

— 9 January 2026 —

Huish Episcopi Academy Parent Newsletter

House Update

The house competition remains tight as we move towards the end of term.

The current standings for the houses are as follows:

Merchant
14492

Bailbrook
13655

Lambrook
13344

Chelston
13136

Pennard
12555

An Update From Mrs Boyes

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term! I hope you all had a restful break and enjoyed time with family and friends. It has been wonderful to see our students return with such positivity and enthusiasm for the start of 2026. They have made an excellent start to the term, and we are proud of their commitment to learning and school life.

I would like to thank you for your patience this week while we worked with our email provider to resolve some technical issues. We anticipate that everything will be back up and running as normal by the start next week and will email to confirm when this is the case.

Thank you also for your continued support and for taking the time to complete the parent survey that was sent to you all last term. Your feedback is invaluable to us. The results have now been shared, and we will take time to review them carefully and formulate actions based on your suggestions. We truly appreciate your input as we strive to make our school the best it can be.

We look forward to welcoming you to the various events taking place in school this term. Please see the key dates listed at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Boyes
Principal

Uniform Reminders

We have seen significant improvements in uniform this year, and this has made a noticeable difference to the calm, purposeful atmosphere in school. We are very grateful for the continued partnership with parents and carers in making this possible.

Uniform standards are important because they:

- Promote a sense of belonging and pride in our school community.
- Ensure equality and consistency for all students.
- Support a focused, disruption-free learning environment.

These expectations are communicated regularly to students, and they are aware of the consequences if they do not meet them.

Please ensure that students attend school in full uniform each day:

- Blazers and ties are compulsory (Please note that we have a limited stock of spare items available in school, but we can and do support in exceptional cases).
- Trousers must be tailored school trousers. Jeggings, leggings, or flared styles are not permitted.
- Skirts must not be rolled, folded, or altered.
- Shoes must be black, polishable school shoes. Trainer-style footwear is not permitted.
- Hair colour must be natural.
- Nails: no nail extensions or nail polish.
- Jewellery is limited to one set of studs and a watch.

Students who do not meet these expectations are not allowed to be in circulation and will be required to spend time in the Recovery Room, in line with our behaviour and uniform policy. This is a clear and consistent response to reinforce standards that support learning for all.

We are proud of the progress that has been made and appreciate your continued support in maintaining these high standards. If you are experiencing any difficulties in meeting uniform requirements, please do contact your child's tutor and Pastoral Support Worker.

SEND COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 22 January
9:30 - 11 am
Sixth Form Café

All are welcome



Replacement Bus Passes

If your child travels on a bus operated by Somerset Transport and their bus pass has been lost, please order a replacement by completing the online form here: [Request a replacement bus pass](#)

If your child travels on a bus not operated by Somerset County Transport, you will need to contact the bus company direct to request a replacement.

Whilst your child awaits the arrival of their replacement bus pass, please remind them to see Ms Neale at lunchtimes outside of ML1 to collect a temporary bus pass.



Notice: Cashless Systems

From Easter, will be moving to a completely cashless system at Huish Episcopi Academy. Following the Easter school holiday, we will no longer accept cash payments for any school-related transactions, including lunch payments, uniform, tickets, and stationery items.

Going fully cashless will make payments safer, faster, and more convenient.

- Payments for catering, uniform, stationery and event tickets can be made through **ParentPay**.
- Payments for trips can be made through **Evolve**.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Office at huishaccounts@hea.ac.uk

Year 11 Science Revision

Year 11 Science revision has started again this term! All Year 11 students are welcome to attend. The focus will be Paper 2 content to support in preparation for Mock 2. Keep an eye on Teams and Tutor notices for which topics and which room.



Year 12 EPQ Visit: University of Exeter

In the last week of term before Christmas, 15 Year 12 EPQ students visited the University of Exeter. They had a tour of the campus with a pair of student ambassadors, visiting many different areas including student accommodation before a tour of the library led by the very knowledgeable librarian team. The students then had time to conduct research related to their EPQ proposals and had a very busy time exploring all levels of the extensive library. We hope to return for a further visit towards the end of this term with those students who have identified suitable resources there.

EPQ stands for Extended Project Qualification - it is a standalone qualification for Sixth Form students, worth half an A Level in UCAS points. It is highly regarded by employers and universities for giving students the opportunity to develop their research and independent learning skills as it requires students to be largely self-directed with support from a supervisor as they investigate a topic entirely of their own choosing.



Character Education

Spring 1 Focus: Resilience

This term, we are focusing on our school value of resilience. As we are in the depths of January, we recognise the importance of continuing to turn up every day, stay positive, and work hard to achieve our very best. Resilience is a key skill that supports both learning and wellbeing, and we will be promoting this across all areas of school life.

This term, we will be hosting **football and netball house competitions**, which students can take part in during lunchtimes. These events provide a fantastic opportunity for students to stay active, work as a team, and represent their house with pride.

In addition, our Wellbeing Leadership Team have been working hard to design engaging Friday afternoon tutor time activities for all students to enjoy. These sessions aim to support student wellbeing and encourage positive connections with tutor groups.

GOLDEN TICKET

We are excited to announce that our Golden Ticket Rewards Trip draw for Longleat will be taking place later this term.

Good luck to all students who have earned entries through their positive behaviour and effort!

Reindeer Run: Update

A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part, donated, and supported the charity events at the end of last term.

The Reindeer Run in particular was a huge success. Over 100 students donned reindeer antlers and walked, skipped, jogged, or ran around our AGP to raise money for St Margaret's Hospice. It was wonderful to see so many families and staff supporting the herd of reindeer!

While we are still awaiting confirmation of the final total raised, we understand that **we raised close to £3,000!** A huge well done to all involved - an amazing achievement that reflects the generosity, ambition, and support of our school community.

Number Day 2026

Friday 6th February
in aid of NSPCC

The Maths Department are looking forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of Number Day on Friday 6th February by hosting various activities and fundraising for the NSPCC.

As usual, there will be a chocolate tombola and a Pipes of Pence competition. Any donations of chocolate for the tombola (single chocolate bars, multipacks, bags, boxes, or tubs) would be hugely appreciated! We are always blown away by the support and generosity of our parents and carers, and these donations are vital in our fundraising. Donations can be brought to the Maths office or given to a Maths teacher at any time.

We will also be running a Pipes of Pence competition the week beginning 2nd February - students can drop loose change into a pipe representing their house, promising fierce competition! Any loose change will go towards a worthy cause.

Thank you, as always, for your support!



Trip Report: Ski Trip - Sestriere, Italy

In the last week of term, 93 students and 10 staff returned to Sestriere, Italy, for the annual school ski trip. The coach journey passed smoothly and spirits were high on arrival, with the resort once again providing a fantastic choice for the week. Familiar to Huish, Sestriere offers easy access to the slopes for skiers of all abilities, allowing everyone to make the most of their time on the mountain, alongside picturesque views across the Western Italian Alps.

Over half of the students were taking to the slopes for the first time and the progress they made throughout the week was exceptional. With direct access to nursery slopes and a wide range of gentle blue runs, students quickly built confidence and felt at home on the piste. Away from the slopes, the amazing Italian food was a firm favourite, from hearty mountain lunches to well-earned evening meals.

After a full day of skiing, students enjoyed a number of fabulous evening events, including ski-doo, pizza night, disco, and a quiz. As the week drew to a close, we were sad to leave the mountains once again. The students were wonderful company throughout the trip and sincere thank you to all staff who made it possible.





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Applications Are Now Open

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FREE WORKSHOP FOR PARENT AND
CARERS



SUPPORTING EXAM WELLBEING



IN THIS 1 HOUR WORKSHOP
HOSTED BY SOMERSET'S MENTAL
HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM, WE WILL
EXPLORE...

- What might get in the way of wellbeing during exams
- How our brain and body might respond to stress and overwhelm
- Ideas of how to support our children (and ourselves) before, during and after exams.



Huish Episcopi Academy

20th January 2026

17:30-18:30

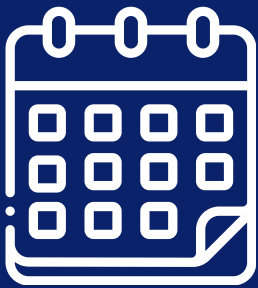
Please email Suzie England to
confirm a space

suzieengland@hea.ac.uk



Where?

H1 Auditorium at Huish
Episcopi Academy



Dates for your diary for this term

- **15th January** – Year 11/13 Drama Trip: Live Review Theatre, Bristol
- **19th January** – Theatre Careers Workshop
- **20th January** – Golden Ticket Trip: Natural History Museum, London
- **22nd January** – Year 11 Visit: Train 4 All Somerton
- **22nd January** – SEND Coffee Morning (9:30 - 11 am)
- **22nd January** – Year 9 Options Evening (5 - 7 pm)
- **29th January** – SLT Coffee Morning (9 - 10am)
- **5th February** – Year 9 Parents' Evening
- **6th February** – NSPCC Number Day
- **9th February** – Year 9 Careers Trip: Sustainable Future Conference
- **12th February** – Year 10 Careers Trip: UCS Careers Fair
- **13th February** – Golden Ticket Trip: Longleat
- **16th February** – Half Term
- **23rd February-6th March** – Year 11 Mocks
- **23rd February-6th March** – Year 13 Mocks
- **23rd-24th February** – Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
- **26th February** – Year 7 Parents' Evening
- **12th March** – Year 10 Parents' Evening
- **13th March** – Year 12 Trip: HE and Apprenticeship Fair
- **17th March** – SEND Coffee Evening (4 - 5:30 pm)
- **19th March** – SLT Coffee Morning (9 - 10 am)
- **19th March** – Music: Celebration of Young Musicians (6 - 7:30 pm)
- **26th March** – Year 11/13 Exam Information Evening (5 - 7 pm)
- **30th-31st March** – Drama: School Play - Midsummer Night's Dream
- **2nd April** – INSET Day
- **3rd April** – Bank Holiday
- **6th April** – School Holiday



Respect
Ambition
Resilience

Spring Term Extracurricular Sports Clubs

Day	Year Group	Club	Staff	Location	Time
Tuesday	7 & 9	Netball	HJD	Netball Courts	15:30 - 16:30
	7 & 8	Boys Football	MC / GB	AGP	15:30 - 16:30
Wednesday	8, 10 & 11	Netball	SO	Netball Courts	15:30 - 16:30
	9	Boys Football	SV	AGP	15:30 - 16:30
Thursday	All Years	Girls Football	SO / GB	AGP	15:30 - 16:30
Friday	7, 8 & 9	Girls Rugby	External Coach	Lower Field	15:30 - 16:30
	10 & 11	Boys Football	BW	AGP	13:30 - 14:00



Huish Episcopi Academy

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**YCiS
AWARD**

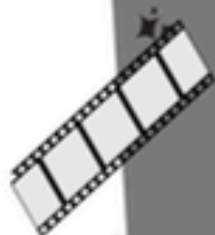


Calling all



**Young Carers
in Somerset**

Through a grant provided by Somerset Community Foundation,
We are looking for young carer volunteers to
take part in a video project (during school)
with other young carers across Somerset.



Your story. Your voice.

If you do not want to be on camera, there are lots of
other parts including:
Writer, Editor, Camera Crew, Set, Production Assistant
and more!

**Help us reach other young carers,
like you.**

If you are interested in taking part, speak to your
young carer lead at school or young carer group.

- + Meet other young carers
- + Gain valuable, new skills
- + Get a break
- + Make a difference!

- Missing school
- Feeling very tired
- Not being able to get homework done
- Can't join in activities after school or go out much
- Some say they get bullied
- Feeling really worried, frightened, angry or sad



**One
in five**

schoolchildren aged
11-16 in England
are young carers