

Monday, 15 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are well as we head into the Christmas break. As the Autumn term draws to a close, it's time to reflect on a busy, successful and festive few weeks here at The Sittingbourne School. It has been a term full of dedication, achievement and community spirit. As always, don't forget to check out our Facebook page for regular updates on the busy life of The Sittingbourne School and its students.

End of Term Festivities

The last weeks have been packed with festive cheer and community fundraising here at The Sittingbourne School.

Last week's events included the following:

- **Christmas Fayre:** Our dedicated Sixth Form Business Studies students organised a wonderful Christmas Fayre last week, which was a huge success and managed to raise over £200 for charity.
- **Christmas Jumper Day:** Also last week, we saw a brilliant array of festive knits for Christmas Jumper Day, raising more money for a worthy cause.

This week we are looking forward to the following festive and celebratory activities:

- **Christmas Lunch:** This Wednesday our canteen team will be serving a delicious traditional Christmas lunch.
- **Rewards Assemblies:** On Thursday we will be holding our celebratory rewards assemblies, recognising student achievements and effort across all year groups.
- **Last day of term - non uniform day:** This Friday, the term ends at 12.50pm. Students are allowed to come into school in their own, appropriate clothes.

An Evening of Musical Talent

Thank you to everyone who attended our fantastic **Music Show** on Thursday, 11 December 2025. We were treated to a range of truly amazing performances from our talented students. Well done to everyone who took to the stage to wow the crowd. You were amazing!

A huge thank you must go to our dedicated staff who made the evening possible: Mr Atkins, Mr Deighton, Mrs Charles-Khan, Dr Watson, Miss Price and Miss Twena. A great time was had by everyone in the audience, including me.

Year 11 & 13 Mocks

We are incredibly proud of the excellent attendance and effort shown by our Year 11 and Year 13 students throughout their recent mock examinations. This hard work is fantastic preparation for the final GCSE, BTEC and A Level exams next summer. Please encourage them to maintain this momentum. The next set of mock examinations will take place in March. Well done and keep up the great work!

Careers

It has been a busy term for the Careers Team, from supporting Year 11s with their post-16 applications to preparing Years 10 and 12 for their upcoming work experience. We were also delighted to welcome

industry guests for our Sixth Form Taster Day and hosted an interactive visit from BBC Bitesize Careers for Years 7–10. Looking ahead to next term, we are excited to expand our higher education guidance; this will include targeted support for students applying to Russell Group universities and a dedicated programme for potential Oxbridge applicants, featuring a trip to the University of Cambridge to support their aspirational journey.

Award-Winning Commitment to Sustainability

We are absolutely delighted to announce a massive achievement for our school's commitment to the environment. The Sittingbourne School was nominated at the prestigious Green School Awards and won the prize for Greenest School in Kent. This is a testament to the hard work of our Eco Schools committee and the dedication of the whole school community to sustainability. Thank you to all our Eco Warriors and Ms Box for their exceptional, award winning work.

Inter-House Competitions Update

This term, our new House system continued to engage students in a range of enriching activities. These events fostered both creative skill and philanthropic spirit, featuring:

- **Christmas card design competition:** Well done to overall winner Sophie Bicker for this beautiful design.
- **Literary & Design:** Composing a Guy Fawkes-themed newspaper article and designing promotional posters for Fireworks Night.
- **Community & Charity:** Successfully raising over **hundreds of pounds for charity** through events such as bake sales and the incredible Christmas Fayre, organised and run by our Sixth Form Business Studies students.
- **Sporting:** Including a basketball competition.

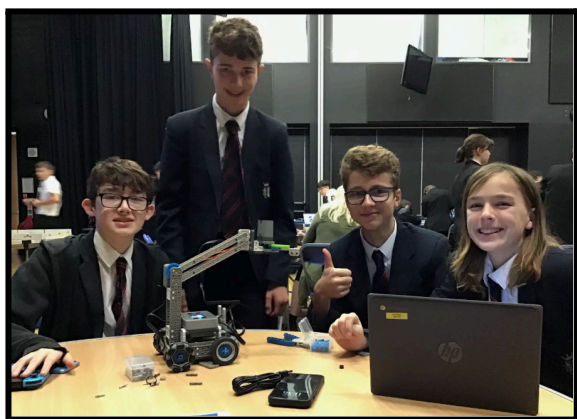


The competition remains close as we enter the next term. Our current placings are as follows:

1. Artemis
2. Ares
3. Athena
4. Apollo

Looking Ahead to Term Three, we are already anticipating a spirited return to competition, which will include exciting new events designed to challenge our students:

- An inter-house football tournament.
- A special intellectual challenge: The Sittingbourne School's 'The Chase', offering houses a chance to test their knowledge and teamwork against the Chaser.



Swale Bot Competition

Our students performed brilliantly in the Swale Academies Trust's Swale Bot competition held at The Whitstable School. They competed against nine other schools in the Trust and finished admirably in the top half of the table, receiving special mentions for their technical ingenuity and teamwork. Well done to Louie, Ben, Thomas and Hayden. We are extremely proud of their efforts and the skill they demonstrated. Thank you, robotees!

Toilets and Lesson Time

Following a few queries from parents, I would like to clarify our position regarding students leaving lessons to use the toilets. All students are allowed to go to the toilet during lessons. However, to prevent too many

students from leaving lessons and losing valuable learning time, teachers are asked to use their professional judgement when deciding when to allow the student to leave the lesson.

Sadly, a small number of students misuse needing the toilet as an excuse to leave lessons and congregate in the facilities. If a teacher judges the need to not be urgent, they might ask the student to wait for a more suitable time. Likewise, if another student has already left the class, a teacher may ask a student to wait briefly for them to return.

In addition, the following arrangements are in place regarding the toilets:

- We monitor the toilets actively during lessons, as well as at break and lunch times.
- If a student is using the toilets excessively during lessons, we will contact you as this may indicate an underlying medical condition or another issue we need to support them with.
- Students found to be abusing the system will find their teachers factor this into future decisions about the urgency of their request.
- Please note that students with a pre-arranged medical toilet pass are never asked to wait.

Parking Consideration

When dropping off and picking up your child, please remember to show consideration to our neighbours. This includes:

- Not blocking paths or driveways.
- Driving at safe, reduced speeds around the residential area of the school.

Your cooperation in keeping our community safe and accessible is greatly appreciated.

Visits Without Appointments

We kindly request that you avoid turning up at the school without a prior appointment. If there is an emergency that requires immediate attention, please phone the school office. For all non-urgent enquiries, we ask that you use the contact form on our school website, which is monitored throughout the school day. This helps us to manage visitors effectively and ensure the safety of our students.

On behalf of all the staff and governors at The Sittingbourne School, I wish you and your family a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

We look forward to welcoming the students back on **Tuesday, 6 January 2026**, refreshed and ready for the next term of learning.

With best wishes,



Mr N Smith
Headteacher