

PARENT BULLETIN

Thursday 15th October 2026

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE TO OUR LATEST SCHOOL NEWS

Key Notices for the Week Ahead

Dear Parents and Carers,

Behaviour sanctions at SPW

We have received queries in relation to Same Day and Central Reflections. We would like to remind parent/carers that the school has a robust behaviour policy, and students are aware of our expectations and procedures.

Staff issue sanctions in line with the policy, and, therefore we are unable to accommodate requests from parent/carers to challenge SDR and CR's. We encourage you to have a reflective conversation with your child, and, if they believe a sanction has been issued in error, to advise them to speak directly with their Year Team. We would like to reassure you that extenuating circumstances will be considered if relevant teams have been informed.

Please refer to the Behaviour section on page 14 in our Parent Handbook for further guidance.

[Parent Handbook](#)

Key dates for the week ahead:

19- 23.10.2026- Year 9 Mid Year assessments

19- 23.10.2026- National T Level Week

20.10.2026- Y12 Wadham College, Oxford Trip

23.10.2026- Last day of half term

Here are this weeks reminders:

Supporting with Homework: Weekly Tip

Organisation Check-In

Spend 10 minutes at the end of the week to review upcoming homework deadlines together before the half-term break.

Supporting Reading: Weekly Tip

Take Part in the BBC 500 Words Competition

If your child is in year 7, we'll be supporting them to take part in the BBC 500 Words Competition, so ask them whether they've written a story! Full details for how to submit their work will be on accessible on Teams for your child.

AT SPW WE VALUE

Aspiration 

Integrity 

Community 

Post-16 Pathways: What This Means for Year 11 Students

Wednesday 21 October 2026 | 4.00pm to 5.00pm | Online

As the post-16 qualifications landscape continues to change, it is increasingly important that young people and their families understand the different options available after GCSEs and have access to clear information early enough to make informed choices.

The webinar will provide a straightforward overview of the post-16 landscape, including A Levels, T Levels, V Levels, BTECs and other applied qualifications, and apprenticeships. We will also explain the national reforms to qualifications, how these may affect future choices, what young people should consider when choosing a pathway, and the support available to them.

Registration link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/post-16-pathways-what-this-means-for-year-11-students-tickets-2003150078809

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never daisy chain multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College