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Key Dates

7 th October	Year 11 Parent / Carer Evening
13 th October	Year 9 Residential Camp Parent / Carer Information Evening POSTPONED
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
2 nd November	First Day of Term 2

Principal's Message

As we move further into the term, I would like to take a moment to thank our students for the positive way they represent John Cabot Academy every day. Whether in lessons, on trips, at sporting events, or travelling to and from school, our students are ambassadors for our academy and the wider community.

A particular focus for us this term is how we conduct ourselves when arriving at and leaving school. The vast majority of our students are respectful, considerate and courteous, and we are proud of the way they interact with local residents, businesses and other members of the public. Small actions, such as using designated crossings, being mindful of noise levels, disposing of litter responsibly and showing consideration to others using our local streets and transport links, make a significant difference.

As a community school, we recognise that the relationships we build with our neighbours are important. Every student contributes to the reputation of John Cabot Academy through the choices they make beyond the school gates. We ask all students to continue demonstrating our values of respect, responsibility and kindness so that we can all take pride in the positive impact we have on our local area.

Thank you to our families for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations. By working together, we can ensure that John Cabot Academy continues to be known not only for academic success and opportunity, but also for the positive contribution our students make to the community around them.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter and learning more about the many opportunities, achievements and events taking place across the academy.

Gemma Read

Head of School

JCA Routine – Absence

At John Cabot Academy, we want and expect our pupils to attend school every day, unless they are really not well enough to, or there is another very good reason for their absence which is agreed by the academy. We want all of our students to achieve the very best examination results that they can, and poor attendance and broken weeks are likely to have a significant impact on your son or daughter's achievement.

Students with irregular attendance:

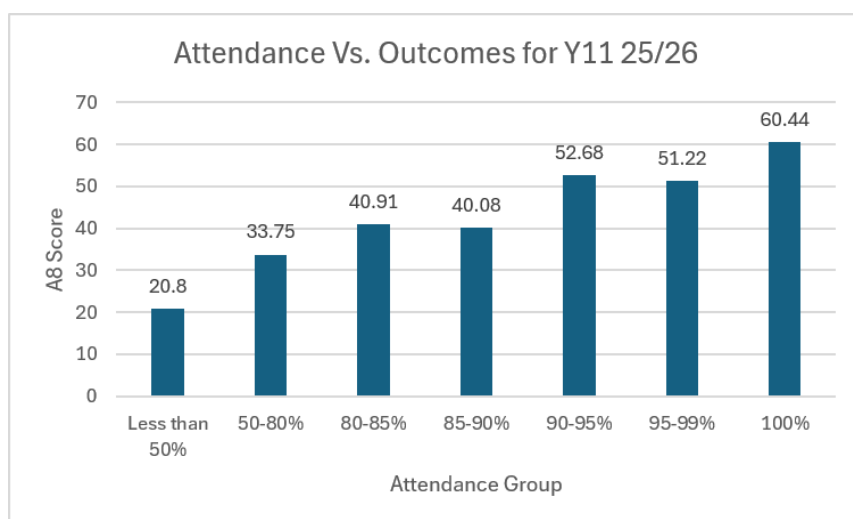
- Lose momentum with their lesson work and have chunks of missed learning

- Lose the thread of the topics being taught.
- Become demotivated and anxious about returning to the academy
- Miss out on important guidance and pastoral support
- Less likely to feel part of the academy community.
- Can develop weaker relationships with staff and peers.

We believe children who attend regularly are more likely to feel settled in school, maintain friendships, keep up with their learning and gain the greatest benefit from their education.

Attending on time every day also helps pupils form good habits which can stay with them throughout their education and on into the workplace.

The link between school attendance and student outcomes has been shown across many studies and can be seen in JCA results data:



The graph below shows the average points score for students in each attendance bracket. This shows that students with attendance above 90% achieved on average a grade 5 in each of their subjects, compared to an average grade of a 4 with attendance just below 90%, with this decreasing alongside attendance.

Reporting Absence:

We know that there will be occasions when your child is too unwell to attend. If this is the case please support us by following the absence procedure below for each day of absence:

Pupils should attend school on every day the school is open, unless they are really not well enough.

If your child is unwell please call the attendance line on 0117 976 3000 / Option 2 / Option 2 before 8:30am to let us know providing details of the illness. You can also email the academy at jcastudentabsence@clf.uk

If your child is unwell for more than one day you will need to call on each morning of the absence. Please clearly explain the symptoms your child has, when the symptoms started, and when you expect your child to be well enough to return to school.

Minor illness should not be a reason for staying at home. If your child attends school when feeling slightly under the weather, do let a member of staff know and we will monitor them and contact you if we think they need to go home.

By law, schools must record all pupil absences and whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised. Academy staff will follow up on any student absence that we are not aware of. Please see the website for further information: <https://johncabotacademy.clf.uk/content/our-academy/attendance/>

Kind regards

Andrew Buck
Vice Principal

Flu Vaccine

Flu Vaccination Programme

We are offering your child (Year 7 to Year 11) a free flu vaccine at school on Tuesday 3rd November.

Please complete the consent form as soon as possible:

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2026/consent?v=3>

Questions?

Contact the School Immunisation Team: 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

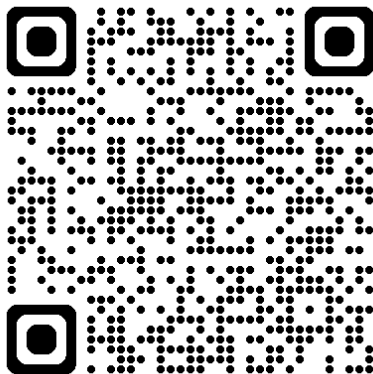
Yours faithfully,



Karen Evans

Associate Director for Children's Services

Please scan the QR code below with your smartphone to link to the consent form



Free School Meals

Please can you remind your child that Free School meals can only be used at lunch time and cannot be used at break.

Thank you

School Trips and Outings

As we seek to grow the number and range of extracurricular activities available to our students, I felt it would be useful if we were to share our current planning for this year (and beyond) in terms of some of the opportunities that will be available to students and also give you an approximate idea of the cost.

Trip	Year group	When	Approximate cost (£)
Pantomime	7	Term 2	£26
Duke of Edinburgh	9	Across the year	£200
Ice skating	11	Term 3	£20
Year group trip	7	Term 5/6	£20
Year group trip	8	Term 5/6	£60
Year group trip	10	Term 5/6	£60
Sports residential trip	7 to 9	Term 6	£280
Year 11 prom	11	Term 6	£40
Year 11 end-of-year trip	11	Term 6	£60
Year 9 residential trip	8 (9 next year)	Term 6, 2027	£280
Ski trip to Austria	7 to 10	Dec, 2027	£1,150

There will also be the opportunity for students to attend subject-specific trips during the course of the year; more details about these will come out through subjects as the year goes by. The purpose of this is to share some of the larger, whole-cohort trips and to give you an idea of the likely costs involved.

Thank you

Steve Church
Events and Visits Coordinator

Year 11 Parents Evening

Y11 parents evening on 7th Oct

Just a reminder to sign up to MCAS as all bookings can only be made there and that the bookings are now live.

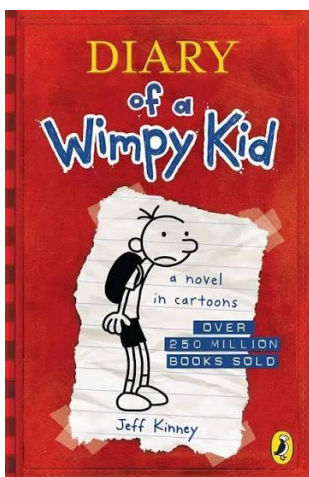
Urgent Advice Line for Children Experience Mental Health Crisis

Changes to the way children and young people access urgent advice and support during a mental health crisis has changed.

NHS 111 option 2 will be the front door for all urgent crisis support.

Anyone calling NHS 111 and choosing mental health (option 2) will be directed to a specialist service. Calls will be answered by dedicated call handlers, with callers receiving a prompt call back from a mental health practitioner for triage and assessment.

Student Book Recommendation



Recommended: Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

What is it about? It's about a boy who lives an ordinary life. He is the middle child with an older and younger brother. He has a best friend called Rowley Jefferson.

Why has it been recommended: It is a really food book because it's full of fun and laughter. I would definitely recommend *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* because it is really funny and Greg always gets himself into embarrassing situations. The book is easy to read and the cartoons make the story even more entertaining. I couldn't stop reading because I wanted to find out what silly thing Greg would do next!

Young Chef Competition



“I CAN COOK”
Where Young Talent Meets Big Opportunity
YOUNG PEOPLE'S COOKING COMPETITION
COMPETITION: 31ST OCTOBER 2026
CREATE • COMPETE • WIN

Do you love cooking? Are you creative with food? Or would you simply like to challenge yourself and learn something new?

The “I Can Cook” Young People's Competition is your opportunity to step into a semi-professional kitchen, showcase your culinary skills, meet other young people who share your passion for food and discover just how far your talent could take you.

You can enter as pairs and bring a helper/sous chef of the same age.

Organised by Clifton BID in partnership with the Clifton Rotary Club, and supported by Clifton High School and businesses across Clifton Village, this exciting community event gives aspiring young chefs the chance to cook, compete and be inspired.

★ WHY TAKE PART?

- ✓ Build confidence in the kitchen
- ✓ Learn new cooking techniques
- ✓ Cook in a semi-professional kitchen
- ✓ Meet other young people who love food
- ✓ Receive feedback from experienced judges
- ✓ Win fantastic prizes

! ALLERGY SAFETY RULE
For the safety of all participants, **NO NUTS** or any ingredients that come from a factory that handles nuts are allowed in any dish.

🍷 THE CHALLENGE
Using a selection of ingredients provided on the day, you will create a delicious three-course meal consisting of:

- 🍲 **STARTER**
- 🍽️ **MAIN COURSE**
- 🍰 **DESSERT**

You will have your own dedicated cooking station, with support and guidance from experienced organisers throughout the competition.

★ HOW YOU WILL BE JUDGED
A panel of experienced judges will score your dishes based on:

- ★ Creativity
- 🍴 Taste
- 📋 Presentation
- 🍴 Use of Ingredients
- 👨‍🍳 Kitchen Organisation

🏆 THE WINNER'S PRIZE
The overall winner will have the honour of representing **Clifton Rotary Club** at the Rotary District Young Chef Competition, with the opportunity to progress to the National Final.

👥 WHO CAN ENTER?
TWO AGE CATEGORIES

- 👦 11–14 years
- 👧 15–17 years

Participants will compete within their own age category.
ONLY 16 PLACES ARE AVAILABLE, SO APPLY EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!

✉️ HOW TO APPLY
Complete the official application form and email it to:
icancookclifton@gmail.com

📅 APPLICATION DEADLINE
12TH OCTOBER 2026

ORGANISED BY **CliftonBID** IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **Clifton Rotary Club** SUPPORTED BY CLIFTON HIGH SCHOOL & BUSINESSES ACROSS CLIFTON VILLAGE

CSE Prevention Webinar Event

When others are taking advantage of a child, by encouraging them into harmful situations online and offline, it is often hard to spot for parents/carers - the following session provides helpful support - please do also contact staff at school if you have any worries for your child.



Could you tell if your child was being **exploited** **online?**

Join one of our free online sessions led by Child
Exploitation Prevention Officer **Andri Nicolaou**

29 September 19:00 - 20:30pm **06 October** 13:00 - 14:30pm

Learn about the different forms of
child exploitation and how offenders
groom/exploit children both online
and offline. We'll highlight warning
signs a child may be at risk and
practical steps you can take to
keep them safe and respond to
any concerns.

Visit the **Avon and Somerset
Police Eventbrite page**
or scan the QR codes below

29 Sept **06 Oct**



Post 16 Open Evening



P16 CABOT
LEARNING
FEDERATION
Care • Believe • Achieve

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Your future starts here...

CLF Post 16 Open Evening

Thursday 8th October 2026
16:30 to 19:30
(Principal presentations at 16:45, 17:15, 17:45, 18:15, 18:45)

- ✓ Find out more about the Post 16 experience
- ✓ Explore our courses
- ✓ Meet the teachers
- ✓ Take a tour
- ✓ See what CLF Post 16 can offer you!

Booking essential!
Scan here to book your place



Or visit our website

www.post16.clf.uk/open-event

Woodside Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 8BD

Proudly part of the
 Cabot
Learning
Federation