

# The Weekly Buzz

11 January 2021



Welcome to Spring Term

# Headmaster's letter



Welcome back to the new term, I hope you all managed a restful break. As the saying goes – it's like déjà vu all over again.

We have managed a smooth transition back to online learning – my thanks to everyone for all their efforts ensuring that happened. From your feedback, we know we did online teaching well the first time around – hence the core expectations remaining the same. However, we also know there were areas where we can improve. The first is retaining the formal online registration period each day and using that time to ensure students are organised for their day. The next strand is to create the opportunity for each student to have a weekly meeting with a teacher – either individually or as part of a small group – to help support them with their online learning and provide a chance to ask questions, the kind of informal conversations that happen at breaks, in corridors, at the end of lessons, when we are working normally. This will use some combination of the time from Enrichment and, for Years 6 -9, PE. More details will follow next week once we finalise the schedule.

What we won't be doing is planning to fill all those periods with more time on Zoom/Teams. Screen time for students is an issue that has to be carefully managed. We know both anecdotally, from our own experience and from the extensive research carried out on this that working on Zoom/Teams is more tiring for the students than being live-and-in-person. Having students on screen for five or six periods



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per day, every day, with the kind of work necessary in secondary schools will ultimately be counterproductive. This will not be free time but time for students to self-organise and use for their homework, etc.

We have all heard about the chronic shortage of IT available in maintained schools for students to use. We are fortunate in being very well provisioned as a school to be able to work this way. There are charities out there recycling old tech for use by children who otherwise don't have access (there are some details here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3yrtgmkfHBbsXfQfYkjp7CF/make-a-difference>). If you have old tech looking for a new home please consider donating to this.

David Bradbury



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## Calling all creative writers!



### **Do you like writing creatively in your spare time?**

Every week, the English department will post a creative writing task on Firefly (Go to Resources > English > Creative Writing tab on the left).

All completed entries should be sent to your English teacher and points will be awarded for your efforts and imagination.

By February half term we will decide on the best piece of creative writing and you will be awarded a prize!



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## KS4 Art Club Drop-in



**Tuesdays after school / Ms Dever**

## Library and Reading—Info for Years 7 & 8

Book Buzz Challenges are due next week, well done to those who have already submitted. I'm still going through them and am really enjoying them so far, well done.

I have started a lockdown library lessons blog on Firefly to share the kind of thing we normally do in our library lessons and to keep in touch with you all. Hopefully students will have enough ideas for what to read next.



**Bookbuzz challenge**

Bookbuzz  
BookTrust

Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

Challenger's name: \_\_\_\_\_

I aim to complete:

Three tasks  Five tasks  All ten tasks

Completion date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Finish your Bookbuzz book</b> Who would you recommend the book to? <input type="radio"/>	<b>Take the online Bookbuzz quiz</b> What was your score? <input type="radio"/>	<b>Make a short video for your Bookbuzz book</b> How have you brought the book to life? <input type="radio"/>	<b>Read your best friend's favourite book</b> What is it? <input type="radio"/>	<b>Create a film poster for your Bookbuzz book</b> Who would play the main character in the adaptation? <input type="radio"/>
<b>Design a game based on your Bookbuzz book</b> Which games will you use for inspiration? <input type="radio"/>	<b>Send a question to a Bookbuzz author</b> What do you want to know about the book or being an author? <input type="radio"/>	<b>Turn your Bookbuzz book into a graphic novel</b> Which graphic novels will you use for inspiration? <input type="radio"/>	<b>Read three Bookbuzz books</b> Which is your favourite? <input type="radio"/>	<b>Super-secret Bookbuzz task</b> Can you come up with your own task? Ask your teacher or librarian if you need help. <input type="radio"/>

## Book Access during lockdown

Hopefully your son or daughter will have plenty of reading material via our e-books on E-platform and I have also sent out a hand out with some online learning links which might be of use.

If you are buying books from home, I highly recommend Hive <https://www.hive.co.uk/>

If you are a Kindle user, there are often good deals available on their teenage books and via the daily deal. Check regularly for things that might be of interest.

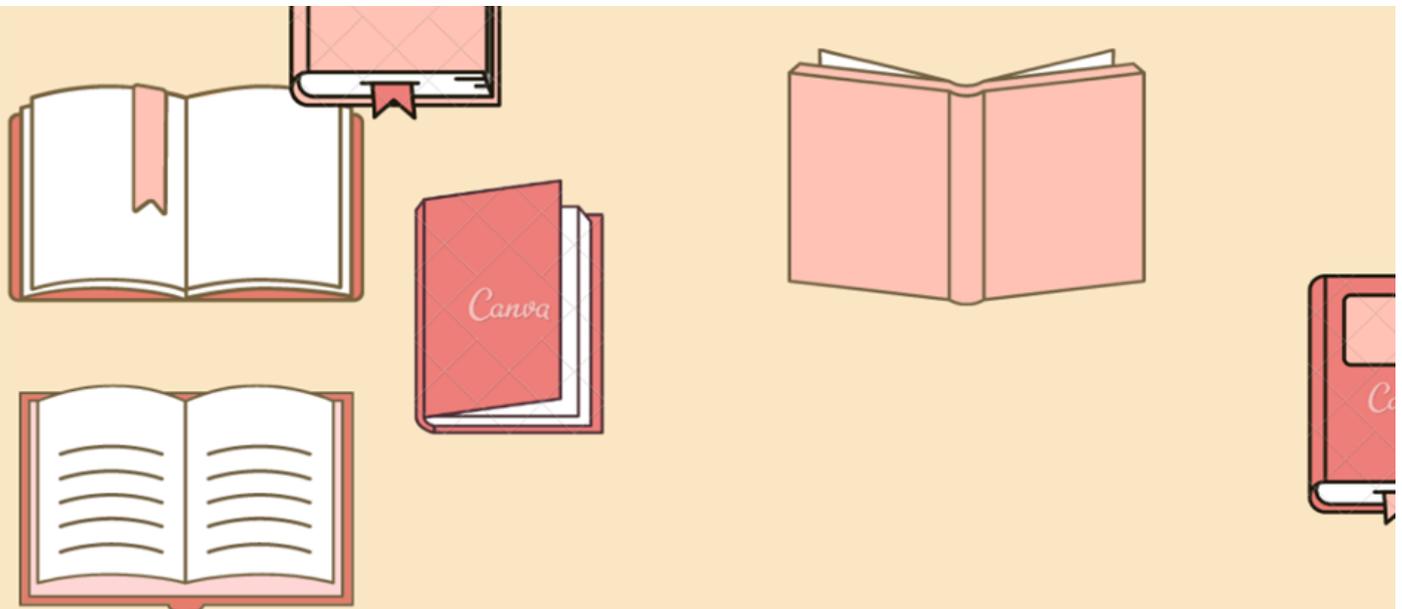


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## Pizza Reading Challenge

Our pizza reading challenge will continue during the lockdown. Keep the book reviews coming in and reward points will be added.



**Pizza Challenge**  
**Ms Van Der Wal's**  
**Year 7 & 8 are leading.**  
**Well done!**





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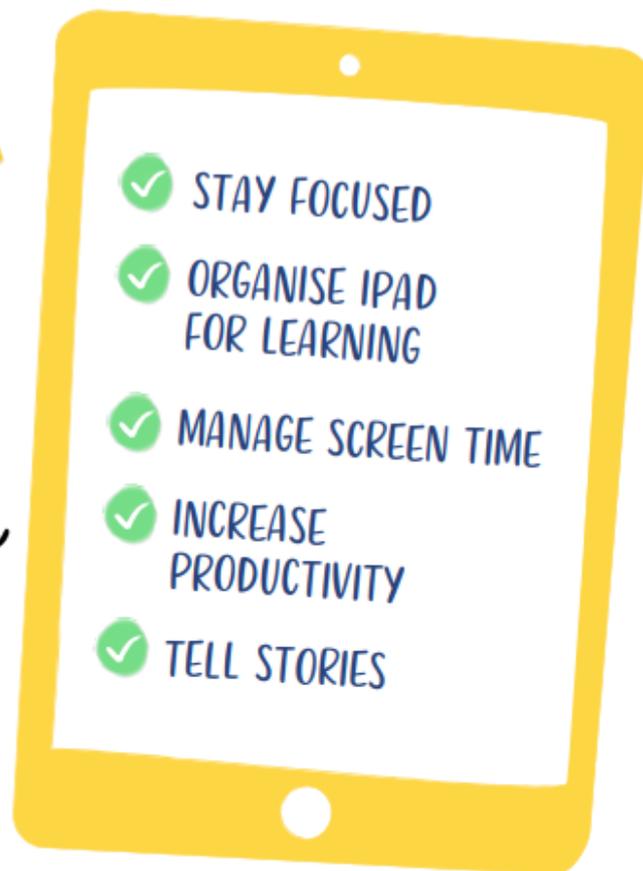
# Noticeboard



## QUICK GUIDES FOR **Learning with Apple**

Learn how to support engaging learning environments with Apple. Each quick guide delivers five tips to help you make the most of the built-in features of iPad and Mac for learning from home.

**5**  
tips to





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## 5 Tips to Stay Focused

Staying on task supports critical thinking and expands creativity.

### 1 Encourage concentration.

Create a learning environment without calls, alerts or notifications. In Do Not Disturb settings on your iPad, make sure you select Always below Silence.



### 2 Simplify multitasking.

Drag text, photos and files between two windows or apps using Split View. The side-by-side view offers seamless access, reducing back-and-forth navigation. Turn on Multitasking under Home Screen & Dock in Settings.



### 3 Adjust notifications.

Tapping app icons with badges – the red circles indicating new items – can divert your student's attention from learning. For non-essential apps, turn Badges off in Settings > Notifications.



### 4 Reduce in-app distractions. ★★★★★

Requests for In-App Ratings & Reviews can lead your student away from learning. You can turn this feature off in Settings under iTunes & App Store.

### 5 Stay on track.

Structure learning segments using the timer in the Clock app. The orange line decreases as the timer counts down, so your student can visualise the concept of time. They can select a sound to alert them when time is up.





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## 5 Tips for Organising iPad for Learning

Organising iPad for learning makes it easier for your student to get going each day and stay productive and engaged.

**1**  **Update the OS.** 

Make sure that your student's device is up to date on features, products and security. In Settings, tap General to find out if you have the latest software update.

**2**  **Create website shortcuts.** 

Tap Add to Home Screen from the Safari share options to create an icon for websites your student uses most often.

**3**  **Curate an app collection.** 

Organise your student's most-used apps or sites into a collection on the Home screen. Touch and hold any app, then drag it onto another app, and label the new folder.

**4**  **Share notes.** 

Organise learning resources easily in Notes. Create folders for subjects, make handy checklists and share with the whole family. Pin important notes to keep them at the top.

**5**  **Manage schedules.** 

Create a shared calendar on all of your family's devices in the Calendar app. Keep everyone on track with reminders and use alerts as a virtual school bell.

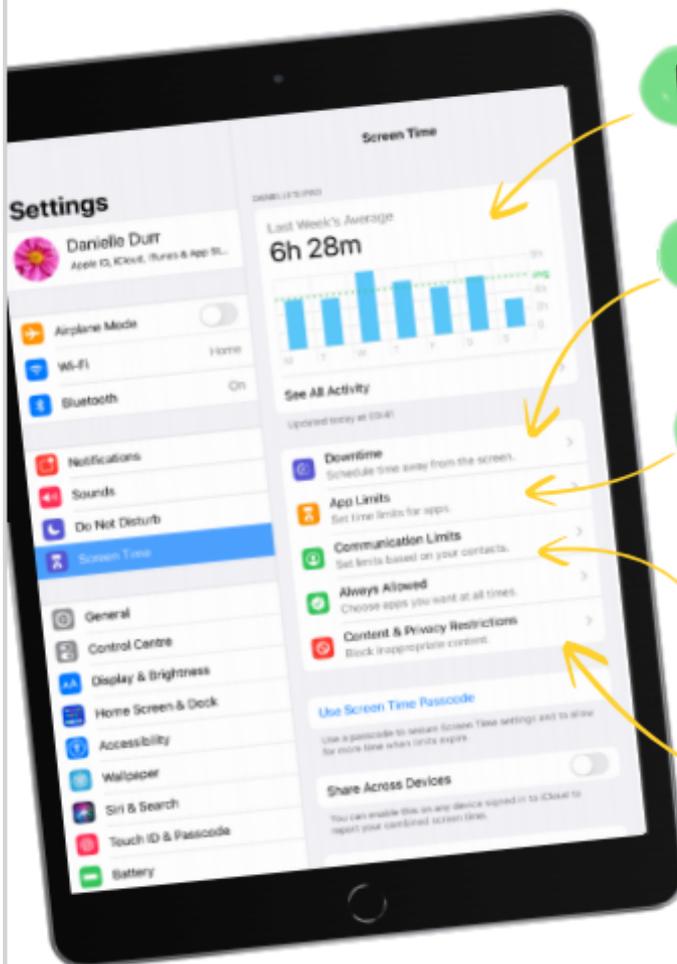


# Noticeboard

## 5 Tips for Managing Screen Time



Screen Time includes features that are great for helping you choose how – and how often – your student uses their device.



1

### Keep track.

With Screen Time, you can see the total device time by day and week, as well as which apps your student used most.

2

### Take a break.

Use Downtime to set aside time each day for breaks from the screen. When enabled, only apps you allow and phone calls are available.

3

### Structure time.

Use App Limits for things like allowing more time for educational and creativity apps, and minimising distractions from social networking apps.

4

### Create a circle of trust.

Communication Limits helps you manage who your student can communicate with freely from their device.

5

### Choose appropriate content.

Use Content & Privacy Restrictions to block inappropriate websites, purchases and downloads on your student's device.



## 5 Ways to Increase Productivity



All students can benefit from built-in accessibility features that enhance the learning experience and increase productivity.

1

### Tap into action.

Simplify access to menus, controls and functions using AssistiveTouch. The single tap function helps with limited motor skills, and the customised menu includes features you use most – like Multitasking and Screenshot. Your student can also drag the menu button under text to use it as a guide while reading.

2

### Boost reading fluency.

Follow along as highlighted words are spoken aloud with Speak Selection and Highlight Content. This can strengthen reading comprehension and help your student edit work.

3

### Stay focused on web content.

Safari Reader removes ads, reduces distractions and lets you adjust text size, contrast and font style. With a two-finger swipe down, Speak Screen will read the page's content aloud.

4

### Minimise distractions from learning.

Guided Access locks iPad into one app and lets you control features and time limits. With a finger, circle areas on screen that you don't want responding to touch, like a web link in Safari.

5

### Express thoughts and improve writing.

Apps like Pages, Keynote and Notes have Dictation, which can help convey a message and develop writing skills without letting the mechanics get in the way. Tap the mic key on the iPad keyboard, or choose Edit > Start Dictation in a macOS app.



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## 5 Ways to Tell Stories

Storytelling is a great way to communicate feelings and connect with friends and family.

1

### Say it out loud.

Record yourself reading a book or telling someone about your day using Voice Memos, then share the recording in Messages or Mail.



2

### Share photo albums.

Invite others to follow along on your adventures or daily life with Shared Albums. Friends can give your images a thumbs-up and leave comments as the stories unfold.



3

### Build a story together.

Outline a story on slides in Keynote, then send a link to the document so friends can add photos, shapes and more. Export as a movie and share your collaboration.



4

### Create picture books.

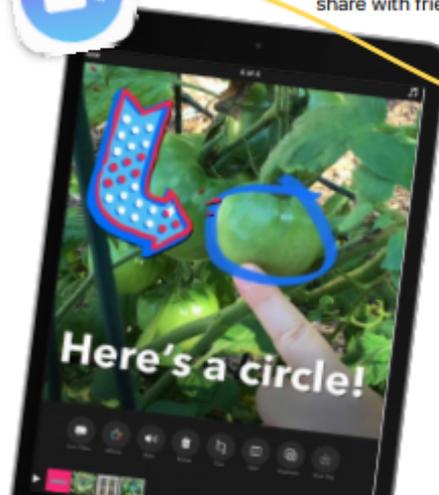
Write or draw a story in a Pages book template. Then bring the story to life with narration using the Record Audio feature. Export the book as an EPUB document to share with friends.



5

### Make a movie.

Narrate a fun adventure with photos and videos using the Clips app. Posters, animated stickers, filters and Live Titles give you lots of ways to express your feelings and ideas.



#LearningWithApple

Get more support >



## Learning with Apple Resources

Find out where to get help from Apple – whenever you need it.

### For everyone

#### Apple Support

- Check out how-to videos from setting up your iPad to adding accessibility features. [Explore our videos on YouTube >](#)
- Ask your questions to Apple Support on Twitter. [Contact @AppleSupport >](#)
- Get detailed step-by-step instructions and answers from Apple Support Communities. [Explore the Apple Support site >](#)

#### Family first

- Get the answers you need on topics that matter most. [Find out how Apple tools are designed for families >](#)
- Explore fun activities for kids – and the whole family – using built-in features of iPad and iPhone. [Download the PDFs at \[apple.co/creativityforkids\]\(https://apple.co/creativityforkids\) >](#)

### For educators

#### 30 Time-Saving Tips for Teachers

Create interactive handouts, screen record your lessons and capture ideas on the go. Stay organised and on task using iPad built-in features. [Download the PDF at \[apple.co/tipsforteachers\]\(https://apple.co/tipsforteachers\) >](#)

#### Apple Education Learning Series

Presented by the Apple Education Leadership and Learning team, these videos are designed to help educators use built-in features of iPad and Mac, no matter where learning happens. [See the full collection >](#)

#### @AppleEDU on Twitter

Be part of the conversation to learn, share and connect with other educators.

- [Follow @AppleEDU >](#)
- [Join #AppleEDUchat >](#)

### For IT leaders

Seamless device deployment is critical to preparing learning environments, and it all starts with support for IT leaders.

- [Find out more about support for IT >](#)
- [Find out more about preparing your school's Apple devices for remote learning >](#)
- [Explore our Apple Education Learning Series IT Spotlight videos >](#)

## Post 16 Update

**DLD College** have extended their Sixth form admissions deadlines. Please get in touch with their admissions team if you would like to apply. Students who have attended Portland Place will also receive a 7% discount on school fees. <https://www.dldcollege.co.uk/admissions/uk-admissions/>



If you need any information on post-16 options please get in touch with Mrs Carvalho on [belinda.carvalho@portland-place.co.uk](mailto:belinda.carvalho@portland-place.co.uk)

## Art

Caspar Waldron studies for mask and then the mask!





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# News



## GCSE Descriptive and Narrative Writing

Year 10 successfully completed their English Language paper 1 Writing assessments this week, as originally planned!

Here are some snippets from their practice work...

The gentle whisper of the water running over the rocks creates relaxing but eerie atmosphere. As the glaring sun peeps through the curtain of clouds, the reflection of the mountains on the water makes the water look like a sheet of glass. There is a calm echoing of birds calling in the distance. The enchanting colour of green is like a sea of rich evergreen trees.

***Arthur Hales***

In the sombre hours leading to dusk, an unwelcoming fox prowls around like a panther, blending into the rising darkness looking for prey. The vigilant fox climbs over the fortified familiar fence. The agile striker is one step closer to his game. The distressed sounds of squawking chickens are in his immediate reach as he creeps low to the ground, waiting to strike. From the fox's peripheral vision, an inhospitable assailant charges towards him. Caught off balance, he bails out with cowardness. Growling, he ascends over the impeding fence without a scrape. He must now consider another source for his dinner.

***Mateo Salinas***

The green, luscious leaves climb up to the sky. The tracks struggle like a dog trying not to drown. A sea of leaves and grass flow around the floor. The tunnel winds down the rails for eternity carving the path through the leaves. The rails hide under the foliage.

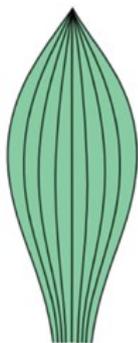
***Lucas Alsop***

The night had fallen upon Yemen. Not so long ago, the sky was blue and the dazzling rays of sunlight were seen, but the sky had slowly faded into raven, making it cold and gloomy. As the daylight slowly faded, strong cold wind crept across the windows making the room cold. It was the type of coldness that reaches into the bones.

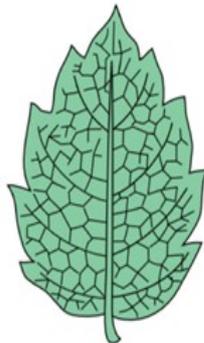
***Sharifa Ghalib***

The eruption sent the ground shaking and caused ears to ring; something was wrong. Citizens of the small town they all called home looked at the mountain believing a day like this wasn't due to come for a few hundred years. They were all boggled how this suddenly happened but spent less time questioning it and more time getting to safety. Screams echoed through the city streets as men, women and children all rushed to get into the safety of their houses. Hundreds of phone calls blew up the emergency services phone line and employees were put to their limits to respond to all. Many people were either missing or dead. The volcano sprinkled rocks from its crater like how you would put pepper on your hot food, landing everywhere and causing even more dissent.

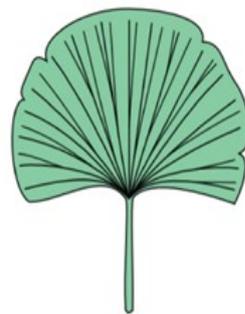
***Teddy Scanlan***



(a)



(b)



(c)



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## Art

Insects by Amitis Jafari Year 11 (also front cover).





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Quick photo to celebrate last day of term!

## Portland Place School Christmas Concert 2020

Just a reminder that if you have not yet had a chance to view the recording of the PPS Christmas Concert 2020, it is available on the school website here:

<https://www.portland-place.co.uk/creative-art/pps-christmas-concert/>

The Music Department



## House Points Standings

Last term the pupils completed their house football tournaments and the house fitness challenges, just before we broke up. Unfortunately, house netball had to be postponed due to the closure of the tennis club, but hopefully we can rearrange this when we return to school in February. The girls' 5-a-side football tournament scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> will also have to be rescheduled. Below are the current standings, which include all the points accumulated since September 2019, as we decided to roll over the points from last academic year due to the lockdown.

1st	Langham	108
2nd	Cavendish	106
3rd	Devonshire	92
4th	Wigmore	72

Langham's lead is now a slender one and Devonshire have made up a considerable amount of ground on Cavendish. With luck, we will be able to enjoy a full timetable of summer house sport events as well as the competitions planned for this term, such as rugby and table tennis, so there are potentially many points still up for grabs.

## Land's End to John O'Groats House Challenge

Starting next week pupils will be taking part in a house competition over the following five weeks to see if any house teams can complete the 970km! Obviously, this will be a team effort. Any activity by house team members logged on Strava will be added to that team's total mileage. To finish the full distance a house team will have to complete about 200km a week. Activity that can be used for the competition includes walking, running, cycling, swimming (if you have your own pool), stationary walking/running/rowing and many others. Anything that can be logged on their Strava apps can be included. Many of our pupils are already logging their outdoor exercise and even synching exercise on rowing machines to Strava.



# Sports report

This will be a huge challenge for our year groups to finish. The team, within each year group, who finishes first, or gets the furthest accumulated distance, will be declared the winner! House points and pupil reward points will also be available for distance covered.

Remember: the key to finishing is lots of regular exercise. Twenty laps of your garden or a short daily walk, jog or cycle really adds up over time. Of course, the benefits to fitness, health and wellbeing are also numerous and so very important at such a time.

We're very excited to see how the teams get on and which year groups perform the best. Pupils will have to join their year's house team on Strava and the PE department will be explaining all this to them during their PE lessons. Weekly progress reports will be included in the newsletter, so have a look to see how your team is progressing



**Land's End to John O'Groats House Challenge**

Distance: 970km (603 miles)

SCOTLAND  
WALES  
ENGLAND

John O'Groats  
Land's End

The graphic features a central map of the British Isles with a red line tracing the route from Land's End in Cornwall to John O'Groats in Scotland. A blue double-headed arrow indicates the distance. Surrounding the map are six small images: a woman on a stationary bike, a woman running, a man and woman jogging, a man and woman with bicycles, a man on a rowing machine, and a man on a treadmill.



CLUBS	
<b>Monday</b>	
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Table Tennis Club, PPS Hall
12:50—13:40	Y6-8 Drama Club, Drama Studio
12:50—13:40	Y6-8 Book Club
12:50—13:40	Advanced Arabic, Ms Elshelmani, G41
12:50—13:40	Y11 GCSE Art Club, Ms Osborne, HH12 (inv)
13:15—13:45	KS3 Science Journal & Book Club, H1
<b>Tuesday</b>	
12:50—13:35	Senior Weights Club (Y9-11), PPS Chan
12:50—13:45	GCSE French, Mr Lalande, G41
12:50—13:45	PPS Choir, Mr Hill & Miss Boyle, GP
13:00—13:45	...
13:15—13:45	...
15:45—16:45	...
15:45—16:45	Y11 C...
15:50—17:00	Art Club, M...
<b>Wednesday</b>	
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Fitness Training
12:50—13:40	GCSE Computer Science (
12:55—13:40	Maths Puzzles, Mr Hill,
13:00—13:45	Russian Club, Ms Zales
13:10—13:45	Y11 Science Revision
15:45—16:30	KS3 Maths Club (Y6
15:45—16:30	GCSE Statistics & A
15:45—16:30	Arabic Club, Mrs
16:00—17:00	Fencing, PPS Hall ... ing rooms 15:45
<b>Thursday</b>	
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Dance ... n 11
12:50—13:40	Y8-11 Creati... Writing, Ms Baig/Ms O'Donnell
12:50—13:40	Mandarin Club, Ms Huang, PPS Hall
13:10—13:45	Y11 Science Revision (Chemistry), H1
15:45—16:30	KS4 Maths Club (Y10-11), G33
15:45—16:45	KS2/3 Design Technology Club, Mr Bradford, B1
15:50—17:00	Art Club, H10 & H11

12:50-13:45	Chamber Choir - Room 1 - Miss Boyle
<b>Friday</b>	
12:50—13:50	GCSE Art Club, Miss Dever, H11
12:50—13:40	Y6-11 Table Tennis Club, PPS Hall
12:50—13:40	Digital Theatre & Club, Drama Studio
12:50—13:40	GCSE Spanish, Ms Magniez, G32
12:50—13:45	Vocal Ensemble, Ms Ryder, R1
12:50—13:40	UKMT Maths Challenge practice, G41
12:50—13:45	Y11 Science Revision (Biology), H1

Updated Clubs  
and Enrichment  
info to follow.  
Watch this space!

TERM DATES	
<b>Monday 4 January</b>	
<i>Mon 15 Feb – Fri 19 Feb</i>	
<b>Thursday 1 April</b>	
<b>Thursday 22 April</b>	
<i>Bank holiday</i>	<i>Mon 3 May (school closed)</i>
<i>Half term</i>	<i>31 May – Fri 4 June</i>
<b>End of term</b>	<b>9 July</b>
<u>Autumn Term 2021</u>	
<b>Term starts</b>	<b>Monday 6 September</b>
<i>Half term</i>	<i>Mon 18 Oct – Fri 29 Oct</i>
<b>End of term</b>	<b>Friday 10 December</b>



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*Thank you for reading*