

Thursday 1st October 2026 | 4.30pm

Year 9 Curriculum Evening 2026-27

Who are we becoming?

Ofsted 2023: “Good” “Impressive”
A Leading Edge school of the SSAT
Portsmouth Diocese: “Outstanding”
www.hughfaringdon.org
‘True Teaching’



Assistant Headteacher
Mrs S Matthews

Introduction and welcome





School prayer

Father, pour out your Spirit upon our School and grant us a renewed vision of your glory so that we may experience your power, be faithful to your Word, and consecrate ourselves to your service.

We pray that your love may grow among us, and your kingdom come; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed Hugh Faringdon, pray for us.

Overview of the 2026-2027 Academic Year at BHFCs

Head of Year 9
Miss E Wright





This Evening

- Our Year 9 focus: who are we becoming?
- The home-school partnership and how best to support your child
- The Curriculum Booklet, the Year 9 curriculum and reading for success
- GCSE grading, assessment and reporting
- Key dates for the year ahead
- Expectations: attendance, punctuality, phones, uniform, equipment and homework
- Behaviour, achievement and rewards
- Extra-curricular opportunities
- How we support our pupils and their families
- Home-school communication and contact details



From Flourishing to Becoming

Who are we becoming?

Year 8: Flourishing

- Being the best we could be, individually and as a collective
- Building positive habits, relationships and confidence
- Recognising the strengths within ourselves and each other

Year 9: Becoming

- One overarching question for the whole year: who are we becoming?
- A question to reflect on each month, from September to July
- Taking increasing responsibility for choices, learning and behaviour
- Preparing to make informed GCSE option choices in February



A Question for Every Month

Month	Focus	Question to consider
September	Becoming Year 9	<i>What kind of person do I want to be this year?</i>
October	Becoming someone others can trust	<i>What habits am I developing?</i>
November	Becoming resilient	<i>What happens when things aren't easy?</i>
December	Recognising growth	<i>What am I proud of?</i>
January	Becoming ready to choose	<i>What am I good at? What matters to me? Where might I go?</i>
February	Becoming through choices	<i>What are my choices doing to me? Who influences those choices? Who helps me become better?</i>
March	Becoming independent	<i>How much responsibility am I taking for myself?</i>
April	Courage and service	<i>How am I contributing rather than simply taking?</i>
May	Becoming ready for Year 10	<i>What needs to change before my GCSE years?</i>
June	Becoming a leader	<i>What does leadership look like?</i>
July	<i>Who have I become?</i>	



Home-School Partnership

Working together to achieve success

When parents are involved, students:

- achieve higher grades
- have increased motivation
- are more likely to go on to further and higher education
- have increased self-esteem
- show higher standards of uniform and more appropriate use of mobile phones

The pillars of this partnership:

- Communication
 - Please ensure your contact information is up to date, including telephone numbers, address and email address
- Shared information
 - Groupcall messages and emails
 - ClassCharts
 - The Curriculum Booklet
 - The school website and Heads Up



How Can You Support Your Child?

- Know the curriculum and the GCSE grading structure
- Understand how your child is assessed and read their reports with them
- Support excellent attendance and punctuality
- Attend Parents' Evenings and Options Evening
- Keep an eye on academic progress and achievement points on ClassCharts
- Check that homework is completed on time
- Encourage involvement in extra-curricular activities
- Keep in regular contact with school



Shared Information

The Curriculum Booklet

- Available on the school website and emailed home after this evening

The Curriculum Booklet gives families an insight into what pupils will study in each subject throughout the year. For each subject it includes:

- The exam board pupils will be entered for, and how the subject is assessed
- Homework expectations and the equipment needed
- Revision and examination information
- Resources to support or extend learning, including extra resources for Gifted and Talented pupils and for pupils developing their basic skills



The Year 9 Curriculum

A year of foundations and first steps

Core subjects: starting GCSE content this year

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education

All other subjects: preparing for options

- Building the knowledge and skills that GCSE courses depend on
- Giving pupils a genuine experience of each subject to inform their option choices
- GCSE content in option subjects begins in Year 10
- Options Evening: Thursday 11th February 2027



Reading for Success

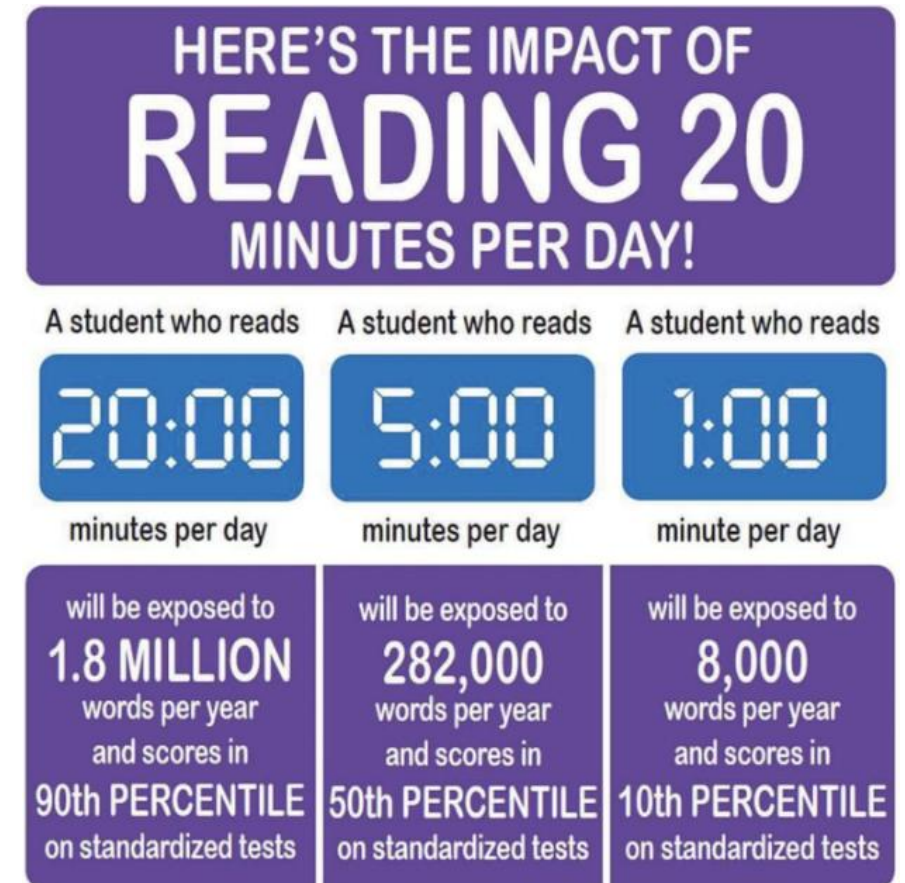
Supporting your child through to Year 11: reading is the gatekeeper to the entire GCSE curriculum

Why is reading important?

- GCSE exam papers require a reading age of 15 years and 7 months to be fully accessible
- Reading needs to be challenging but also satisfying: select reading material that is interesting

What can I do?

- Reading lists: search online
- Audio books:
 - Free with a local library card
 - YouTube
- Newspapers and online news outlets
- Even subtitles help!
- Sparx Reader





GCSE Grading

9-1 GCSE qualifications

- All GCSEs are graded from 9 (highest) to 1
- Grade 4 is a standard pass
- Grade 5 is a strong pass
- Grades 7 and above are broadly equivalent to the old A and A*
- A U means the qualification has not been achieved

9-1 grade	Old letter grade
9	A*
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	Strong pass
4	C / Standard pass
3	D
2	E / F
1	F / G
U	U



Assessment and Reporting

How pupils are assessed

- End of unit assessments
- End of term assessments
- Class tests
- End of year exams

Three reports this year

- **Report 1 (interim):** issued w/c 19th October 2026
- **Report 2 (main report, including tutor comments):**
issued w/c 18th January 2027
- **Report 3 (interim):** issued w/c 28th June 2027

Please do read through each report with your child.



Parents' Evenings and Options Evening

Parents' Evenings

- **Part 1: Thursday 14th January 2027**
 - 9BL, 9DB and 9MK
- **Part 2: Thursday 21st January 2027**
 - 9ML, 9MT and 9OR

An opportunity to discuss your child's progress in each subject with their class teachers, and to talk about potential GCSE option subjects.

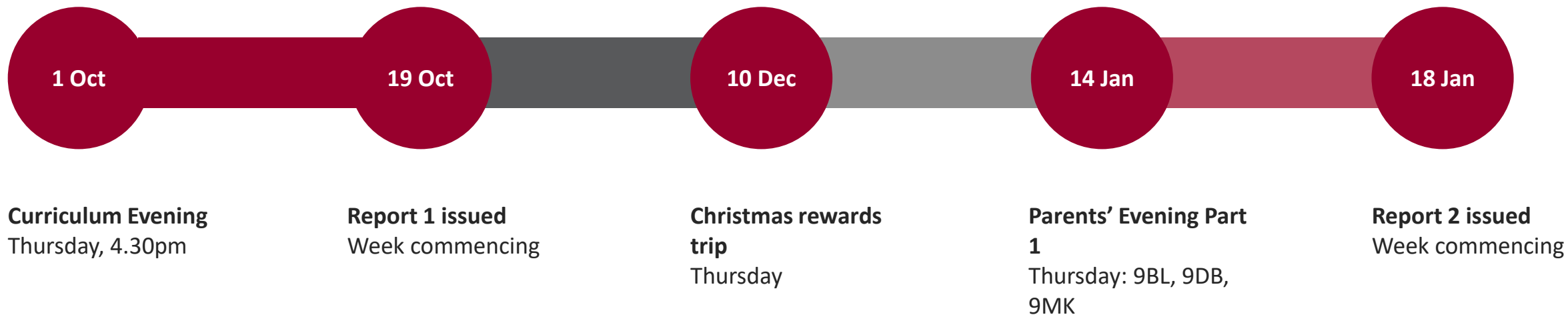
Options Evening

- **Thursday 11th February 2027**
- Typically 6.00pm to 7.30pm (time to be confirmed)

An opportunity to find out more about option subjects and GCSE pathways. This marks the start of the options process.



Important Dates: Autumn and Early Spring





Important Dates: Spring and Summer

21 Jan

Parents' Evening Part 2
Thursday: 9ML, 9MT, 9OR

11 Feb

Options Evening
Thursday, typically 6.00pm to 7.30pm (TBC)

18 Mar

Easter rewards trip
Thursday

28 Jun

Report 3 issued
Week commencing

13 Jul

Summer rewards trip
Tuesday



School Expectations

Attendance

- We hope for 100%: the school attendance target is 96%
- Current Year 9 attendance: 92.1
- Good attendance = good learning
- 1 week out of school per GCSE = 13% of the course
- 17 days' absence a year means your child could drop at least 1 GCSE grade on average
- 90% attendance is equivalent to half a day missed every week, or around 4 weeks over a school year





School Expectations

Punctuality

Every student must:

- Arrive at school on time
- Arrive at and attend all tutor sessions on time
- Arrive at all lessons on time

Punctuality fact:

If a student arrives 5 minutes late to every lesson:

- That is 30 minutes of missed learning every day
- That is 2.5 hours of learning missed every week





School Policies

Mobile Phones

- Phones must be switched off and kept in bags while students are on the school site
- If a phone is seen, it will be confiscated by staff and logged at the office:
 - **1st instance:** the student may collect it at the end of the day
 - **2nd instance:** a parent or carer must collect it the same day
 - **3rd instance:** a parent or carer may collect it at the end of the week
 - Beyond this, parents and carers will be invited in for a meeting

This reflects the government's statutory guidance on phone-free schools, in place from September 2026.





School Policies

School Uniform: Boys

- **Trousers:** plain grey school trousers (not black)
- **Shirt:** plain white school shirt
- **Tie:** school tie
- **Shoes:** plain black
- **Jumper:** V-necked maroon
- **Socks:** black or grey
- **Blazer:** maroon school blazer with logo

Regulation black PE kit





School Policies

School Uniform: Girls

- **Skirt:** school grey skirt with maroon band
- **Trousers:** plain grey school trousers (not black)
- **Shirt:** plain white school shirt
- **Tie:** school tie
- **Shoes:** plain black
- **Jumper:** V-necked maroon **Socks/tights:** plain black, white or grey
- **Blazer:** maroon school blazer with logo

Regulation black PE kit





School Expectations

Equipment

Students should bring the following to school every day:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Compass
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Reading book



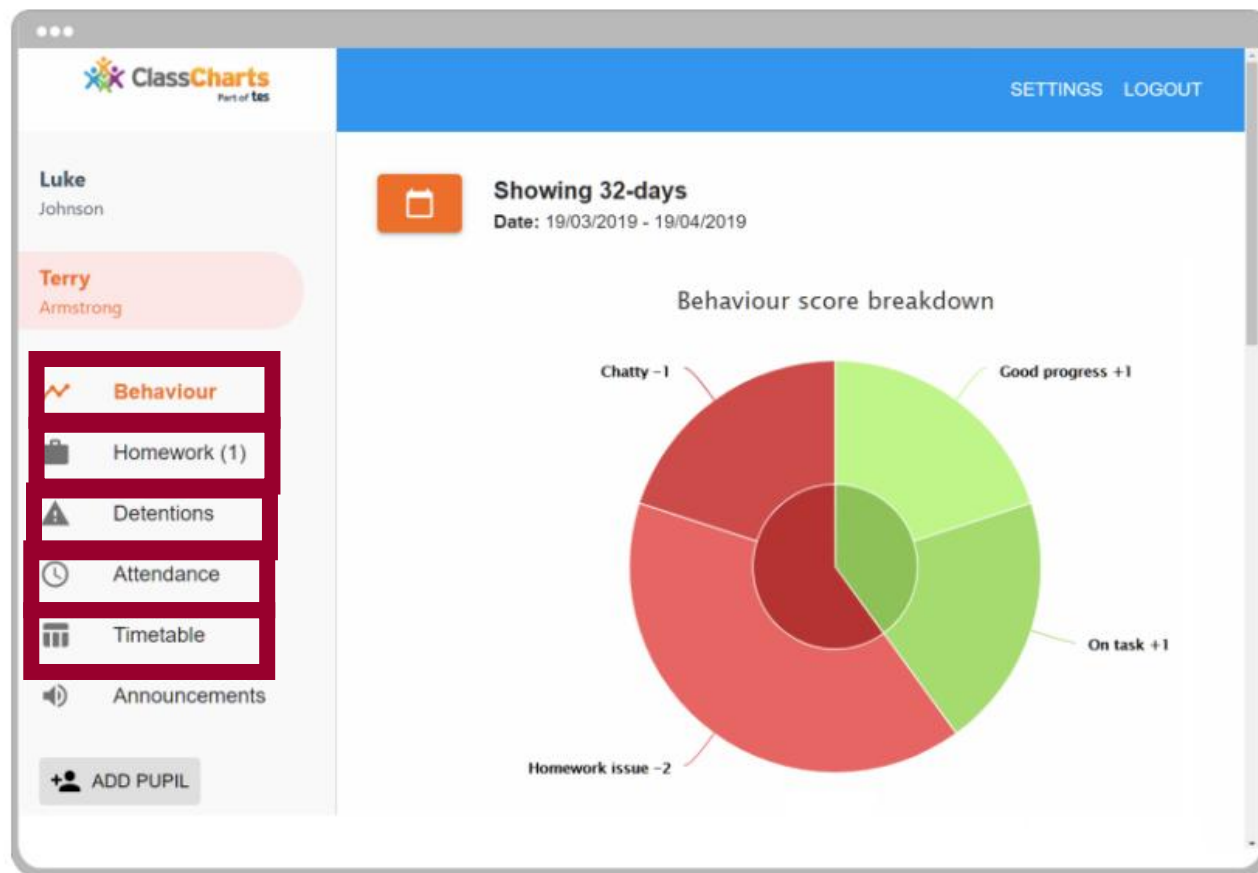


Homework

- Homework is set via ClassCharts
- ClassCharts can be accessed through any web browser on a computer, tablet or other mobile device
- Students log in with their school email address and password
- The ClassCharts app can be downloaded to a mobile device
- Students can upload their work and access shared class documents and other learning materials
- Parents and carers also have access to ClassCharts, and login details have been provided



Shared Information



Your student's attendance breakdown is available here



Behaviour for Learning: Detentions

Stage 1: 30 minutes

The normal C3 set by the class teacher for specific behaviour incidents. This detention is sat in subject departments on a day between Monday and Thursday. Please check ClassCharts for the classroom.

Stage 2: 1 hour

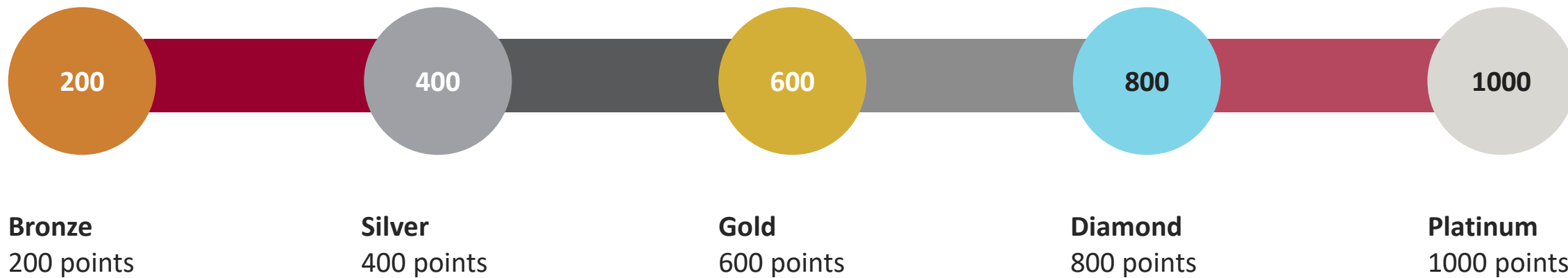
If a student fails to attend a Stage 1, the detention escalates to a Head of Department / Head of Year detention (Tuesday to Thursday) and an automatic email is sent home following the register.

Stage 3

Issued for truancy or failure to attend a Stage 2 detention. Students attend a 1 hour after-school detention in A3 with SLT. If they fail to attend this, they will spend 2 days in isolation.



Achievement





Rewards Trips

Recognising consistent effort and achievement

Christmas rewards trip

- Thursday 10th December 2026
- Top 10% of the year group

Easter rewards trip

- Thursday 18th March 2027
- Top 15% of the year group

Summer rewards trip

- Tuesday 13th July 2027
- Top 20% of the year group

Places are awarded to the top-achieving pupils in the year group.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Opportunities to grow beyond the classroom

Clubs and activities include

- Art Club
- Public Speaking
- A wide range of sports clubs
- Library Club
- Chaplaincy lunchtime activities

Full timetables follow on the next slides.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Bronze

- Volunteering: 3 months
- Physical: 3 months
- Skills: 3 months
- Plus a further 3 months in one of these sections
- Expedition: 2 days, 1 night

Launch: Tuesday 6th October 2026, 5.00pm



Extra-Curricular Activities

Lunchtime Autumn



Monday

- The Lounge: Soulscape A3 (Year 7 ONLY)
- Cipher challenge C8 1.20 - 1.50pm
- Yr 7 Keyboard Group A16
- CIA group - Chapel
- Yr 7-9 Basketball

Tuesday

- All Years Table Tennis
- UK Maths Challenge C3 1.20-1.50

Wednesday

- The Lounge: Soulscape A3 (Year 8 ONLY)
- Maths Challenge Club C3
- Yr 8/9 Keyboard Group A16
- Yr 10/11 Basketball

Thursday

- Sparx Maths C1 1.20 - 1.50pm
- Oremus & Alter Servers Group (week B) Chapel
- Yr 10/11 Basketball

Friday

- Yr 10/11 Badminton

Library

Open Break and Lunchtime Every day for Everyone
Grab a Book, Play a game or get ahead on homework.

Extra Curricular Activities

Afterschool Autumn



Monday

- Y10-13 Debate Club B8
- Manga Club - Library
- Yr 7, 8 & 9 Basketball Training

Tuesday

- D&D Club- Library
- School Band A16
- Yr 8 & 9 Netball Training
- Year 10 & 11 Girls Football Training
- Yr 7, 8 & 9 Badminton Club

Wednesday

- Art Club B14
- Y8-10 Heritage DT Club (Week B) A5
- Young Medics yr 10 (Week B) A13
- Young Engineers yr 10 - A11
- Crochet & knitting - Library
- School Choir A16
- Year 10/11 Girls Netball Training
- Yrs 7-10 Boys Football Training
- Year 10,11 & 6th Form Basketball Training

Thursday

- Chess Club - Library
- French yr 7-9 (week A)
- Spanish Yr 7-9 (Week B)
- Yr 10,11 & 6th Form Basketball Training
- U16 Girls Football Matches

School Council

Library 3.10 - 4.10 pm

- Thursday 8th October
- Thursday 3rd December
- Thursday 11th February
- Wednesday 24th March
- Thursday 20th May
- Thursday 8th July

Duke of Edinburgh

Anyone in Years 9, 10 & 12 is welcome to join at the appropriate level Speak to Miss Wright for more details.

Extra Curricular Activities



How Are We Supporting Our Pupils?

We're all in this together

Constant monitoring by:

- Subject teachers
- Heads of Department and Head of Year
- Tutors
- Pastoral Support and Achievement Co-ordinators
- School Counsellor
- Mental Health First Aiders
- Alternative Curriculum and Intervention Co-ordinator
- Peer supporters
- Parents' Evenings

PSHE to ensure a solid understanding of:

- Relationships
- Health and wellbeing
- Living in the wider world
- How to succeed



Year 9 Tutor Team



Mrs R Gower

9BL Tutor



Mr J Moodley

9DB Tutor



Mr M Hryniewicz

9MK Tutor



Ms D Headley

9ML Tutor



Mr D Holifield

9MT Tutor



Mr P Windibank

9OR Tutor



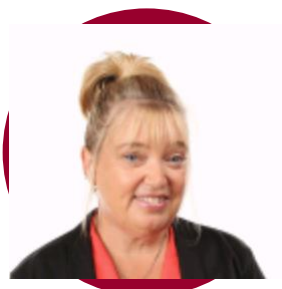
Year 9 Support Network



Mrs S Matthews
Assistant Headteacher



Miss E Wright
Head of Year 9



Mrs L Richards
Pastoral Support and Achievement
Co-ordinator (Mon & Tue)



Mrs O Pearce
Pastoral Support and Achievement
Co-ordinator (Wed & Thu)



Miss A Drew
Pastoral Support and Achievement
Co-ordinator (Fri)



Pastoral Support

Pastoral Support and Achievement Co-ordinators

- **Mrs L Richards:** Monday and Tuesday
- **Mrs O Pearce:** Wednesday and Thursday
- **Miss A Drew:** Friday

Available throughout the school day for all enquiries. They are accessible to all students (and parents) and support students in every capacity.

Parents are welcome to email any of the team.

Students who are part of the LSA/BMW can also access support from these areas throughout the day.





Safeguarding Structure



Miss K Harris

Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead and Mental Health First
Aider for KS3



Mrs S Matthews

Designated Safeguarding Lead,
Senior Mental Health Lead,
Assistant Headteacher



Ms S Lunnon

Deputy Designated Safeguarding
Lead and Mental Health First
Aider for KS4/5

If you have a safeguarding or child protection concern, in the first instance please contact the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for the appropriate Key Stage.



Home-School Communication

Keeping in touch

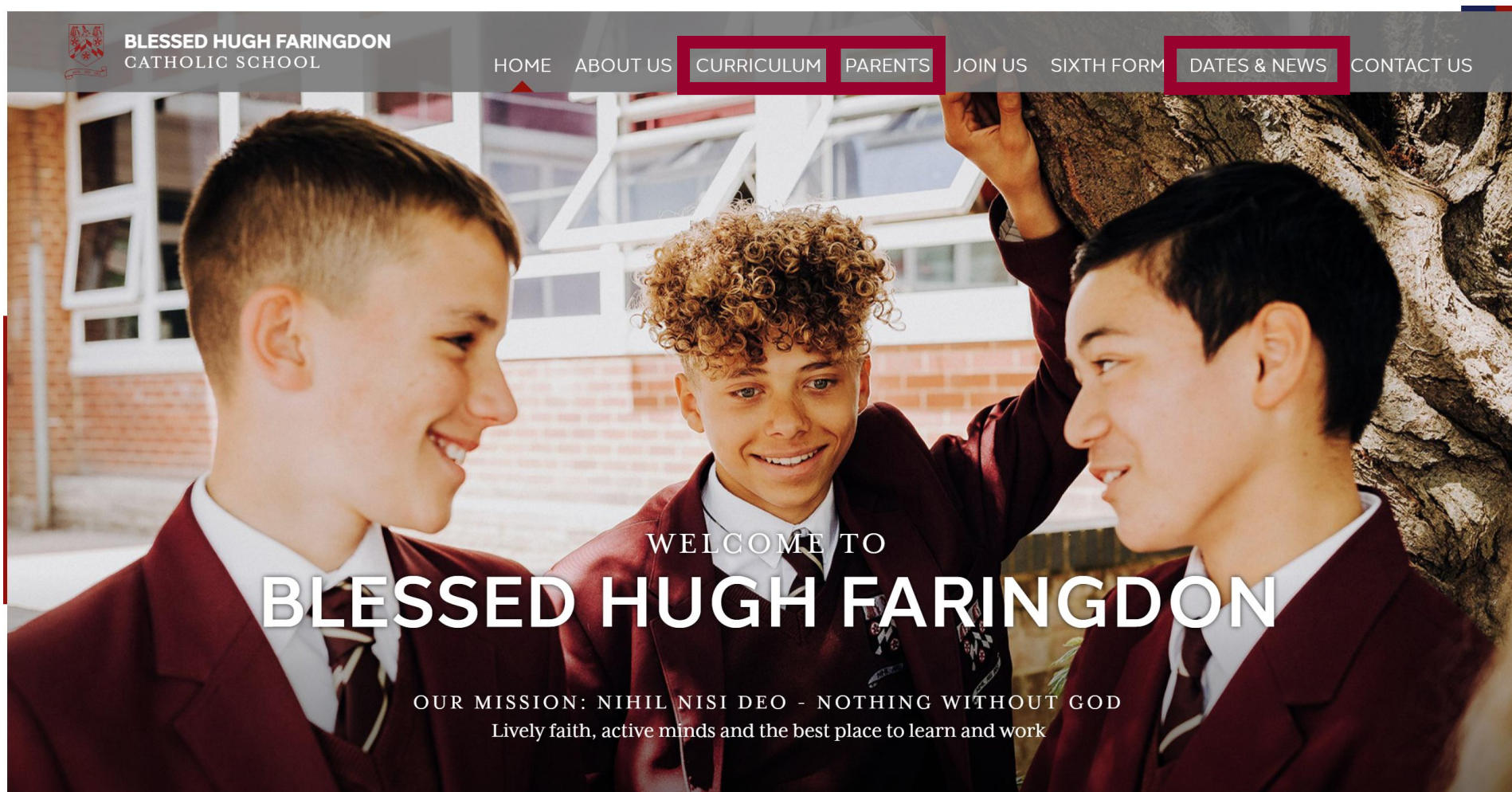
- Please ensure the contact addresses and telephone numbers we hold are your most recent. Email the school office and they will update your details.
- Email is the quickest and easiest way for communication to take place between home and school.

Key channels

- **School website:** www.hughfaringdon.org
- **Heads Up:** our weekly e-newsletter
- **Groupcall:** messages sent directly to parents and carers. Correct contact details are vital.
- **ClassCharts:** homework, achievement, attendance and timetables



Shared Information



Key information

- Heads Up – weekly newsletter
- Latest news
- Calendar



Contact Details

Staff emails: first initial.surname@hughfaringdon.org

School office: admin@hughfaringdon.org | 0118 957 4730

Year 9 Tutors

- **9BL:** Mrs R Gower: r.gower@hughfaringdon.org
- **9DB:** Mr J Moodley: j.moodley@hughfaringdon.org
- **9MK:** Mr M Hryniewicz: m.hryniewicz@hughfaringdon.org
- **9ML:** Ms D Headley: d.headley@hughfaringdon.org
- **9MT:** Mr D Holifield: d.holifield@hughfaringdon.org
- **9OR:** Mr P Windibank: p.windibank@hughfaringdon.org

Year 9 Team

- **Head of Year:** Miss E Wright: e.wright@hughfaringdon.org
- **AHT and DSL:** Mrs S Matthews: s.matthews@hughfaringdon.org
- **Deputy DSL (KS3):** Miss K Harris: k.harris@hughfaringdon.org
- **Pastoral:** Mrs L Richards: l.richards@hughfaringdon.org
- **Pastoral:** Mrs O Pearce: o.pearce@hughfaringdon.org
- **Pastoral:** Miss A Drew: a.drew@hughfaringdon.org

Thank you for joining us

Please do get in touch if you need any further information or support.

Miss E Wright, Head of Year 9

e.wright@hughfaringdon.org

School office

admin@hughfaringdon.org | 0118 957 4730

