

WARBLINGTON SCHOOL

Dear families

As we reach May Half term, and what looks to be one with great weather ahead, here comes this half term's update. As I try to do each time, there is a summary of the update at the start and a 'page for the 'fridge' at the end to allow you to print key reminders and deadlines out as a keepsake!

Here is a summary of the contents of this update:

Year 11 exams ongoing – final exam 17 June; Leavers' Assembly same day; Prom 25 June; Results Day 20 August. There are some **revision sessions over half term** which students are welcome to attend.

Year 10 – Work Experience praised; PPE exams begin weeks of 15 and 22 June.

Attendance concerns – currently 2% below national; holidays and appointments impacting; new illness evidence rule from Sept 2026.

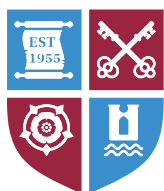
Uniform expectations remain unchanged – piercings and hair rules still apply but a series of student voice conferences over the summer term will debate the current rules as well as consider the new no mobiles on school site ruling.

New school shop – students expected to purchase missing equipment; small Arbor balance recommended.

Communications a continued focus – two new admin staff and changes to phone systems.

Key dates and reminders – included at the end (printable section).

Plus, two hot off the press announcements regarding students invited to Houses of Parliament and Warblington highlighted numerous times in a new Hampshire publication on Inclusive Practice!



Year 11 Examinations

GCSE Exam season is in full flow now and we have been so proud of the attitude and diligence the year 11 students have shown. Many have come out feeling the papers have been fair and some have even said they felt good! Ultimately, that's part of the goal – we know that if students feel good and are well prepared going into the exam room, they are far more likely to perform better. The timetable for all remaining examinations can be found below.

GCSE Calendar

There are some in person and online revision sessions happening over the half term break. These have been shared directly with Year 11 families and can also be seen below. Individual subjects have also shared specific revision activities with their classes via their subject Teams.

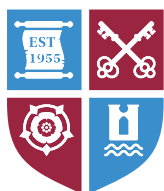
Tuesday 26th May: English (In School) 10:00am-12:00pm

Geography (Online) 9:00am-12:00pm

Thursday 28th May: Maths (In School) 10:00am- 12:00pm

Once the students return from the half term break, they will gradually start to see their time physically in school reduced. This will differ for different groups of students dependent upon which subjects they study, there is no set point at which they are on 'study leave'. The general rule of thumb is that they are still expected to be in school and attending lessons in subjects where they still have an exam to come. Please encourage your Year 11 students to check the daily post on their **Year 11 Student Team** for information for the day ahead, just as they have been for the last two weeks. The first week and a half after half term is still busy with exams so most students will find themselves in school for full days up until that point.





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The final exam takes place on the morning of **Weds 17th June**, which will be followed by the **Leavers Assembly** at 2pm in the afternoon. Students can attend this celebration in non-uniform and will be able to collect their leavers hoodies during the afternoon.

Our final celebration this side of the summer is the Prom, taking place on **Thursday 25th June** at the Village Hotel, Cosham. We are very much looking forward to this special event with our wonderful Year 11 students.

GCSE Results Day is **Thursday 20th August**. More information about the arrangements for the collection of GCSE results will follow after half term.

Year 10 Work Experience

After May Half Term, we welcome back Year 10 following their two weeks of Work Experience. Many have had a fantastic opportunity to experience 'real life' – whether that be with Oscar and Grace who helped out in school, to Charlie at Lillywhite Bros Ltd, and Bella at Butser Farm. Some celebrated quotes from the employers:

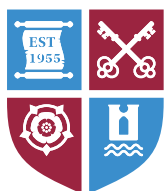
"Charlie has been engaging and pro-active, we've loved having him!"

"Anne is a real delight and really engaged in the placement, everyone working with her say how lovely she is. Excellent time keeping and attendance."

"Mia has been Fab! Her attendance is great, fantastic when working with children with SEND, (ages 2-4 years old)."

"Ashton has made a great impression here. When he is 16, he has been offered a job!"

Whilst we are aware some schools no longer offer the opportunity; we do feel that students do get a valuable experience from the two weeks and hope that we will continue on in the future. I would like to thank all the parents and carers of the year 10's who helped and supported the process and made it so successful.



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I would also like to thank all the staff that made it possible for some of our students to gain valuable work experience across the school. The feedback from staff and students has been lovely to hear.

Year 10 Exams

Year 10 will be starting their first set of PPEs as the GCSE examinations draw to a close. These will be taking place in the weeks beginning **Monday 15th** and **Monday 22nd June**. The timetable for this has already been shared with Year 10 families but is also available below. Students will receive a paper copy of this during their return to school assembly on **Monday 1st June**.

Year 10 PPE Timetable

Revision guidance has also been shared on Arbor and Teams, with advice from each subject area as to how best to prepare for these.

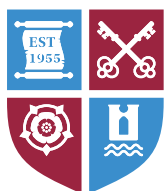
Mental Health Day

On Thursday 14th May, students and staff were encouraged to swap out an item of uniform for something that was green to support "Wear it Green" for Mental



Health Awareness Week 2026. This was the first event like this where we will take a house colour to support a national charity event across the year. Students were encouraged to bring in a £1 if they swapped an item of uniform to raise money to support mental health agencies. We know how much understanding about our mental health and our mental ill health can affect us and students

were encouraged to focus on strategies which can help in supporting a healthy mind in tutor time. Our Pastoral team continues to work with our children, alongside our PSHE curriculum, in understanding how the mind works and how to support ourselves when our mental health is causing us concerns.



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STEM-based Regional Finals

Hot off the press – Warblington School are off to the Houses of Parliament!

Massive congratulations to our 'Sentials' team of Year 8 students, as they have just heard that they have been awarded a 'wildcard entry' to the National Final of the '2026 Big Ideas Competition', to be held in the Palace of Westminster at the end of June. Amazing!

Our journey started with all of Year 8 having a bespoke 'Big Ideas Day', back in November 2025. From there, our School had fourteen teams to continue forward. Ten were entered into the School Finals, and two were chosen by the judges to represent



our school at the Regional Finals last week. 'Anti-squitoes' received a 'special commendation award', and 'Sentials' were runners-up on the day. And we have just heard from the nationwide-based judges that they have awarded seven wildcard entries to just five of the sixty-five teams that did not win their Regional Finals, so well done Sentials!

Teaching and Learning Visits

Following the success from our recent Ofsted inspection, our reputation for high quality teaching and learning standards has attracted yet more external visitors for the coming half term.



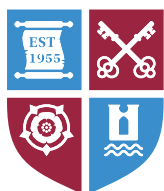
In the first week back, we are delighted to welcome Tina Harvey, a RISE advisor for the Government, whose aim is to find good examples of inclusive practice in mainstream schools in order to help prepare for the implementation of the new White Paper.

Respectful

Kind

Resilient

Ready



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The week after we will be welcoming Redbridge School, who have been recommended to visit us by Hampshire in order to discover how we have implemented our positive culture of teaching and learning for all.

These are exciting times and we are very proud to showcase our visible consistency throughout the school.

Years 5 and 6

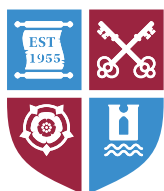
This week we welcomed Year 5 up for their Masterclass and we are almost through the visits to our local primaries to discuss the new year 6 intake, which, I am happy to report will be full again! We had some lovely comments from the staff, students and indeed the parents who attended these sessions.

This is critical to our progress as the numbers on roll do directly correlate to the funding we receive and the increase in numbers has allowed us to continue to broaden our curriculum with specialists. An alarming statistic I came across this week are that 72% of physics and RE teachers are non-specialists¹. I am delighted that we continue to be staffed by specialists in their subject areas and due to our strategic planning, have been able to maintain this for 2026/27.

AI in Education

Whilst many of us welcome the use of AI in improving productivity, we must also be aware of the risks it poses. This year was the first year we have been asked by the exam board to carry out an investigation into the use of AI – not in the exam itself as anyone working on controlled assessments in school have locked down machines with no internet access – but rather in the permitted notes they brought in and were then used in the assessment.

¹ Source: 'The Education Workforce in England Summary Report 2026' produced by the National Foundation for Educational Research

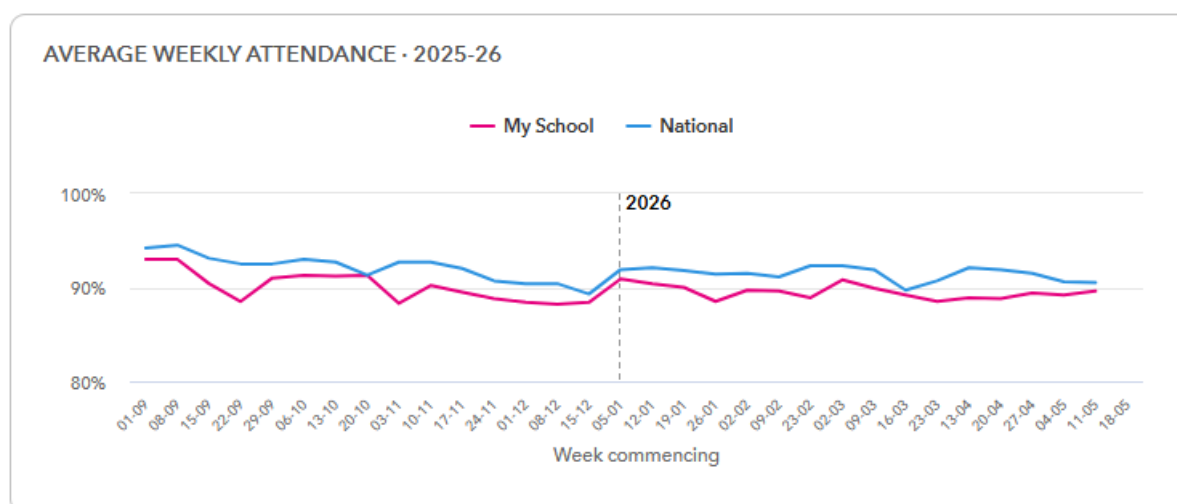


This will be a growing area and one we are aware of, but it is also worth bearing in mind that I attempted to use it to create a mark scheme for my Year 11 group and the result was that AI got a lot of it wrong! Having worked out the answers and then using the 'mark scheme' to check, I was doubting myself, but rescanning to a different AI agent resulted in a different answer (that matched mine!). It did serve as a good example that AI is not always right and as such needs to be used carefully.

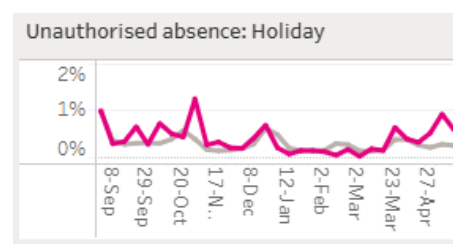
Attendance – Holidays

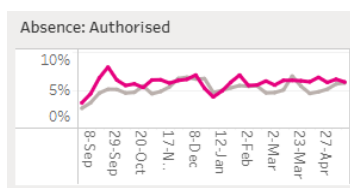
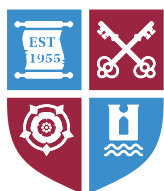
As a standard, I must update you with regards to attendance.

Our current average attendance for the year is 89.7%, with the national average being 91.7% - meaning we are 2% below national. The graph below shows this over the year so far:



One of the reasons we have noticed over the last week is due to holidays. So far this year we have had 726 sessions in which holidays were taken, (an increase of 156 sessions in 2024/25). This is one of the reasons we are under quite intense scrutiny from the DfE ensuring we are following policy.





Another area is around authorised absences mainly for medical appointments. So far this year we have lost 1017 sessions, which is 508.5 lost days of learning. 41.5% of this absence was in Year 10 alone.

As a reminder: please remember that if your child is not in school for their morning tutor mark or their afternoon 'STAR' mark due to any appointments they may have, they lose that session's attendance mark. Please try to book appointments between 9:30 and 12:00 or after 14:00 so that they retain their days attendance.

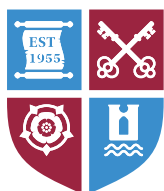
We have also noticed a disproportionate rise in absence due to illnesses before and after a school calendared break. **From September 2026, we have to ask for evidence of illness before we can authorise these absences.**

We do really need your help in ensuring the attendance as we head to the end of term is as good as possible, hopefully closing that gap to national. We believe we can get to 90% for the year, but it does need good levels of attendance in the next half term.

Uniform, Hair and Piercings

We know that the issue around uniform expectations is a battle that has existed for decades in schools and will continue to be. We also know that the issue can only be resolved with a co-ordinated effort between home and school. We do want to thank you for your support with the skirts. We have seen a significant improvement in the way these have been worn and appreciate those who have helped us in ensuring standards are met.

We do continue to have issues with piercings and hair colours. We really do not want to have to remove students from their timetabled lessons for these reasons, however our policy does state that students are only permitted to have one stud in each ear as a piercing and no 'unnatural' hair colour or extreme hair styles are permitted.



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As we did with eyelashes, student voice is being gathered around the current rules to decide if this should be changed from September 2026. At this stage however, there is no change to the policy and therefore the current rules will continue to be enforced.

It would be ideal if you could ensure your child either takes any additional piercings out prior to arriving at school or has a plaster / clear retainer in instead of the piercing. With hair colour, we will grant a day to either wash the dye out or re-dye, but otherwise students will be out of circulation until the natural colour returns.

Whilst this may seem extreme, it is important we uphold the rules in their current format. Should the student voice result in any changes, we will of course notify you to inform you.

Canteen Updates

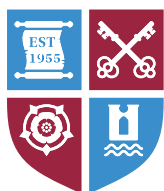
We are continuing to listen to the students' views and expanding our menu accordingly. The kitchen team are trying out new menu options regularly. This week it was Chicken Katsu Curry which proved to be a big hit with the students.

Over the half term we will be installing a screen in the main hall, and this will display the daily and weekly menu so that students now what to look forward to at mealtimes.

School Shop – Open for Business!

New venture, the school shop will be open for business after half term!

In order to ensure students are 'ready to learn' in the classroom, we have expanded items that are available to buy from the school shop. After half term if students do not have the correct equipment, they will be asked to go and buy the item from the school shop. We are asking parents to have a small balance (£5-£10) on their child's Arbor shop account, this will enable students to



purchase as and when they require a new pen, pencil etc. We will also accept a cash payment on the day. Single item prices are listed below, and small bundles are still available to purchase as listed on Arbor.

School Stationery Shop		HB Pencil	5p
Item	RRP	Rubber	20p
Pink Highlighter	55p	Ruler	10p
Green Highlighter	55p	Protractor	10p
White board pen	40p	Glue Stick	60p
Black Pen	30p	Calculator	£10.50
Green Pen	30p	Pencil case	£1

These can be collected from Mrs Kempton or Heads of House office throughout the day.

Communications

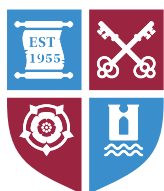
As promised, we have carried out some quite careful reviews of the current systems with the following issues:

The reception team deal with a very high volume of incoming calls, particularly during the morning peak. They are aware that some calls are dropping off or going unanswered, largely due to demand exceeding capacity at busy times.

A significant proportion of calls relate to:

- Student absences
- Forgotten equipment or kit.
- Minor parental queries that could potentially be dealt with via other routes

In addition to managing phone calls, reception staff are regularly dealing with:



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- Parents popping in, particularly during the first hour of the school day, often requiring extended conversations.
- Multiple competing demands simultaneously, which reduces their ability to prioritise phone calls effectively.

Whilst one solution may be to employ a second receptionist at busy times, this would not alleviate the problem of getting issues resolved since reception is often just the person who takes down and passes on information. Therefore, I am very pleased to announce two new members of staff to our admin team:

Kelsey Ma

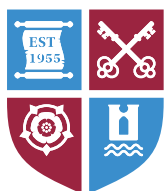
Kelsey is joining us having had experience in the role of external communications at a school in Portsmouth. Her aim is to ensure 'parents have a view of what's going on in school' and are kept up to date of upcoming events. She will become the new author of the newsletter, oversight of external communications, calendar co-ordinator, web editor and she can even drive the minibus!

Laura Celestine

Laura is re-joining us and will be admin to the Heads of House and we look to develop the house system further. Overtime, the option will be to direct your call straight through to Laura, reducing the volume of calls reception tackle, but also giving access to the pastoral areas of the school.

We will also be amending the options at the start of the call and ensuring that staff are available at peak times to answer queries more directly.

Whilst these changes will not be straight away, both are keen to get started and are looking forward to new challenges in their careers. I am confident they will become names you will be familiar with very soon!



KS3 PPEs

We would like to say a heartfelt well done to all our students for the way they have approached their Key Stage 3 PPE exams. They have truly embodied our school values—being **Ready** by approaching each exam with preparation and focus, **Respectful** in their attitude towards staff and the exam environment, **Kind** in the way they have supported and encouraged one another, and **Resilient** in managing the challenges that exams can bring. Their conduct has been exemplary throughout, and we are incredibly proud of them. Thank you also for your continued support at home, which plays such an important role in helping students succeed—we greatly appreciate it.

As part of our learning from this, we will be spending more time next year in teaching the students how to prepare well for these exams.

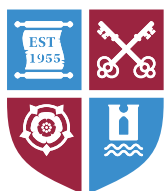
Options

Thank you to everyone who has handed in their option forms. We know many of you are now asking, *“What’s next?”*

Over the coming days, Mr Chate will be working through the option choices and allocating as many students as possible to their first preferences, while ensuring we adhere to the rules of the options process. Please don’t worry- if any issues arise with your child’s choices, we will be in contact with yourselves directly.

Where subjects are oversubscribed, we will explore different ways to manage this so that it does not adversely affect the majority of students. As a reminder, **Childcare, Business Studies, and Photography** remain particularly popular this year.

Once allocations have been finalised, Ms Uguen (Head of KS4), the curriculum leaders, and I will review all placements carefully. We aim to inform students of their confirmed option allocations in **late June / early July**.



And finally.

So, another great half term done and as the weather warms up, we look forward to a nice break as we prepare for the business of Summer Term 2! There will be a lot of information coming out ready for September 2026 when we need to be prepared for new legislation coming into effect:

- *Mobile phone free sites*
- *Caps on branded uniforms*
- *Updated Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE)*
- *New PSHE curriculum*
- *New Enrichment benchmarks introduced.*
- *Revisions to school performance measures*
- *Benedict's Law (Allergy Awareness) comes into force.*
- *Development of our inclusion strategy*
- *Development of minimum expectations of Home – School Partnerships*

On a final note, Hampshire released yesterday (21st May 2026) the latest of their good practice reviews. This one contained a number of quotes to share with you under the 'strong examples' sections:

"Warblington School, where leaders have established a high level of visible consistency in classroom expectations, resource presentation and checks for understanding, contributing to orderly, supportive learning environments."

"Warblington School show strong consistency in checks for understanding, using mini-whiteboards, choral response, thumbs up/down and structured questioning to adapt teaching in the moment."



SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS

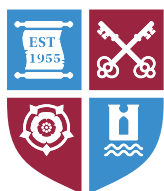
Good Practice Review

Supporting inclusion through ordinarily available provision

May 2026

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"At **Warblington School**, expectations for resource presentation ensure that lesson materials are accessible and cognitively manageable for all pupils."

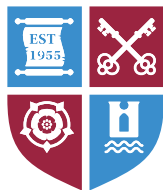
"**Warblington School** demonstrate effective Teaching Assistant deployment through focused training and alignment with classroom pedagogy, ensuring adult support builds independence rather than reliance."

"**Warblington School** drives visible consistency at classroom level through excellent leadership of teaching and learning aligned with tightly focused CPD, frequent pop-ins, and rapid, actionable feedback."

Something I thought you'd want to join us in celebrating!

I know I always say it but thank you as always for your support. Have a great half term and let's look forward to a great end to the school year... oh, and

Good Luck Year 11!



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Key Reminders

Complete the DfE survey around use of social media in under 16s. [Growing up in the online world: a national consultation - GOV.UK](#) They are particularly looking for fathers to take part in the survey having had less than 25% of the respondents from this demographic.



Download [next academic year calendar from Hampshire](#).

Our CPD Days next year are Tuesday 1st September 2026, Friday 27th November 2026, Monday 30th November 2026, Monday 4th January 2027 and Friday 2nd July 2027.

Attendance Marks: Try and book medical appointments around statutory attendance marks – morning registration (8:30 – 9:00) and STAR (13:40 – 14:00).

Note that from September 2026, we have to ask for evidence of illness before we can authorise these absences.

Microsoft Teams Use: Encourage your child to download Teams on their mobiles so they have access to help, support and information at hand. Notifications can be turned on and off.

Exam Timetables: Check you have access to the timetables and have them available. If your child is approaching year 10 PPEs, encourage those good habits now by doing 30-40 minutes revision each night.

Takeaways for the 'fridge

Key Dates for Summer Term 2

Date	Item	Year Groups
1 st June	First day back!	ALL
4 th June	New Forest Wildlife Park visit	7-10
4 th June (Period 1 only)	Chichester College Assembly	10
5 th June	Politely Rebellious "What is Love" Workshops	Selected students – Girls only
8 th June	Politely Rebellious "Aspirations" Seminar	All boys 7-10
11 th June	PA West End Trip Hamilton	7-10
w/c 15 th June	Sports Week Yr 10 PPEs Commence	7-10 10
17 th June	Life Lab Trip Year 11 Leaver's Assembly 13:45 to 14:45	8 11
22 nd June	HSDC Taster Day	10
24 th June	Life Lab Trip	8
25 th June	Sports Day Prom	7-10 11
26 th June	HPV Recall / Catchup	8-10
29 th June	Photography Trip	10
30 th June	Year 6 Transition Days	6
1 st July		
1 st July	City of Portsmouth College Taster	10
2 nd July	Space Centre Trip	10
3 rd July	Maths Legoland Trip	7-8
6 th July	Creativity Day	7-10
7 th July	Performing Arts Oscars	Invitation only
8 th July	Sports Awards	Invitation Only
9 th July	Creative and Technical Exhibition Festival of Speed Visit	Invitation Only TBC
10 th July	Race for Life	7-10
13 th July	Bletchley Park Trip (all day)	TBC
14 th July	Wisley Science Trip (all day)	TBC
15 th July	Year 10 PPE Results Assembly Marwell Zoo Childcare (all day)	10 10 Childcare students
17 th July	LAST DAY OF TERM 13:00 finish	

Respectful

Kind

Resilient

Ready