

The aim is to create a calmer, more supportive environment for learning and relationships.

What if I need to contact my child during the day?

Parents can continue to contact the school reception in the usual way, and messages can be passed on quickly if needed.

This ensures:

- Important communication still happens
- Students are not distracted by non-urgent messages
- Safeguarding remains a priority

What about emergencies or travel arrangements?

Students would continue to have access to their phones:

- Before school
- After school
- In exceptional circumstances where needed

The aim is not to remove access entirely, but to ensure phones do not interfere with the school day itself.

Will this increase anxiety for students?

We recognise that some students feel reassured by having their phone with them.

A secured (pouch) system specifically addresses this by:

- Allowing students to keep their phone on them
- Reducing worry about confiscation
- Maintaining access before and after school

This approach provides a balance between reassurance and protection from distraction.

How will the school ensure fairness and consistency?

One of the key benefits of a secured system is that it:

- Applies equally to all students
- Removes ambiguity about expectations
- Reduces the need for confiscation or debate

This supports a calmer, more consistent experience for students and staff.

Will there be exceptions?

As now, there would be carefully managed exceptions for:

- Medical needs
- SEND requirements
- Safeguarding considerations

These would be handled on a case-by-case basis in line with existing school processes.

What about staff and Post 16 students?

The legislation does not extend to Post 16 ages. However, Post 16 students who share our site will have designated spaces where they can use their mobile phones. These spaces will not be in the main school building.

All staff will model the expectations of students and will not use personal devices during the school day, unless there is a clear professional reason to do so (e.g. for safeguarding, emergency communication, or authorised school use). Our Senior Team and Safeguarding adults have a work mobile phone. From September 2026, these will be clearly branded with the JCA logo as separate from our personal devices.

When will a decision be made?

We are currently gathering views from students, parents and staff.

All feedback will be carefully considered before any decisions are made for September 2026 implementation.

How can I share further thoughts?

Please complete the survey and use the open response sections to share any concerns, questions or suggestions.

Your input is an important part of shaping the right approach for our school community.

When Football's On... Lets Keep Everyone Safe

Big tournaments like the World Cup bring excitement, community, and celebration across JCA. But we also want to take a moment to ensure all students feel safe, supported, and informed.

Why this matters

Research in the UK shows that domestic abuse increases during England matches:

- Around 26% higher when England win or draw
- Around 38% higher when England lose

More recent studies also show alcohol-related abuse can rise significantly on match days.

Football does not cause abuse, but it can make existing problems worse due to stress, alcohol, and heightened emotions.

A message for our families

At JCA, we are clear:

- Abuse is never okay
- It can happen at home or in teenage relationships
- It can affect girls, boys, and young people of any gender

Abuse isn't always physical. It can include:

- Controlling behaviour
- Put-downs or threats
- Pressure or intimidation
- Checking phones or social media

Healthy relationships should always feel safe, respectful and equal

Looking out for each other

We encourage all students to:

- Check in with friends if something seems wrong
- Speak to a trusted adult in school
- Use the support available

As safeguarding partners remind us:

"Real fans look out for more than the score."

Need support? You are not alone**For JCA students**

- Speak to a trusted adult in school (tutor, Head of Year, safeguarding team)
- Childline (under 19)
0800 1111 (free, 24/7)

For parents/carers or concerns about a young person

- NSPCC Helpline
0808 800 5000

If you're worried about your own behaviour

- Respect Phonenumber
Confidential advice and support

Additional support

- Bright Sky App – safe, confidential help and local services

Find out more (JCA Safeguarding)

For further guidance, advice, and support routes, please visit:

[JCA Safeguarding section on our website](#)

This includes:

- How to get help in school
- Guidance for students and families
- External support services

Our commitment at JCA

We are committed to:

- Creating a safe and respectful environment for all
- Supporting every student, regardless of gender or background

- Ensuring students know how and where to get help

Remember

If something doesn't feel right — for you or someone you know —
you are not alone, and you can talk to us.

Firebird Band Camp

FIREBIRD STUDIOS PRESENTS

FIREBIRD BAND CAMP



JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF EXPERIENCING WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN
A BAND – SONGWRITING, RECORDING AND LIVE PERFORMANCE
IN A PROFESSIONAL MUSIC STUDIO ENVIRONMENT. AGES 10 - 18.

Week one	Week two
27-31 JUL	24-28 AUG

LOCATION: THE ENGINE ROOM,
21-23 EMERY RD, BRISTOL,
BS4 5PF

FIND OUT
MORE HERE



FIND OUT MORE AT [HTTPS://FIREBIRDSTUDIOS.CO.UK/FIREBIRD-BAND-CAMP-2026/](https://firebirdstudios.co.uk/firebird-band-camp-2026/)