



2020 Summer Term Newsletter

Back in March, when I put pen to paper to compose my Spring Term newsletter item, we had just hit lockdown and we were really unsure what it would mean for us going forward. Suffice to say, we never actually closed and spring rolled seamlessly into summer. Now the Summer Term has all but finished and as I look back, whilst it has been a very strange period of time for us all, a considerable amount has been achieved once again, despite the difficult circumstances.

I must start by saying how well I think our students have coped with all the uncertainty and upheaval. I so often talk about resilience and if ever there was an occasion when this could be demonstrated, it has to be over the past 3 months... The majority of our students have engaged positively with their learning, through whichever medium it was offered, and good progress has continued to be made.

I must also express my thanks to my staff who have stepped up and worked tirelessly in the best interest of our students. Staff who have needed to remain at home quickly upskilled themselves in Microsoft Teams and have delivered remote learning to those students doing home learning. For those students who met the criteria to continue their education on site, we have operated a rota system of onsite staff and have managed to continue to deliver an almost normal curriculum.

In addition to the curriculum, it has also been a key priority for us to retain our positive relationship with families and students through regular wellbeing contacts. Whilst it will never be a substitute for face to face engagement, hopefully we have kept our lines of communication open ready for when something closer to normality resumes in September and we look forward to being able to meet again in person.

Against the odds, two of our students Jess and Logan left Foundry after May half term to start at their forever schools. Not surprisingly, we have not had any new arrivals in either the primary or secondary onsite cohorts, although we are now just starting to receive referrals for September.

I am delighted to report very little staff turnover during this term. Suzanne Czech, a dedicated member of the Tutor team left us at half term to concentrate on her other work commitments and Rosie Neal has retired from her role as Clerk to the Management Committee. In September, will be welcoming a new teacher to the team, Vikki Comley, who joins us to teach Maths.

The Brambles Development was obviously hit by Covid-19 and works were suspended for approximately 6 weeks. Phase 2, the creation of the new indoor and outdoor workshops, involves a new build and is continuing. Phase 3, the refurbishment of our old corridor was completed yesterday and we are actually moving back in as I sit and write this! Phase 4, the creation of our new Reception and Administrative area is scheduled to start imminently and works will continue throughout the summer. The new scheduled completion date is 25th September so whilst it is disappointing that it won't be ready for the start of the new year, we won't have too long to wait.

Finally, a word about the Year 11s and their exams. These really have been unprecedented times and with ever moving goalposts and confusing messages from Government, our students have remained focussed and persevered in generating supplementary evidence to support centre assessment grades. All credit to them.

Crystal ball gazing continues to tax me as I now look ahead to what September may look like. For now, I anticipate that we will be open for business for all our students, with a full complement of staff in a Covid-19 secure environment. However, due to the impact of Covid-19, I have revised our designated INSET Days and you should note that term begins for all students on Wednesday 2nd September. I will write to all families in late August to confirm our re-opening details.

All that remains is for me to pass on my best wishes for a relaxing summer break and my hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well.

Jay

Spiritual



Moral



Social



Cultural



We were thankful for good weather during the Covid 19 lockdown. For us it was mostly business as usual. Each Friday afternoon we have had an extended **SMSC** session where we have learned to plan and cooperate together and to support each other when challenges arise. Our intention is that this will build mental and emotional resilience and strengthen our understanding of the importance of teamwork and compromise. One of our projects was to create two go-karts made from pallets. Pupils worked in two groups, primary and secondary, to design and make each kart.





SMSC

at Foundry College

Spiritual, Moral, Social
and Cultural Development



As part of our SMSC afternoons, the secondary students have been learning how to support our younger pupils. The secondary boys themselves have been practising a variety of recipes throughout the term - much to the enjoyment of the peckish staff team! With the sausage rolls being such a hit, Elliot and Leon were able to pass on their skills to the primary pupils. Nicholas, Brian and Dylan enjoyed picking up tips and tricks from the older pupils and were able to make their own!

Occupational Studies

I am really pleased to be able to say that despite all the restrictions placed on us all by the lockdown, most of the pupils have continued to complete outstanding pieces of Occupational Studies coursework at home. For many of the year 11 pupils this has been particularly important because it has given them the opportunity to finish or very nearly finish the units they were hoping to complete before the end of term. Good luck and our very best wishes go to all the year 11 pupils as they leave us and start to take on the challenges, rewards and responsibilities of the adult world.

Throughout the lockdown, we have continued to work with a small group of year 10 pupils and as the lockdown restriction begin to loosen; we are gradually welcoming more of the pupils back, including those of other year groups. All are engaging positively with the course and continuing to make good progress with their chosen units. The brickwork unit has proven to be particularly popular and with the limited number of pupils, progress has been rapid and sustained. For one or two they will go into year 11 having already completed a major part of the Level 2 course - which is a first for Foundry College.

The course continues to have a practical focus and we are now planning and resourcing for additional Level 2 units ready for the new academic year. We also hope to increase the opportunities for off-site experiences and hope to reinstate trips to a local farm, where pupils will have the opportunity to put their skills into practice in a real working environment. We also hope to help some of those wishing to go into construction, pass their HS and E test – an essential first step in getting their CSCS card.

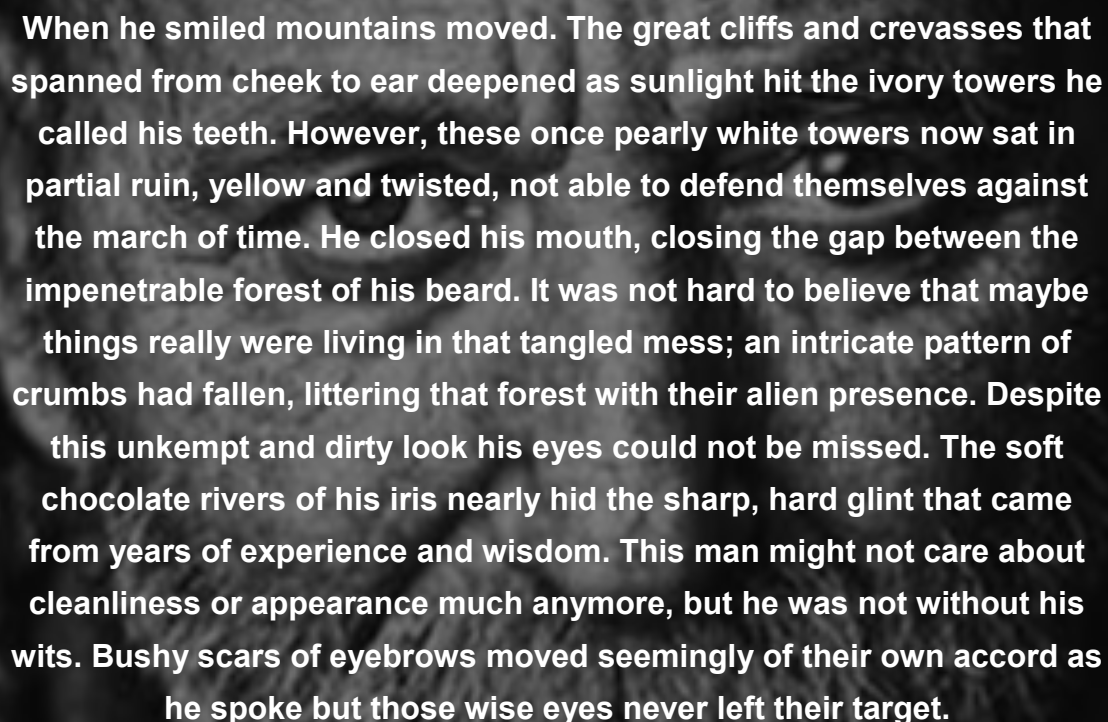
Press packing news in the English Department.

Summer term has been very much 'business as usual' in the English Department. During the first half of the term, our students continued to work hard whether they were on site or at home. It was during this half of the term that some of our students became dedicated Press Packers and had their work published in the Wokingham Times on a weekly basis.

Meanwhile, our Year 10s have been working diligently on their iGCSE coursework portfolios as well as preparing for end of year assessments.

We are very proud of our Year 11s and their mature approach to the 'unprecedented' circumstances that they found themselves in and the English Team wish them well as they move on to the next phase of their lives.

Two poems to follow by our very talented pupils.



When he smiled mountains moved. The great cliffs and crevasses that spanned from cheek to ear deepened as sunlight hit the ivory towers he called his teeth. However, these once pearly white towers now sat in partial ruin, yellow and twisted, not able to defend themselves against the march of time. He closed his mouth, closing the gap between the impenetrable forest of his beard. It was not hard to believe that maybe things really were living in that tangled mess; an intricate pattern of crumbs had fallen, littering that forest with their alien presence. Despite this unkempt and dirty look his eyes could not be missed. The soft chocolate rivers of his iris nearly hid the sharp, hard glint that came from years of experience and wisdom. This man might not care about cleanliness or appearance much anymore, but he was not without his wits. Bushy scars of eyebrows moved seemingly of their own accord as he spoke but those wise eyes never left their target.

HN



*The four walls I am enclosed in have ripped wall paper and scuffed paint
which was once a soft baby blue,
The cuckoo clock on the shelf strikes the hour two.
The neglected walls gradually turn see through.
I see happy people; I recognise the faces but cannot make out who.
I reach out to have a clearer view,
I scream for them to help me to the other side.
They begin to walk away and my heart breaks a little inside.*

*The cuckoo bird returns inside the clock; a tear falls from its eyes and its
cuckoo song abruptly stops.
Time goes by and it is now 5 o'clock.
Again, the cuckoo bird appears from its clock.
The walls are clearer than before and sitting on the other side of the wall is
my childhood self playing with the cuckoo clock on the shelf.
I try and get my attention but the little girl begins to cry.
The walls turn black in front of my eyes.
'Cuckoo, cuckoo' it begins to cry; sad little bird because its broken call will
never be heard.
Someone free it from the clock and let the sweet little bird reunite with its flock.*

L.I.F.E.

Learning Information for Future Events



My name is Harley Day.

I am in year 10 and I will be 15 in two days time.

During lock down I have attended multiple life lessons with Vicky and as part of the subject we have been watching various short films by an award winning company called Million Youth Media.

The actors are quite young, multi cultural. They present themselves as youths and it makes me feel like they are part of my generation and they understand the effect the lock down has on people like me. The film is in three parts and is called "exposed"; the first film was made a fortnight before lock down. They went through great efforts to create such a good film entirely during lock down and isolation. The cast and film makers followed all the procedures of isolation. The film was made in the space of four weeks.

Episode 1 was about problems on social media. The main characters were Rico, Amy, Joey, Ola and a girl called Liv. Rico, Joey and Ola were all mates and in episode 1 they overcame their problems.

Episode 2 and 3 were actually made in lock down and isolation. These episodes showed problems that may occur during these times. It also showed that everyone was in the same boat. Some of the characters were showing signs of being caring others were showing selfishness and their mental state was falling apart.

If you want to watch these relevant films go to MYM and type in exposed. I would recommend these films as a good watch as well as having a educational side.

My name is Harvey Stoner, I am 12 years old and in year 8.

I am the newest pupil to join foundry college. I started at Foundry College in February, my days were from 9 till 1 every day, I did English maths food and occupational studies my favourite lesson was food because it was a practical subject. I can concentrate more in lessons were i do things i enjoy.

When I first started i felt happy that I was in a school that would help me. I knew some of the people here and this helped me a lot. My hours increased in June which meant I could do more of the things I enjoy at Foundry. my mum was happy that my hours increased and so was i.

I like being at Foundry because you learn a lot in lessons. staff and pupils are nice and they help you out when you are not feeling up to it. the staff don't shout, I think they are alright. Foundry gives me lots of opportunities like brick laying, plumbing, woodwork and cooking food. maths and science are OK and i like English.

Our free time at Foundry is nice and chilled out, we all feel trusted.

My teacher asked if there is anything I would change about Foundry and i said no.

I have worked out when to stop misbehaving I have learned how to be respectful to others and have also learned I have to respect others the same way I want to be respected.

During lock down Foundry has been supportive, aware and careful. I shall miss foundry when i move onto another school and I hope they will miss me too.

What's happening in Primary?

Well – it's been a strange Summer Term, one the Primary staff and pupils will remember. We have been adjusting to new norm and to not having a wonderful Mrs Eighteen, who has been shielding at home. However, she has been keeping in touch by joining us for lessons on Microsoft Teams. She has organised quizzes and phonics lessons which the boys have enjoyed and been really busy with a number of projects, as well as ensuring those pupils shielding at home are provided with Home Learning each week. Well done Mrs Eighteen – you have been doing a fab job and we are looking forward to you coming back in the new school term – the Team are getting back together!



The Primary teaching team have been amazing – thank you to Amy Beckwith Verity, from the Primary Outreach Team, for supporting our pupils through this interesting time and to all the other members of staff who have worked with our Primary pupils. You have all been amazing and we could not have done it without you. Thank you Mickie for your jokes – the boys love chatting to you and sharing their latest jokes.

The pupils have been resilient – working hard and rising to the challenge each day. We are immensely proud of how they have responded to the many handwashing demands and social distancing guidance. We are all used to the different daily routines that are to be with us for some time!



For the last part of the Summer term, the pupils were asked what project they would like to study and unanimously they chose The Vikings. I was secretly delighted as it has been a long time since I have taught this topic. The boys have enjoyed finding out about how and why The Vikings invaded Britain and the influence on Great Britain and other countries around the world. And of course there is the Marvel link – Thor being one of our learning target characters. We have learnt about Viking life; created helmets and shields; written sentences and messages in 'runes'; decoded 'runes' maths problems; learnt about Gods and Goddesses and Norse legends.



During the Summer term we said goodbye to Logan, who started at his new school placement and we hope he has settled in well! We are also saying goodbye and good luck to Nicholas, who has been with us for over a year and we are so excited for him starting at his new School in September. We are going to miss you Nicholas and hope that you will keep in touch and updated on your progress.

September is going to be a fresh new start in so many ways. A new School year and newly refurbished classrooms! The Primary team are excited about getting them ready for learning in September. Have a great Summer break and stay well!

"This term we have been learning about the Vikings. We learnt how the Vikings invaded and settled in Britain; we researched where they come from and why they invaded Britain. We looked at Viking life, longboats and longhouses and looked at their language, we learnt about Sagas and different aspects of Viking beliefs."



Primary

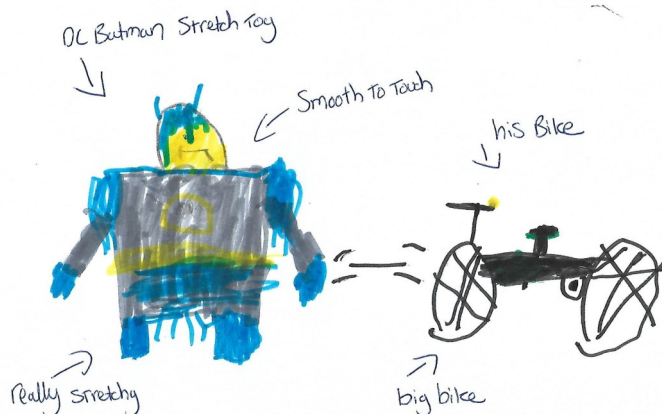
Keeping our children home learning
through lockdown.



Home learning challenge: Researching Stonehenge
and building a model.

By Nicholas Jones

Williams Two favourite toys 14/2/20



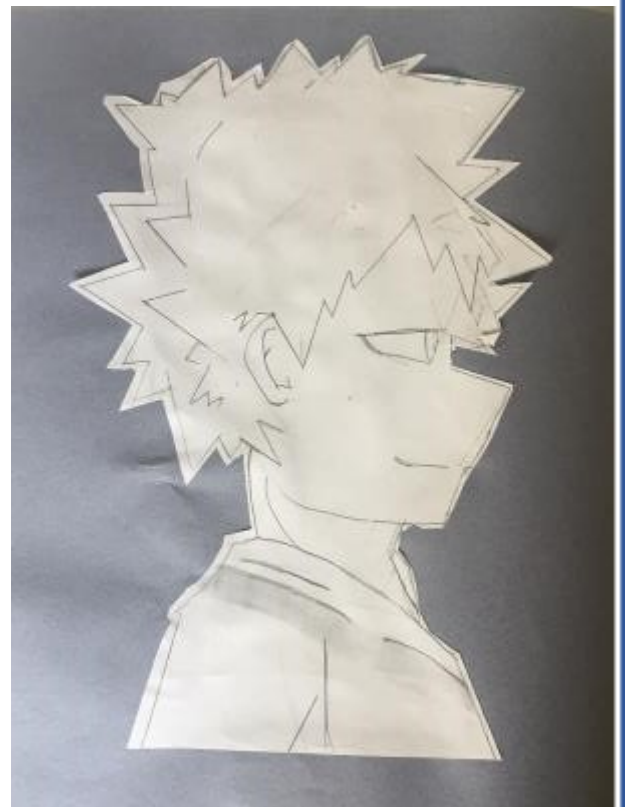
My favourite toy, Batman and my 'Big' bike.

Toy topic. By William Morgan.



A fabulous picture of Big Ben.

By William Morgan



An amazing pencil drawing of action hero
Katsuki Bakugou.

By Tyler Patrick-East



Home learning,
school lessons,
team meetings..



Science in Primary

William has been doing a super job in his role as 'Plant Scientist'. He was given the mission by the primary team to grow his own sunflower, starting only with some seeds. He has been learning all about how plants grow and what they need to be healthy with his family. Look how much his sunflower has grown! Well done William!



Welcome to the Primary Team

Mr Hammerstone!



Hi, my name is Stephen and in February of 2020 I was lucky enough to join and be a part of the Foundry family. I was previously employed at All Saints Primary School, just across the road from Foundry college, for 5 years working with an amazing bunch of children and adults. I am a local lad at heart, I went to primary school in Binfield before attending St Crispin's Secondary School in Wokingham. From there I headed off to Universities in Bangor and Cardiff to study health and social care with the goal of becoming a social worker. But on returning home after my studies I stumbled into a whole new profession, working in education. Working with children can be challenging at times but it is also extremely rewarding. There is nothing greater in life than watching a child achieve and grow in confidence.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, watching movies and listening to Music. I am an avid supporter of Arsenal football club (C'mon you gunners) and I enjoy watching and playing rugby.

I am extremely lucky to be working in such an amazing setting and with such a great team and I'm looking forward to achieving Jay's goal of Foundry world domination.

Time Capsule

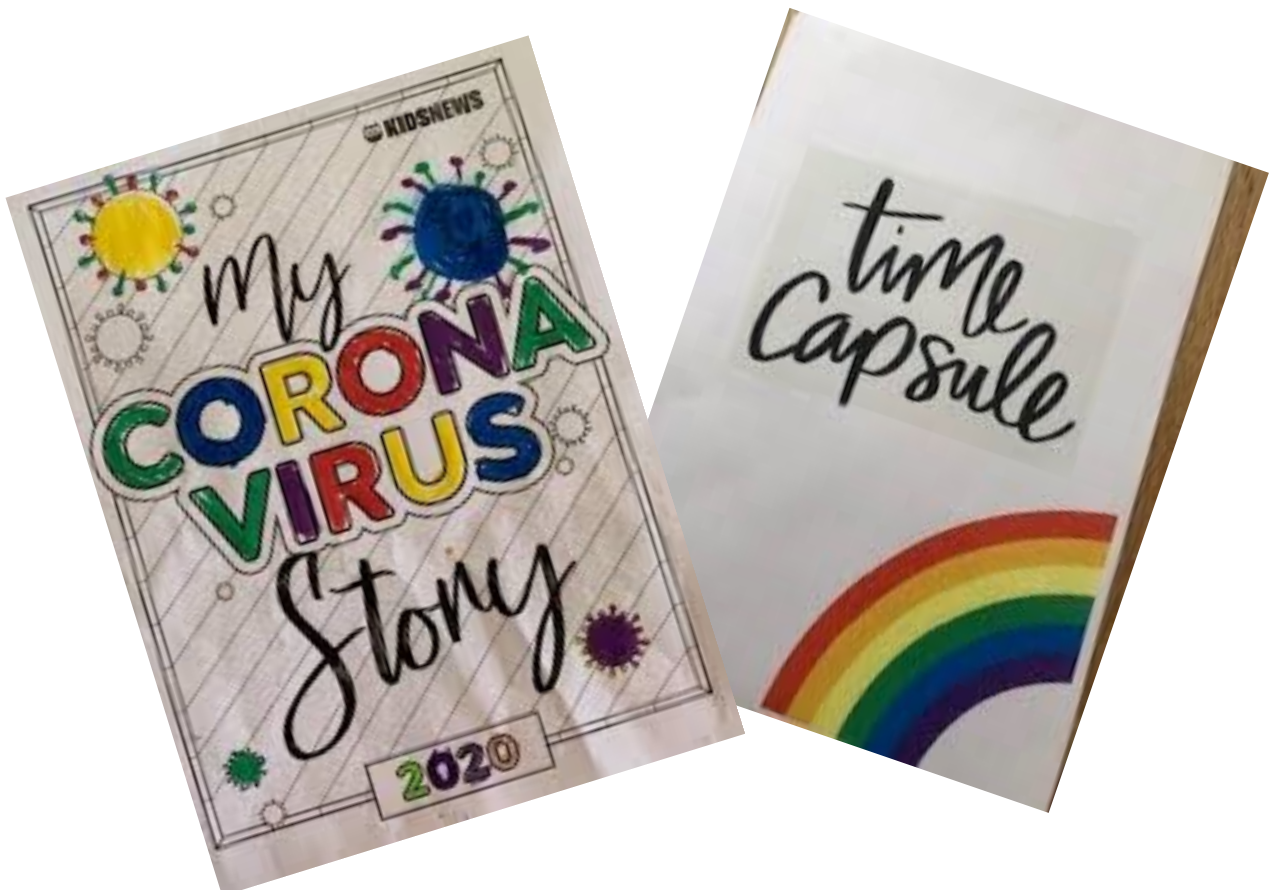
During 2020 the world faced the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its effects on the school, the community, the country and, in fact, the entire world were huge.

At Foundry College we recognise that we are living through a period that will one day be taught in history lessons!

Our current Foundry cohort will always be remembered for how they managed to continue with their education during these challenging times.

To commemorate this, we are planning to make a time capsule, during the summer break please think of items that could be placed in the capsule for future discovery.

We feel it is an important time to keep a record of what has happened in order for future students to learn and reflect on this time in history.



Work Experience 2020

We were lucky this year that we managed to complete our weeks work experience during the first week of March (Monday 2nd – Friday 6th), before Covid-19 took its full effect. We had a record number of pupils participate from year 10 and 11, which was incredibly successful. This year we had 22 pupils participating in a range of industries; we are very thankful to the placements for offering their time and services to support our young people in helping them gain an understanding of the ‘real world’.

There was an overwhelmingly positive feedback response from pupils to the opportunities they were given. The majority agreed they were satisfied and learnt a lot from their placements which has helped prepare them for the future ‘world of work’.

Placements we need to give a massive thank you to are;

Placement	Industry
Berkshire Motor Works	Mechanics
Bearwood Lakes	Landscape & Gardening
Berkshire Drains	Drainage & Plumbing
Cardiac Locksmiths	Engineering & Installations
Chalke Ltd	Construction
Cooper BMW Reading	Mechanics
Hortons Heating & Bathroom	Plumbing
Kajo Hair Salon	Hair & Beauty
Leighton Park School	Maintenance
Meadow Nursery School	Childcare & Education
Pets at Home – Winnersh & Wokingham	Retail
Reading Buses	Mechanics
Reading Climbing Centre	Sports
Reading Football Club	Sports
Rotec Cycles	Bike maintenance
Seat Reading	Administration & Sales
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Childcare & Education
The Colourhouse Ascot	Hair & Beauty
The White Horse	Catering & Hospitality
Trilogy	Hair & Beauty
Wellington Country Park	Landscape & Gardening
Wheatfield Primary School	Childcare & Education

Going forward we look to slightly change the style of work experience, with it being adapted to ‘extended’ placements. This will have our pupils participating in work experience 1 day a week for a set period of 6 or 8 weeks throughout the school year.

In order to keep the success of work experience going forward please do let us know whether you would be able to support us in providing a placement to our year 10 or 11 pupils either them attending in person or virtually.



We are in this
together.

And together we will
beat this.

With love and
Support,

Foundry College

xxx

THANK YOU NHS!



TERM DATES 2020 – 2021

Autumn Term 2020

Tuesday 1st September 2020 - Friday 23rd October 2020

Half Term

Monday 26 October 2020 - Friday 30 October 2020

Monday 2 November 2020 – Friday 18 December 2020*

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4 January 2021 - Friday 12 February 2021

Half Term

Monday 15 February 2021 - Friday 19 February 2021

Monday 22 February 2021 – Thursday 1 April 2021*

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19 April 2021 - Friday 28 May 2021

May Bank Holiday - Monday 3 May 2021 - College Closed

Half Term

Monday 31 May 2021 - Friday 4 June 2021

Monday 7 June 2021 – Wednesday 21 July 2021*

* College finishes at 12.30pm on last day of term

Inset Days (College closed to pupils)

- Tuesday 1st September 2020
- Monday 2nd November 2020
- Friday 18th December 2020
- Monday 4th January 2021
- Wednesday 21st July 2021