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Key Dates

16-18 th September	Year 9 Residential Trip
22 nd September	Open Evening. School Closes at 2:40pm
7 th October	Year 11 Parent / Carer Evening
13 th October	Year 9 Residential Campe Parent / Carer Information Evening
14 th October	All Year Groups – Meet the Tutor
21 st October	Last Day of Term
22 nd October	INSET Day – School Closed to Pupils
23 rd October	INSET Day – School Closed to Pupils

2nd November

| First Day of Term 2

Principal's Message

Dear Students, Families and Staff,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year.

As we begin another year together at John Cabot Academy, I am reminded of our shared vision: **Empower Yourself. Empower our Community.** This is more than a slogan. It reflects our belief that every young person can achieve great things when they are supported, challenged and inspired to become the very best version of themselves.

The start of this term has been filled with optimism and purpose. Walking around the Academy, I have seen students embracing new opportunities, settling quickly into routines and demonstrating the positive attitudes that help our whole community thrive. Whether in lessons, around the site or through the many extracurricular activities already underway, our students are showing what it means to work hard, take pride in their achievements and contribute positively to the lives of others.

At John Cabot Academy, we aspire for students to thrive academically, flourish as young people and leave us with a strong sense of who they are and the confidence to shape their own futures. We know this happens when students are inspired by learning, nurtured as individuals and encouraged to play an active role in raising our community. Through high expectations, strong relationships and a culture of curiosity and ambition, we aim to create the conditions in which every student can succeed.

There is much to look forward to this term. Over the coming weeks we have our **Year 9 Residential**, our **Open Evening** where we welcome prospective families into the Academy, and our **Meet the Tutor event** for all year groups. These events, alongside the many clubs, trips and enrichment opportunities available, provide valuable opportunities for students to develop confidence, build relationships and create lasting memories.

As a community, we will continue to celebrate success, learn from challenges and support one another to achieve our very best. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we can ensure that every student feels valued, inspired and empowered to fulfil their potential.

Gemma Read
Head of School

Routine – Phones

Thank you for your support with encouraging students to follow our new phone policy. We have only had small number of students who have been using devices onsite, which has been decreasing each day. A reminder that:

- Students must not have mobile phones on their person on JCA site, this includes airpods and smart watches.
- Devices should be off or on airport mode and stored in the student's bag.
- Students are only allowed to use their phones once they have left the gate to leave the hardcourt on their way home.

In the unlikely event that a student is found using a device, or it disrupts learning i.e. a phone rings, the phone will be confiscated. Students must then attend restore at the end of the day and until 3:15 and collect their device from reception. Parents/carers will be notified of this through the MCAS app as a behaviour log will be added during the day.

Thank you for your support with this, allowing the JCA building to be focussed on learning.

Kind regards

Andrew Buck
Vice Principal

A Note About Our New Catering Service

As many families will be aware, we recently transitioned to a new catering provider. As with any significant change involving multiple systems, we are currently working through a small number of teething issues as we ensure our catering, payment and student information systems communicate correctly. We have recently identified an issue affecting some Free School Meal (FSM) accounts, where credits have not been applied correctly despite students being registered as eligible.

Our teams are working closely with our catering and systems providers to resolve these issues as quickly as possible. Where students have been affected, we will ensure that any missing credits are applied and that families receive any reimbursement due. We ask for your patience as we work through individual cases and process corrections as quickly as we can.

If you have any concerns about your child's catering account, balance or Free School Meal credits, please contact us so that we can investigate and support you.

We are also pleased to share that much of the feedback from students has been very positive. Many have commented on the improved quality of the food on offer, the wider choice available and the increased

portion sizes. We remain committed to working with our catering partner to ensure that both the food provision and associated systems provide the best possible experience for our students and families.

Thank you for bearing with us during this period of transition. While there have been some challenges as the various systems are brought together, we are confident that these will be resolved and appreciate the understanding and support shown by our community.

Homework

During KS3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) students should expect homework set each week. This will all be set through Bromcom, so you can see exactly what is being set through your MCAS app. Each subject will either set a short task each week or a larger termly project. You will be able to see the live homework set for you homework, but your child's log in will also show all the previous homework. If you wish to support your child with homework you will need to make sure you have access to the MCAS app. If you need support with accessing this, please contact your child's head of year through the JCAinfo@clf.uk email address.

KS4 students will receive specific homework from their subject teachers that helps to prepare them for their assessments. This may vary in quantity and frequency depending on the nature of the subject. This will also be set through MCAS, so you will be able to see all live homework. If you have any further questions or concerns about homework please do reach out.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening will be Tuesday 22nd September from 4-7 and school will be finishing at 2:40.

For students who have parent/carer permission to help on the day, they will be need to be at the school at 3:45 if they have permission leave site after school and will need to be collected at 7pm, unless prior alternate arrangements have been made.

For any questions, please email JCAinfo@clf.uk FAO Julie Jarrett

Term 1 Clubs

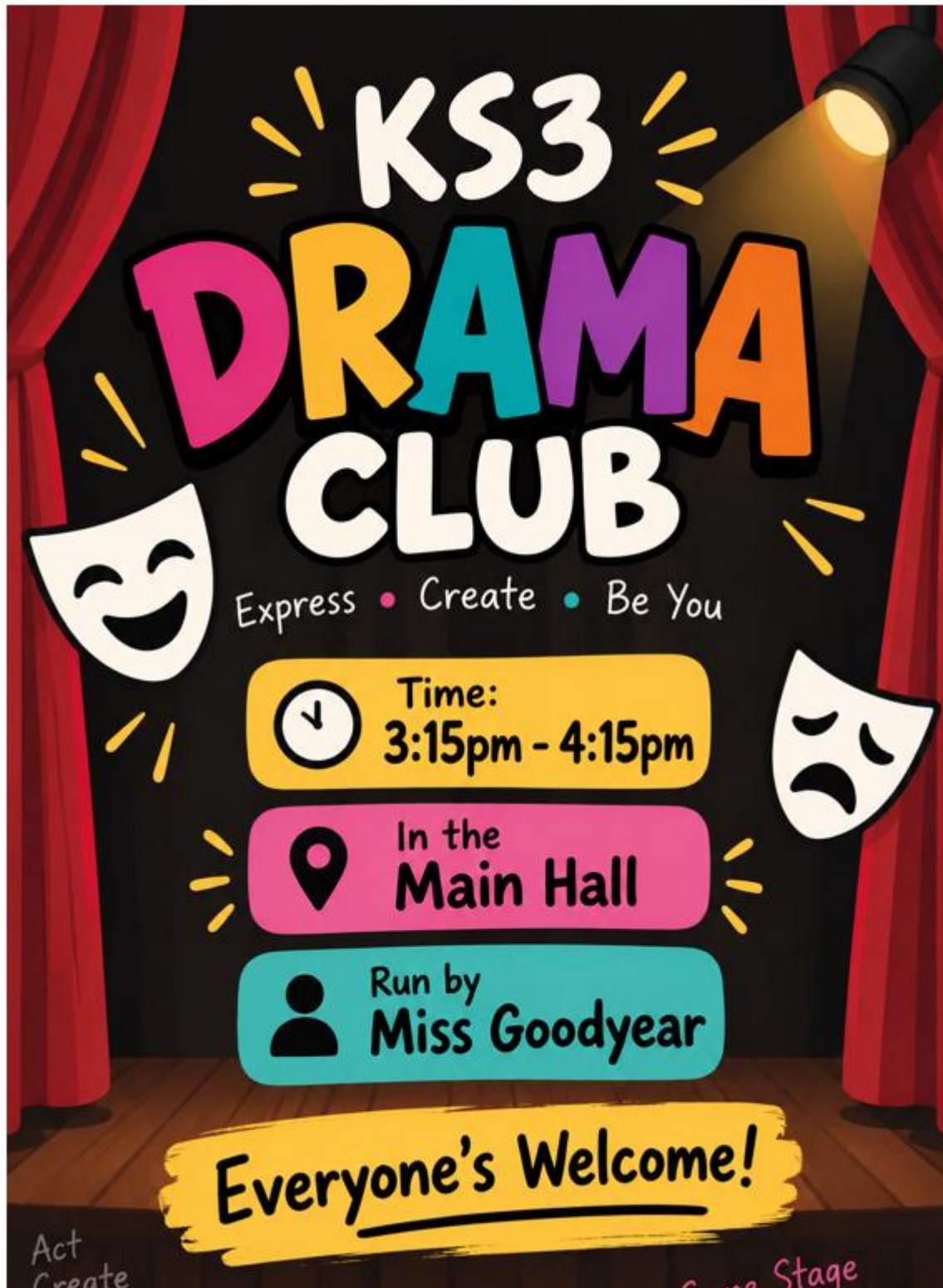


Year	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Year 7	Boys' Football Girls' Football	Badminton/ Volleyball		Netball Mixed Touch Rugby	Dance
Year 8	Boys' Football Girls' Football	Badminton/ Volleyball		Netball Mixed Touch Rugby	Dance
Year 9	Boys' Football Girls' Football	Badminton/ Volleyball		Netball Mixed Touch Rugby	Dance
Year 10	Girls' Football	Badminton/ Volleyball Dance		Netball Mixed Touch Rugby	
Year 11	Girls' Football	Badminton/ Volleyball Dance		Netball Mixed Touch Rugby	

Note: Please meet for clubs outside the Sports hall.
Unless stated, clubs are boys and girls
Please change for clubs on non-PE days in the changing rooms

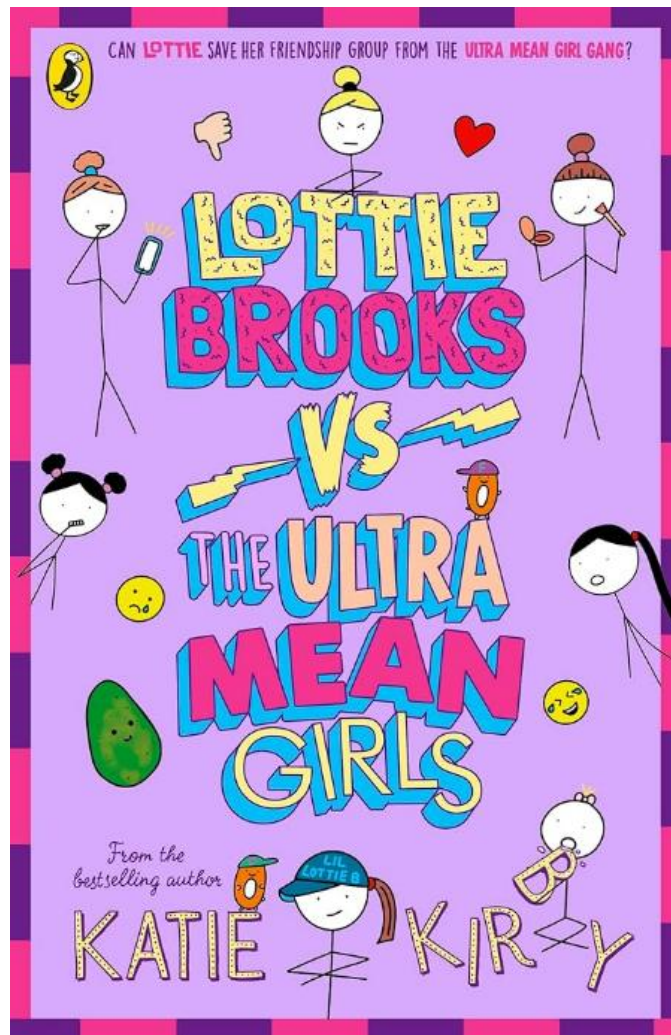


Tuesday Drama Club



Student Book Recommendation

Lottie Brook vs the Ultra Mean Girls



Summary: This book is about Lottie Brooks and her 3 besties trying to repair their friendships with Amber, a former friend.

Why is it worth reading? It is a fun easy read and is very relatable.

I would recommend a Lottie Brooks book from the series because they are fun books and are very relatable for 9-13 year olds especially. They are a good way to get students to enjoy reading.

Layla - Y7

Summer Reading Postcards



**Summer
READING
CHALLENGE
2026**

Don't forget to hand in
your Summer Reading
Challenge postcard for
your chance to win this
year's prize!

FOX'S
Chocolatey
CHOC CHUNK
COOKIES
TRIPLE CHOCOLATE

**JUST
ONE
MORE
CHAPTER**

**SUMMER READING
GENRE CHALLENGE**

Adventure	Animal Story	Classic	Fantasy	Graphic Novel/ Manga
Historical	Horror	Humour	LGBTQ+	Mystery/ Thriller
Non- Fiction	Romance	Science Fiction	Sports Story	Your choice

Due Library Books



Young Writers Competition



Young Writers Competition

CLIFTON LitFest

A voice can inspire, question, unite or change everything.

Enter the **Clifton LitFest Young Writers Competition 2026**.

Write up to 800 words of fiction or non-fiction on the theme of **Voice** or **Voices**.

Submit your entry as word document or PDF to youngadult@litfest.com by midday **16th October 2026**.

Competition open to students from Bristol schools in **years 9-11 and 12-13**.

Winning entries will be celebrated at the Clifton LitFest on **Saturday 14th November**, with excerpts read aloud by award-winning actor **Paul McGann**.