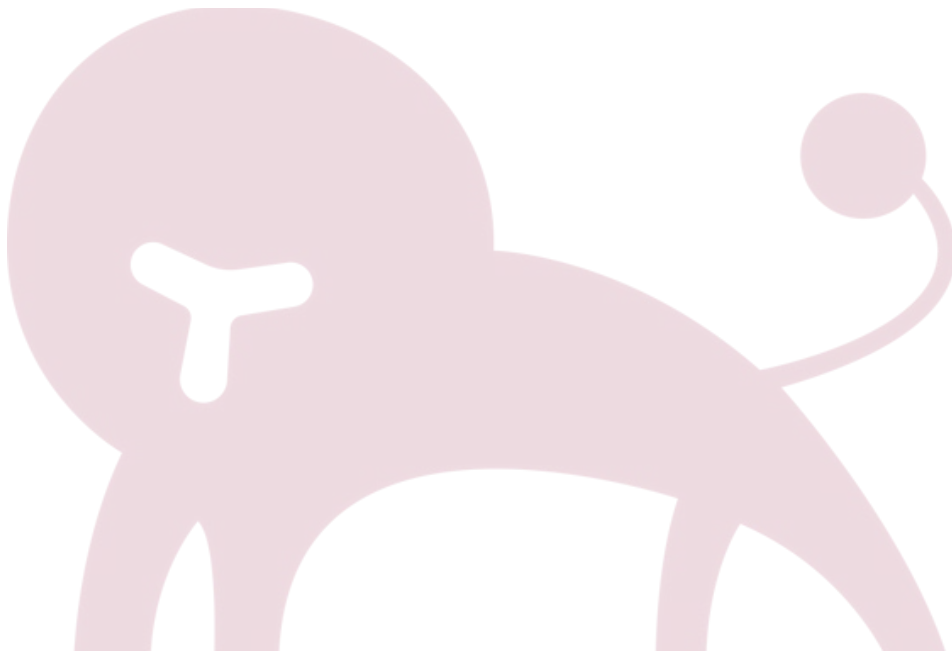




ST MARK'S ACADEMY

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026



LOVE + HOPE + TRUST

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As we reach the end of another academic year I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our students, staff, parents and carers for the commitment, encouragement and support that have made this such a successful year.

Looking back over the past year, there is so much to celebrate. From academic achievements and outstanding examination preparations to sporting success, creative performances, leadership opportunities and community engagement. Our students have embraced challenges with determination, resilience and a willingness to support one another. Every success, whether large or small, reflects the hard work and dedication of our whole school community.

One of the greatest privileges of being Headteacher is witnessing the remarkable growth and transformation of our students. Throughout the year, I have seen young people develop in confidence, maturity and character. Students have discovered new strengths, overcome challenges and grown into compassionate, thoughtful and ambitious individuals. Watching students flourish both academically and personally is a constant reminder of why education is such a rewarding profession.

Our school values of **love, hope and trust** continue to guide everything we do. We see love reflected in the kindness, respect and care our students show one another and the wider community. Hope inspires us to believe in every student's potential, encouraging them to aim high and persevere through challenges and embrace opportunities for growth. Trust underpins the strong relationships between students, staff and families, creating a community where everyone feels valued, supported and empowered to succeed.

I would like to thank our exceptional staff, whose dedication, expertise and unwavering commitment make such a profound difference to the lives of our young people every day. My thanks also go to our parents and carers for your continued partnership and support. By working together, we provide the strong foundations our students need to thrive.

To our Year 11 and Year 13 students, as you move on to the next stage of your journey, know that we are immensely proud of all you have achieved. You leave with not only qualifications but also the values, experiences and character that will serve you well in the future. We hope you carry with you the principles of love, hope and trust, and we wish you every success and happiness in the exciting opportunities ahead.

As the summer holidays begin, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. Thank you for making this another memorable year. It has been a privilege to share in your journeys, celebrate your achievements and watch you grow into the remarkable young people you are becoming.

I look forward to welcoming many of you back in September for another year of learning, ambition and opportunity. Until then, have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer.

Yours Faithfully,

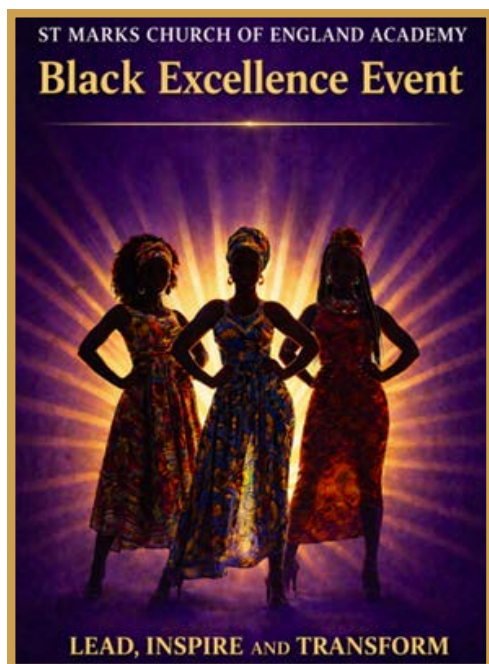
Aimee Gallagher
Headteacher





A vibrant week celebrating the diverse cultures within our school community. Students enjoyed food, music, dance, and storytelling from around the world.





Celebrating Black Excellence

St Mark's was proud to hold this year's Black Excellence Event, an evening dedicated to recognising and celebrating the achievements of inspirational Black women who continue to make a significant difference within our community.

A particular highlight of the evening was welcoming internationally acclaimed artist Dave, a former St Mark's student, who attended to celebrate an incredibly special moment as his mother, Juliet Omoregie, received the prestigious **Inspirational Woman of the Year Award**.

It was a proud moment not only for their family but also for the wider St Mark's community, seeing one of our former students return to celebrate such a deserving achievement.

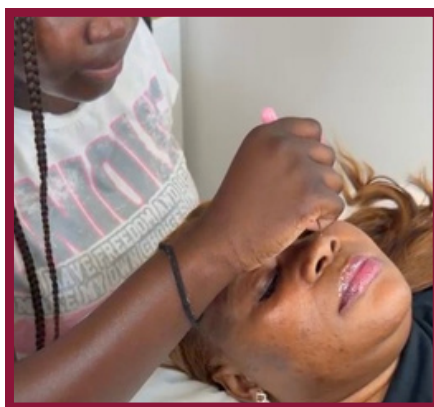


The evening celebrated the inspiring contributions of women across our community, recognising their resilience, leadership and dedication. Through moving speeches and performances, the event highlighted the importance of celebrating those who create positive change.

Events like these reflect the values we uphold at St Mark's, encouraging our students to celebrate diversity, strive for excellence and recognise the positive impact individuals can have in their communities.



Our Year 10 students gained valuable hands-on experience across a range of industries — from hairdressing to hospitality and the creative arts. A fantastic opportunity to explore future career paths!





Saying Goodbye to Year 13



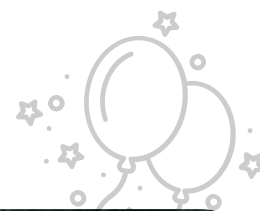
This was the Year 13 Leavers assembly!

Two incredible years of students who are driven, motivated and inspiring. There have been many challenges but students have risen above this. This is what transformation looks like! Creating history, the 2026 cohort is the first to be successful in obtaining offers from both **Oxford** and **Cambridge**.

Best wishes to our wonderful Year 13's!



A Night to Remember – Year 11 Prom



Following months of dedication, perseverance and hard work preparing for their GCSE examinations, our Year 11 students were able to celebrate the end of their secondary school journey in style at this year's Prom.

The evening was truly one to remember. Students arrived looking fantastic, creating a wonderful atmosphere as they celebrated alongside friends and staff who have supported them throughout the last five years. There was plenty of laughter, music, dancing and memorable moments as everyone reflected on the friendships they have built and the challenges they have overcome together.

Prom provided the perfect opportunity for students to relax after an intense examination period and mark the end of an important chapter in their lives. It was a fitting celebration of all they have achieved, and we are incredibly proud of the resilience, maturity and determination they have shown throughout the year. Year 11's Voted Nathan Macuiza and Zoe Airey as this year's prom king and queen.

We wish every member of Year 11 the very best as they move on to the next stage of their education and look forward to hearing about their future successes.



Year 12 Thailand Trip



In June, Year 12 embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime cultural trip to Thailand. Students explored Bangkok's iconic Wat Arun temple, shopped at MBK, visited an elephant sanctuary via the floating markets, and immersed themselves in school life at Wat Mei Songtham — experiencing Thai boxing, language lessons and Buddhist traditions.

They also volunteered at the Good Shepherd Orphanage, giving back to the local community. The trip built cultural capital, developed independence and created lasting memories.



We are incredibly proud of the exemplary behaviour our students demonstrated throughout the trip. They were outstanding ambassadors for St Mark's — polite, respectful and engaged at every venue. Their maturity, kindness and willingness to embrace new experiences made this trip a true success.



D of E Expedition



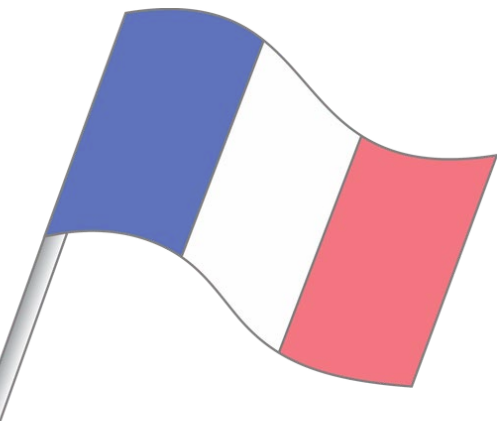
Our students completed their **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh** expedition, navigating trails and camping overnight. A fantastic achievement!

Well done to everyone who took part — your resilience and teamwork were outstanding.





Paris Trip



Paris Adventure 2026

Students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Paris, packed with culture and excitement.

Highlights included exploring the Louvre, wandering Montmartre, cruising the Seine, taking in views from the Eiffel Tower, and a thrilling day at Disneyland Paris.

Students were excellent ambassadors for the school throughout — a fantastic experience they'll remember for years to come.





MFL



"I loved the dramatisation it was amazing. So funny. They are wonderful actors."

-Afia 8A



From the Classroom to the Stage

Years 8 and 9 enjoyed a visit from Onatti Productions, who performed an engaging, interactive French play. Students followed the storyline with confidence, joined in enthusiastically and brought their language learning to life.

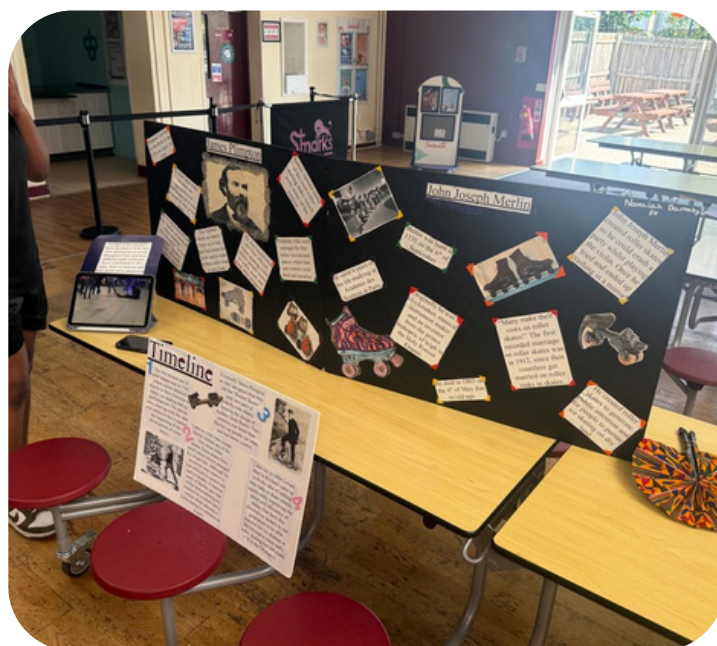
Spanish Theatre Performance

Year 8 and 9 also enjoyed a lively Spanish theatre performance that encouraged participation, boosted confidence and made language learning fun and memorable.



It has been another fantastic term for our **High Potential Achievers (HPA)**, with students taking part in a wide range of enriching opportunities.

A highlight was our **Year 8 Passion Project Showcase**, where students presented extended projects based on areas of academic interest. Projects ranged from original music compositions and artwork to coding, sewing, and in-depth research. The showcase celebrated creativity, originality, and independent learning.





Alongside the Passion Project, students have enjoyed a number of exciting workshops and educational visits. Year 7 and 8 students developed their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills through an engaging **Axiom Maths Workshop**. Year 7 students deepened their knowledge of the French language through a performance of **Shipwrecked en France**, bringing their classroom learning to life. Year 10 students strengthened their communication, critical thinking and public speaking skills during a **Debating Workshop**, while Year 9 students enjoyed a **live performance of Romeo and Juliet**, enhancing their understanding of Shakespeare's work.



Students in Year 7 also had the opportunity to experience a **Forensic Science Workshop**, applying scientific knowledge to investigate realistic crime scene scenarios and gaining insight into STEM careers.

Finally, we are incredibly proud of our Year 9 students who graduated from **The Brilliant Club** after completing a university-style programme. Working alongside PhD tutors, students developed their academic writing, research and critical thinking skills before graduating in a special ceremony – an outstanding achievement that reflects their hard work and commitment.

These opportunities continue to support our HPA students in developing the qualities we value most: academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, creativity, leadership, cultural awareness and aspiration, helping them to realise their God-given potential both in and beyond the classroom.



A Brilliant Year with Axiom Maths

Axiom Maths is a programme that builds confidence, resilience and problem-solving skills. This year we expanded to two cohorts: Year 8 with Ms Okereke and a new Year 7 group with mentor Ryan O'Neill. Both came together for a joint Maths Circle, tackling challenging problems collaboratively

Throughout the year, our Axiom students enjoyed a range of exciting opportunities:



Case Study & Wider Impact

St Mark's was selected as an Axiom case study school: axiommaths.com/case-study/st-marks-academy/

Supporting Wider Enrichment

The bursary provided through the Axiom Maths programme has also supported opportunities beyond the Maths Circles, helping to fund:

- Year 8 trips to the Design Museum (STEM & sustainability)
- Year 9 Careers Week with Medical Mavericks
- New hands-on resources for the Maths Department

Looking Ahead

We look forward to welcoming a new Year 7 cohort and growing the Axiom Maths family at St Mark's!



Our EAL department supports around 50 students through in-class and intervention sessions. The **SMART** Provision offers Year 11 newcomers a bespoke timetable to access GCSEs with specialist teaching, serving students from aspiring medics to those new to formal education.



Refugee Week (15-19 June 2026)

St Mark's hosted a Merton Schools Refugee Celebration Event with students from Ricards Lodge, Raynes Park, Wimbledon College and Ursuline. The event featured interactive quizzes, cultural performances including a piano recital by Ethan Bwija, and explored the theme 'Community as a Superpower.'

Partnership with King's College London

Year 12 students from King's College Wimbledon delivered weekly English lessons to our EAL learners, boosting confidence and communication skills. This partnership continues next year.



Theatre & Drama Workshops

SMART students took part in drama workshops with the Attic Theatre Company, developing interview skills, confidence and self-esteem through creative expression.

End-of-Term Celebrations

Year 11 and 12 SMART students enjoyed a farewell week including a drama production, a trip to West Wittering Beach, and a heartfelt leaving assembly with awards and shirt-signing.





Year 7 — Olympic Park

Year 7 spent the day at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, taking part in a range of activities and enjoying the world-class facilities.

Year 8 — Littlehampton Beach

Year 8 headed to Littlehampton Beach for a day of outdoor activities, teamwork challenges and fun by the sea.

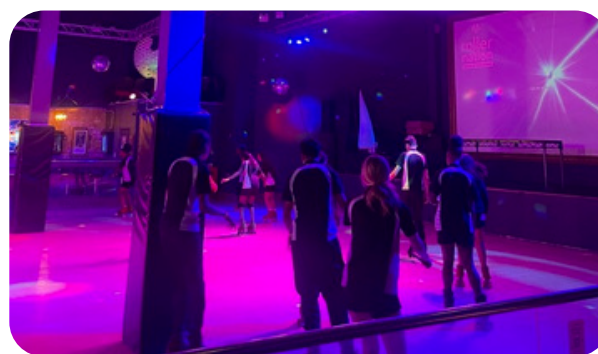


Year 9 — Go Ape

Year 9 spent the day at Go Ape, taking on treetop challenges and pushing themselves outside their comfort zones.

Year 10 — Roller Nation

Year 10 enjoyed a lively session at Roller Nation, spending the day skating, laughing and bonding as a year group.



Year 12 — Madame Tussauds

Year 12 visited Madame Tussauds for a fun and relaxed day out, exploring the exhibitions together.



This summer term has been impressive and there has been lots of achievements made by lots of students.



YEAR 7 CHAMPIONS OF MERTON!

We won the year 7 Borough Athletics which every participant won a medal, which included Joshua and Olivia broke records in our discus both throwing over 20 meters and we also had Tami and Milan also breaking records in the 100m!



Y7, 8 and 9 girls with a **6-0 win** vs Harris Morden !



The Merton Borough Athletics Championships, was **RAINING MEDALS FOR ST MARK'S!**



CHAMPIONS!

Our 6th form boys win 3-1 vs Richmond Park in the final of the London Small Sided Football Cup!





850



950



650



The St Mark's House System is Underway!

We are delighted to announce that the new St Mark's House System is now officially up and running, bringing an exciting new dimension to school life and creating even more opportunities for students to work together, demonstrate our school values and earn recognition for their achievements.

After students cast their votes, three houses were selected to represent our school community: **David, Deborah and Joseph**. Each house represents outstanding examples of courage, leadership, faith and perseverance—qualities we hope every student will embody throughout their time at St Mark's.

Since its launch, students have enthusiastically embraced the house system, earning points through excellent behaviour, attendance, academic achievement, participation and demonstrating our school values. Friendly competition has already begun to build excitement across the school, with students proudly representing their houses.

There is still everything to play for, as Sports Day will provide the final opportunity for students to earn valuable house points before the inaugural House Champions are crowned. We look forward to an exciting finale and can't wait to see which house will lift the trophy in this first year of our new tradition.



Global Learning in Action!

St Mark's has partnered with Oakhill International School, Ghana on a Year 8 cross-curricular project exploring how climate change affects cocoa production. Students will collaborate with Ghanaian peers to examine environmental, economic and social challenges — supporting our work towards the British Council International School Award.



Wimbledon 2026

Students attended the Quarter Finals of the Wimbledon Championships — a memorable day of world-class tennis!

Year 12 Students at Exeter Residential

A fantastic opportunity provided through the Elephant Group, giving Year 12 students a taste of university life.



Absence and Penalty Notices

Term-time absences are not authorised except in exceptional circumstances. Penalty notices may be issued for unauthorised absences. Please read our Attendance Policy at stmarks.anthemtrust.uk

Class of 2026/27!

We are delighted to welcome our new Year 7 class of 2026! After transition interviews and a successful transition day, we can't wait to have them join the St Mark's family in September.



Summer Holidays – No Excuses, Take Your Reading With You!

Summer holidays are not an excuse to stop reading and in fact what can be more relaxing than to read your favourite novel or explore a new book whilst on holiday. Well, you can with SORA – the reading app.

Downloading and using SORA will give you access to comics, books and magazines that you can search and, once downloaded, will be available for you to read off-line.



Ways to Login at school:

- Go to: www.soraapp.com , search for **St Marks Church of England Academy**
- Log in using your school email: e.g. 22NAME@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk and password OR once you have signed in to the desktop or laptop click on...

[Anthem - Launchpad](#)



Learning Launchpad

And then...

<https://soraapp.com/library/tlcschools>



Sora E-Books (SMA)

The Libraries Consortium E-Book reading collection

From Home:

Download the App on your devices

- iOS 10+: (iPhone/iPad) Apple App Store
- Android 5.0+: Google Play Store

Also available on Amazon Fire tablet



KEY DATES & CALENDAR



September

Wednesday 2nd

INSET DAY

Thursday 3rd

First Day of Academic Year
(Year 7 and Year 12)

Friday 4th

Whole School Return

Thursday 10th

School Photos - Year 7/ Year 9
and Year 12

Tuesday 15th, 23rd, 29th

Year 7 Open Morning

October

Tuesday 6th

Year 7 Open Morning

Thursday 8th

Sixth Form Open Evening

Monday 19th - Friday 30th

HALF TERM BREAK (School
Closed)

November

Wednesday 18th

Year 7-11 Flu Vaccine

Inset Days		Holiday		Bank holiday		No. of Teaching Days	
September 2026 (20 +1 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36		1	2	3	4	5	6
37	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
38	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
39	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
40	28	29	30				

October 2026 (12 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40				1	2	3	4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31	

October 2026 (12 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40				1	2	3	4
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
44	26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026 (21 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44							1
45	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
46	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
47	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
48	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
49	30						

December 2026 (14 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49		1	2	3	4	5	6
50	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
51	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
52	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
53	28	29	30	31			

January 2027 (19 +1 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
53					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027 (15 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027 (19 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
12	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
13	29	30	31				

April 2027 (15 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
13				1	2	3	4
14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027 (19 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
17						1	2
18	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
22	31						

June 2027 (18 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22		1	2	3	4	5	6
23	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
24	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	28	29	30				

July 2027 (16 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26				1	2	3	4
27	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2027 (0 days)							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
30							1
31	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
33	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
34	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
35	30	31					

Bank holidays 2026/27 UK

25 December '26	Christmas Day	1 January '27	New Year's Day	3 May '27	Early May Bank Holiday
26 December '26	Boxing Day	26 March '27	Good Friday	31 May '27	Spring Bank Holiday
28 December '26	Substitute day	29 March '27	Easter Monday	30 August '27	August Bank Holiday

See You Next
Academic Year

