



St Catherine's School & College

*Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs*

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Issue 166

24th July 2026

Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers,

A huge congratulations to everyone who took part in this year's Sports Day and to all of the staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the day such a success. The atmosphere was fantastic, with students showing determination, resilience, encouragement and, above all, enjoyment throughout the day. A very special thank you must go to Mr Clark, whose organisation, enthusiasm and commitment ensured the event ran smoothly. It was a wonderful celebration of everything that makes St Catherine's so special.

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, I am incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved. Looking back over the past few weeks, there have been so many opportunities for learning both inside and outside the classroom. Students have embraced transition days with confidence, welcoming new teachers, classmates and routines ready for September. It has been wonderful to see the maturity and resilience they have shown during these important milestones.

Learning has continued to be exciting and varied across the school. Students have explored online safety, science investigations, creative writing, poetry, statistics, environmental projects and enterprise, while developing their independence, communication and teamwork skills. Whether interviewing local organisations, creating artwork, preparing for performances or completing practical learning experiences, our students have continued to demonstrate curiosity, perseverance and a willingness to challenge themselves. The final weeks of term have also been packed with memorable experiences. From the Summer Fair and class trips to Blackgang Chine, Amazon World and Sandown Beach, to the whole-school orienteering day at Brighstone Forest and the Ventnor Cricket Festival, our students have represented St Catherine's with pride wherever they have gone. These opportunities not only enrich learning but also develop confidence, friendships and independence that will stay with our young people long after the school year ends.

Our older students continue to impress us as they prepare for the next stage of their journeys. Through transition programmes, work experience, community visits, leadership opportunities and planning for college, they have shown increasing independence and maturity. We are incredibly proud of our leavers and know they will continue to achieve great things as they move on to new adventures. We have also been fortunate to receive incredible support from our wider community. I would like to thank the volunteers from Southern Water, Cappagh Browne and British Gas, whose generosity has transformed areas of our school grounds, creating exciting new outdoor spaces for our students to enjoy for years to come. Their commitment demonstrates the value of strong community partnerships and we are extremely grateful for their support.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a wonderful summer break. Whether you are spending time with family, enjoying holidays or simply taking the opportunity to rest and recharge, I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year.

With best wishes

Sarah Thompson
Principal

2026-2027 TERM DATES

ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TERM DATES 2026 – 2027

Bank Holiday	Monday 31 st August 2026
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Tuesday 1st September</i>
Start of Autumn term for students	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Quarter term weekend	Friday 25 th September 2026
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 27 th September 2026 Day Students: Monday 28 th September 2026
Break up for half term holiday	Friday 16 th October 2026
OCTOBER HALF-TERM	
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday evening 1 st November 2026 Monday 2 nd November 2026
Quarter term weekend	Friday 27 th November 2026
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 29 th November 2026 Day Students: Monday 30 th November 2026
End of Autumn term for students	Friday 18 th December 2026
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	
<i>Staff Development Day</i>	<i>Monday 4th January 2027</i>
Start of Spring term for students	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Quarter term weekend	Friday 22 nd January 2027
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 24 th January 2027 Day Students: Monday 25 th January 2027
Students break up for half term holiday	Friday 12 th February 2027
FEBRUARY HALF-TERM	
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday evening 21 st February 2027 Monday 22 nd February 2027
Quarter term weekend	Friday 12 th March 2027
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 14 th March 2027 Day Students: Monday 15 th March 2027
End of Spring term	Thursday 25 th March 2027
EASTER HOLIDAY	
Start of Summer term	Monday 12 th April 2027
Quarter term weekend including Bank Holiday	Friday 30 th April 2027
Return after quarter term weekend	Tuesday 4 th May 2027
Break up for half term holiday	Friday 28 th May 2027
SPRING BANK HOLIDAY HALF-TERM	
Return after half term holiday	Boarders: Sunday evening 6 th June 2027 Monday 7 th June 2027
Quarter term weekend	Friday 25 th June 2027 (Summer Fair)
Return after quarter term weekend	Boarders: Sunday evening 27 th June 2027 Day Students: Monday 28 th June 2027
End of Summer term for students	Friday 23 rd July 2027
<i>Staff Development Days</i>	<i>Monday 26th - Wednesday 28th July 2027</i>
SUMMER HOLIDAY	

Please note the above are based on the Isle of Wight Council Maintained Schools Holiday dates.

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

100% ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following students for 100% attendance this year.

Mia
Nicholas
Luis
Charles
James

AMAZING ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following students for amazing attendance this year.

Megan
Tristan
Tanner
Elliott
Finley
Harri
Sophia

Jamie
Jasmine
Kayan
Holden
Byron
Ted
Toby

Kaelan
Jim
Tim
Fletcher
Levi
Jaden
Bella

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 10th August - Fundraising Wing Walk Challenge
Friday 4th September - Fundraising Wing Walk Challenge

ST CATHERINE'S ROUND UP

As we close another academic year the time has come to say goodbye to some colleagues and to welcome new ones.

Jackie Fox will be retiring at the end of the academic year and while she will miss all the students, is looking forward to travelling and attending events that haven't been possible while she was teaching - roll out term time breaks!

Paula Stevens, our data manager, is also retiring once the exam results have been processed and is looking forward to relaxing away from spreadsheets and results.

We are also saying goodbye to Sam Elliott who is taking on a new and exciting career opportunity on the mainland; we wish Sam every success in his new role.

We have been busy recruiting for our therapy teams and we are delighted to confirm that Martha Hawkins will be joining the Speech and Language Therapy team as a Therapist, Martha is moving over to the Island and really looking forward to joining us and meeting all the students. In addition, a further two therapists will be joining the speech team later in the Autumn term.

Sam Young is joining the Occupational Therapy team as a Therapist. Sam is local to the Island and is excited about joining our team and Natasha Kidd will be moving into the Deputy role for Occupational Therapy. Also joining us in September is Katie Green who will join as an OT Assistant. Katie brings experience of working with students with additional needs and is keen to grow her skills supporting the OT team.

SCHOOL MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chicken/ Vegetable Curry or Jacket Potato with choice of filling	Toad in the Hole/Vegetable or Plain Sausage or Tomato Pasta	Roast Beef/ Vegetable Burger or Tomato Pasta	Macaroni Cheese with a Baguette or Jacket Potato with choice of filling	Beef or Vegetable Burger/Fish Fingers with Chips or Jacket Potato with choice of filling
Salad Bar Tuna or Mackerel	Salad Bar Cheese & Egg or Mackerel	Salad Bar Ham or Mackerel	Salad Bar Tuna or Mackerel	Salad Bar Cheese or Mackerel
Fresh Fruit Platter	Artic Roll	Fresh Fruit Salad	Cookies	Pudding of the Day

Fresh vegetables and salad are available with all main meals. Fresh fruit and yoghurt are always options for dessert.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

As another academic year draws to a close I can reflect on a successful year for St Catherine's and our students.

I am delighted to welcome new members to strengthen our Board of Trustees, Joining us are; Tania Robinson, Caroline Sheldon and Joe Norton-Jones.

At our most recent trustees meeting we reviewed progress on our 5 year Strategic plan:

1. We have maintained our OFSTED outstanding care grade.
2. We are maintaining our student number at full capacity.
3. Our financial position is sound enabling us to continue to invest in improving our facilities. St Anne's external refurbishment was completed during the year and St Margaret's is underway. Our major ICT upgrade is in progress and due for completion later this year.
4. 65 of 70 actions progressed on our Charity Improvement Plan during the year, those outstanding will be continued into next year.
5. Our senior leadership team has been strengthened this year with the appointment of Bryony Rust as Head of Speech & Language Therapy and Martina Jelinkova as Director of Finance & Operations.

Safeguarding is at the centre of all we do at St Catherine's and the Board receive a comprehensive report at every meeting from our Designated Safeguard Lead.

The latest report highlights changes to the Keeping Children Safe 2026 Act. We are responding with comprehensive reviews of policies to ensure full compliance and undertaking whole staff training on the changes.

Regular monitoring visits to ensure high standards are undertaken for the Board by our Safeguarding Governor, Residential Governor, Independent Listener and external NYAS inspector.

My thanks go to all Trustees and Staff who have work tirelessly to ensure that St Catherine's continues to provide the best and safest environment for the young people in our care to thrive.

To Staff and students leaving us, we wish you well for the future.

Enjoy your summer holidays.

Graham Pengelly
Chair of Trustees



CLASS ROUND UP

BLOOM CLASS

Bella:

I have enjoyed learning about World Ocean Day in Geography where we made posters to try to convince people to look after our oceans and the creatures that live there. Our whole school trip was fun too. Trying to find our way around the forest was very funny. I liked learning about explorers in History, especially Neil Armstrong and his trip to the moon. My favourite trip was to Ventnor Botanical Gardens where we saw so many flowers and plants. I've really enjoyed spending time in the library where I like to choose books to read. It's nice and peaceful in there.

RADCLIFFE CLASS

Jasmine:

I have enjoyed "The Rainbow Fish". I like writing about fish and octopuses. "Learning on the beach." In Maths, we learnt about money, "The money was easy." In Science, we learnt about sea life, "The octopus eats crabs." "I like growing plants and painting."

HOPKINS CLASS

Shaun:

This term we went on our end of year trip to Ventnor Fringe to watch a magic musical show which was really fun! This term we wrote shape poems and I wrote mine like a dolphin. On Sports Day, we did tug of war and my team won 2-0!

PACKHAM CLASS

Francesco:

This term has been very exciting. We had a Summer Fair day where I was on the stand (tombola) and had lots of people come to see us and win prizes. It was nice and sunny. We also had two transition days. It was nice to see my new class, I liked it a lot. We did different activities. We went on a class trip to Blackgang Chine. It was so much fun. I got spun around too much on the Barrel ride! I went on the water slides. It was so fast! I can't wait to go there again. On the Orienteering day we went on a long walk about in the forest to find the orienteering signs. We also had lunch in the forest which I really enjoyed. In OT, we have been doing lots of cooking. My favourite day was when we got pizza, cooked it and ate it. In Science, we learnt about plants which was very interesting.



OLIVER CLASS

Cosmo:

In Humanities, we have been learning about rivers. We built a river from newspaper and we painted the water blue. We made a dam because we learnt about how beavers help to make an eco-system. I have liked using the chromebooks to get faster at my multiplication and division. In English, I learnt about where food comes from. I wrote a paragraph about milk and I read it out to the class, I felt confident and happy. In Music, we have done some beatboxing and learning how to play the keyboard by looking at real music notation. In Occupational Therapy, we cooked bolognaise and burgers and baked brownies. I really like cooking and sometimes do it at home. In Forest School, we made a big den to fit 3 or 4 people in. In DT, we made a phone case. We got thread and we sewed the front and the back bit together. In ICT, we made powerpoints. I made one about cars. We went to Blackgang for our class trip. My favourite parts were the Jolly Robin, the Shipwreck and the water slide. I enjoyed getting my friends wet with the water cannons.



AUSTEN CLASS

Roaa:

This last week has been wonderful and orienteering was amazing because I got to work as a team with my friends. The cricket was good and the mini games were good. I like the card games at the end of maths lessons. In PE, I enjoyed doing rounders. We made a maze in DT and made a cat in Art. This has been a fun year and I am proud of my reading progress.

GOLDBERG CLASS

Charlotte

This term has been very enjoyable especially with all the trips and adventures we have had.

BURTON CLASS

Izzie:

This term I have learnt about rivers, plants and flowers. I took off all the leaves and petals and looked at the different parts of the flower. My class trip was to Amazon World. My favourite animals were the tortoises and meerkats. In English, I read George's Marvellous Medicine, and then I made my own potion. I used water, buttercups, daisies, and a little bit of mud - it was messy! In Art, I have been making stencils and using sponges to print and make different patterns. I have had a fun half-term.

NEWTON CLASS

Liam:

The big news this term is that we entered an inter-school robot building competition and we won! We even had our photo in the newspaper. We have already started building a new robot for 2026/2027. We enjoyed the cricket festival and the orienteering. I have enjoyed Maths a lot recently because I feel I am good at it. We learnt about Black Holes in English. In Science, we did a lot of planting. Some stuff has grown well, but it's been very dry!

BRANSON CLASS

Finley:

This term I have enjoyed Music because it is my hobby. I am hoping to be able to continue band practice at college. I also enjoyed the football tournament against St George's, we won 8-0. I am a little bit apprehensive about my move up to college.

WATSON CLASS

Ted:

This term has been emotional for me, as it is my last at the main school area in which I have spent the last eight years as a student. In English, we have been working on a Lego stop motion adaptation of 'Lord of the Flies'. Luke led the project and taught us stop motion techniques, whilst others have worked on backgrounds, scripts and Lego, which was provided by those working on the project including my brother Bertie. In DT, we have been working on pillows with unique designs on them. In OT, we have been baking out of spare ingredients and in PE we have played multiple games including Golf, Rounders and of course that day at the Ventnor Cricket Club. I would like to say thank you to all the staff and students of St Catherine's for the time I've been here, I would not be where I am.

6JG CLASS

Lydia:

This term I have enjoyed making a puppet of Louis Pasteur in GCSE History. I also enjoyed going to town with the class to see an exhibition. I have personally interviewed a range of people for our Listen Up! Project as part of creating a film. My favourite person to interview was Ian Boyd, a local ecologist as this aligned with my personal interests. I enjoyed the view on the beach when we filmed our B roll for the film. In GCSE Art I have enjoyed creating a 3D cardboard DS. Yesterday we had tea and biscuits for a chill and chat. I also really enjoyed the school walk.

6ILP CLASS

Keagan:

I have enjoyed the many trips we have had this term. I particularly enjoyed the cricket. I was able to show my classmates my skills. I enjoyed the trip to Blackgang Chine, I thought it was fun to go on the pirate barrel spinning ride. Although I wasn't keen on the art exhibition trips I do remember enjoying the Sandown clown display. I am pleased that the teenagers beat the adults with our term long morning quiz. The final score was 21 - 18. I was proud when we won the Young Enterprise award at the finals in Newport.

6AMD CLASS

Fenner:

In my time at St Catherine's I have really enjoyed school trips in the residential house, such as Portsmouth for football, Robin Hill, Blackgang Chine. I loved the Prom, enjoyed reading my speech and liked dressing up in my suit. I have had a lot of banter with my friends and teachers at the college. My greatest achievement is independently travelling home to Essex. I have also enjoyed helping D of E. Work experience in the kitchens at school was great too. A funny memory of mine is when we attended the maritime careers fair and a teacher got stuck on a tractor! I am looking forward to Post 19 and hopefully to do hospitality and catering at college. I want to thank teachers and residential staff that have helped me during my time here.

RESIDENTIAL ROUND UP ST CHRISTOPHER'S UPDATE

Bloom Class joined us at St Christopher's for afternoon tea and bowling, giving them a chance to experience residential life. We look forward to welcoming them back. Information about late stays and overnight visits will be shared in the second week of September.

Activities

Students have enjoyed a range of activities this term, including park and beach trips, the driving range, Isle Imagine, athletics, bowling, and roller skating.

Achievements & Independence

We're delighted that Tristan has joined Scouts. Students have also developed their independence by using self-service checkouts, taking part in a fire safety exercise, and sharing ideas to help improve the house and their bedrooms.

Birthday Celebrations

We celebrated two birthdays this term with a roller-skating party, cake, and a movie night, creating lots of happy memories.



ST MARGARET'S

St Margaret's have had a brilliant last term, they have been super-busy continuing to work through their life skills folder and learn and hone new skills, which they are rightly very proud of, from catching the bus with their new bus pass, shopping independently, cooking, laundry, keeping safe on the internet and mastering house jobs that will benefit them in the following years.

But it's not all been about work it's also been about having fun, making friends, commitment, endurance and resilience.

We have had many activities from birthday parties at many different places, bowling, laser quest, swimming, crazy golf, the driving range, football, table tennis, athletics, meals out to celebrate, beach days, fossil walks, the annual 6th form walk this year taking in several circular walks on the Island, growing sunflowers and gardening to attending out of school events like football matches and winning trophies to athletic with students returning with lots of medals, happy and confident.

The last couple of weeks have been very busy with trips to the beach, BBQs, a leavers' meal and the Prom, which was an amazing evening and a great time was had by all.

A party was held at the Mill Bay with live music paid for by the family of a young man who is moving on, to say goodbye and thank you.

We also have a group of students from St Margaret's and St Anne's that are taking part in the national Special Olympic Games in Birmingham at the end of August.

St Margaret's support staff wishes everyone a happy relaxing summer and see you in September.

ST ANNE'S

It's been a busy year in St Anne's residential house. The students have been working really hard on independent living skills in the house and out in the community. Lots of other different activities have been enjoyed. One of the student's favourites was a guided fossil walk in the West Wight.

Many students were lucky enough to come away with some amazingly old fossils. With the better weather it has been great to do our 'walking Wednesday'. Lots of lovely parts of the Island are enjoyed with the bonus of picnic teas in beautiful surroundings. BBQs, football, golf and some evenings spent at the beach as a relief from the heat with a nice sea swim/paddle.

We say goodbye to 5 of our residents, we wish them all the best as they move on in life. Some continue to be with St Catherine's as they take their next step to our Post 19 houses, some moving on to new colleges on the mainland. We wish all our students a happy and relaxing summer break.

St Anne's residential staff team

FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School students have had an amazing year, working through our Wild Passport skills program, advocating for their own outdoor learning and helping to support local wildlife. Classes have had fun developing their own Forest School communities and have enjoyed restful times recharging in our little woodland, a wonderful cool and tranquil place in the hot weather! We are now lucky to have some exciting new wildlife areas, in the form of a new pond and garden area- a big thank-you to the wonderful volunteers from Southern Water for creating these spaces! Once planted and established these features will increase the biodiversity of our school site and we look forward to designing planting for these areas in September. We also enjoyed hosting some crafts and activities for Orienteering day. Finally a quote from Tanner, "Forest School is fun, relaxing and nice to do and teaches you important life skills, such as survival!"



WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY

At College, as part of World Youth Skills Day, we had a fun team quiz in assembly. The rounds were based on different personal skills, including: memory, team work, problem solving and a create and make round. In the make round, students had to design and create a marble run. At College, we celebrated Pride, as part of which several students helped create a "melt crayon" art piece. It looks very effective, and the students all liked how colourful it is. It is displayed in the hallway at college. We ended our clubs by going to America and we had burgers, steak, southern fried chicken, and cream soda. We also played a build a burger game.

ST CATHERINE'S CHARITY SHOP

It's been a very busy and successful term at the charity shop!

I have been busy with selling clothing for the IOW festival, and designing windows for World Ocean Day, the seaside and the World Cup.

Our work experience students have been busy sorting and hanging clothing donations, and the Young Enterprise students have raised a great amount of funds, selling their handmade fidget pens, bookmarks, key-rings and lanyards in the shop. Well done to all!

I have also enjoyed several visits from students on their travels in and around Ventnor, and they had a great time choosing things to buy in the shop, and practising their monetary and communication skills, which I have to say were fantastic! You should be so proud of your achievements.

I hope everyone has a lovely summer break, and a well deserved rest!
Amanda, Charity Shop Manager

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

During group therapy sessions this term, Austen and Goldberg classes have been playing a table-top role play game similar to Dungeons and Dragons. This has allowed us to work on a wide range of speech, language and communication skills, including understanding and describing personalities, narratives, decision making, problem solving and teamwork.

Students began by creating their own character for the campaign, and a map of the area where they want their story to take place. They then have to work together as a group of heroes to solve a mystery, for example finding and rescuing a missing city leader, working out why the magic has been disappearing from a kingdom, or restoring the balance to a kingdom where the four lands are each stuck in one of the four seasons.

The students have shown amazing creativity, humour, and collaboration with their peers, and best of all, we've had a lot of fun, whilst developing our communication skills.



The summer holidays can bring a big change in routine, which may feel unsettling for children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs. One helpful strategy is using a visual timetable to support understanding, reduce anxiety, and build independence. A visual timetable uses pictures, symbols or simple words to show what will happen during the day. This can help your child know what to expect and make transitions between activities smoother. You can include everyday tasks like breakfast, going to the park, screen time, or family outings. We hope everyone has a great summer.

St Catherine's Speech and Language Team

  July / August 2026						
 Monday	 Tuesday	 Wednesday	 Thursday	 Friday	 Saturday	 Sunday
28th	29th	30th	31st	1st  Home  Day	2nd  Shopping	3rd  Beach
4th  Park	5th  Dog  walk	6th	7th  Tapnell Farm	8th	9th  Blackgang Chine	10th
11th  Home  Day	12th  Doctors	13th	14th	15th  Park	16th	17th  Shopping
18th	19th	20th  Beach	21st	22nd  Blackgang Chine	23rd  Home  Day	24th
25th  Tapnell Farm	26th	27th  Home  Day	28th	29th	30th  Shoe  shopping	31st

MESSAGE FROM THE NURSE

The School Health Team would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents/carers for their support over the year and to remind you that, the Department of Education statutory guidance for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions, states clearly: "Schools should only accept prescribed medicines if these are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage."

Please be aware that our school will not be able to administer any prescription medication that does not meet the above criteria and may ask parents/carers to come into school to administer. If you need to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact us.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer holiday with kind regards

Carol and Susan

PARENT/CARER QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear all,

Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire linked below regarding St Catherine's - we would really appreciate your views.

The questionnaire will close on 9th September 2026.

DLD

On Thursday 9th of July, St Catherine's was pleased to welcome a member of the research team from the Department of Education at the University of Oxford, who is contributing to a project focused on children with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). This study forms part of the TICLD project (The Intervention Consensus for Language Disorders Group, University College Cork), an international collaboration aimed at developing research guidelines for DLD. These guidelines are intended to improve consistency across studies and to strengthen the translation of research into professional practice.

The students attended paired and group sessions where they were encouraged to think about their own priorities for speech therapy sessions. The student then had to choose their top 5 priorities for what they would like a speech and language therapist to help them with. All students had different answers, including but not exclusive to; communication with my friends, emotions and life skills.

Darcy, Raphael, Lilly, Levi and Charlie F were great ambassadors for St Catherine's and engaged thoughtfully and openly with the researcher, Natalie, in sharing their perspectives.



THERAPY INTERVENTION GROUPS

Therapy groups have always been an important part of student life at St Catherine's. Led by our Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy teams, these groups help students develop the practical communication and independence skills they need to participate confidently in everyday life.

From September, we will be piloting a new approach to therapy groups for students in the school. Sixth Form and college students will continue to access therapy groups in the same format as previous years.

The new pilot will provide more time to work on practical skills, greater opportunities to personalise therapy targets, and increased joint working across our therapy disciplines.

Students will continue to receive the therapy provision set out in their EHCPs. The difference is how we'll deliver that support. Every student in the school will access a Therapy Intervention Group (TIG) one afternoon per week. Rather than remaining with their class, students will attend a smaller group organised around similar needs and goals.

Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists will work together in every group, alongside our therapy assistants and teaching assistants, ensuring students benefit from a collaborative, joined-up approach.

As this is a pilot, we'll be listening carefully to feedback from students, families and staff, using this to refine and develop the TIG model throughout the year.

So, if your child comes home in September saying, "We did therapy differently today," they're absolutely right! We're excited to see how this new approach supports students to develop new skills, increase their independence, and prepare for the future.

If you have any questions, please get in touch at speechtherapy@stcatherines.org.uk.





HAF is back for Summer 2026!

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers free activities and meals to eligible school-age children during the main school holidays. With summer approaching we have included details below of our summer programme.

- Activities run from Monday 27th July- Friday 28th August
- Bookings open Tuesday 23rd June at 12pm
- All activities include a healthy nutritious meal for children and young people attending
- Free spaces are available to children who receive income-related free school meals
- Varied activity programme including horse riding, music, football, fun at the farm, youth clubs, multi activity holiday clubs, bushcraft, water sports and family days.
- Please share with families you are working with and encourage them to book on to activities should they be eligible.

We can also offer a limited number of discretionary-funded places for children who do not meet the criteria above but would benefit from attending. This may include, for example:

- Children assessed by the Local Authority as being in need, at risk or vulnerable
- Looked-after children
- Children under Early Help
- Young carers
- Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For more information on the programme and details on who can access discretionary funded places, please visit our [webpages](#).

How to book:

All bookings can be made through our [HAF Booking System](#) (QR code below)



Full details on all our activities can also be found on the Isle of Wight [Family Information Hub webpage](#).

Please contact the HAF Team on holidayactivities@iow.gov.uk if you have any questions.

**Abseil Down The Spinnaker
Tower For St Catherine's School
and College**
Abseil Dates available
May - June - July - August



Fundraising Target £300
Please email Tanya
smiht@stcatherines.org.uk
For more information



St Catherine's
School & College
Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs

AJBell
great south run

THE GREAT SOUTH RUN

**FUNDRAISE FOR
ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL**

Run, make a difference
and help support children
and young people with
Speech, Language and
Communication Needs.

♡
EVERY STEP
YOU TAKE
HELPS US MAKE
A BIGGER
DIFFERENCE.

BOOK A SPACE!



To book your place
or find out more,
please email:

smiht@stcatherines.org.uk

St Catherine's
Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs
School - College - Post 16

Ethel Dares
WINGWALKING

WING WALK EVENT

10TH AUGUST

**SIGN UP NOW
FOR THIS AMAZING
CHALLENGE!**

**AT
SANDOWN
AIRPORT**

In partnership with
Ethel Dares

stcatherines.org.uk 01983 852722 smiht@stcatherines.org.uk

♡ YOU'RE INVITED TO A ♡

Teddy Bear's PICNIC

at
David's Café
RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT ♡

**SATURDAY
25TH
JULY**

**KIDS - BRING YOUR
FAVOURITE TEDDY
WITH YOU!**

EVERYONE
WELCOME!

BRING YOUR
TEDDY

YUMMY FOOD
& TREATS

FUN & GAMES

BEARY SPECIAL
MEMORIES

♡ GOOD FOOD • GREAT COMPANY • BEARY SPECIAL TIMES ♡



Specialist Support for Children with Additional Needs

Our personalised care addresses your child's specific needs while building practical life skills, communication abilities, and independence.

Professional, caring support tailored to children with additional needs. Our experienced Personal Assistants help develop skills, build confidence, and enjoy life to the fullest.

Over 20 years of trusted care for children and young people up to age 25 with

ASC/ASD, ADHD, PDA, SEMH, LD and other complex needs.



Personal Assistant Services

Dedicated one-to-one support and respite care



Building Independence

Developing confidence and life skills in line with EHCP and other desired outcomes



Tailored Family Support

Coaching, mentoring and buddy schemes, Respite



Experienced and Trained

Our staff are all experienced and trained to our mandatory standard, additional training can be sought as necessary.



Matched Support

Personal Assistants carefully selected to meet your child's specific needs and interests



Professional Team

Experienced consultants supporting families in Hampshire, Surrey, West Sussex, Dorset & Isle of Wight

Ready to learn more?

☐ Freedom Care Support for Your Child Attending a Special Needs School

See our detailed brochure [HERE](https://www.freedomcare.co.uk)
www.freedomcare.co.uk

0800 0851444

supportenquiries@freedomcare.co.uk



SATURDAY CLUB SAILING

FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS

For young sailors with previous experience who want to take their sailing skills to the next level!

These sessions follow the same format as the Schools Sailing Programme. The aim is to further participants' sailing knowledge and skills.



FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS ONLY

Due to the high demand, sessions are only open to Year 6 pupils.



PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NEEDED

For children who have already completed, or taken part in, an RYA Stage 1 course or equivalent.



LIMITED SPACES

Places are limited to just 24 participants per session. Places only to suit disappointment!



HOW TO BOOK

Email sailing@seaviewtrust.org.uk to book a place.



WE ASK FOR A £1 PER WEEK CONTRIBUTION towards the Seaview Sailing Trust charity that funds these sessions. (Further costs details are not shared with children.)



SEAVIEW SAILING TRUST
Registered Charity No. 1198176

2026 SATURDAY CLUB SAILING SESSIONS

SESSION 1	0900 - 1200	SAT 6TH JUNE 2026	SESSION 6	1200 - 1600	SAT 20TH JUNE 2026
SESSION 2	1000 - 1400	SAT 13TH JUNE 2026	SESSION 7	0900 - 1200	SAT 27TH JUNE 2026
SESSION 3	0900 - 1200	SAT 19TH JUNE 2026	SESSION 8	1300 - 1600	SAT 3RD JULY 2026
SESSION 4	1000 - 1400	SAT 26TH JUNE 2026	SESSION 9	0900 - 1200	SAT 10TH JULY 2026
SESSION 5	0900 - 1200	SAT 3RD JULY 2026	SESSION 10	1300 - 1600	SAT 17TH JULY 2026

MORE SAILING OPPORTUNITIES

There are also several local clubs and centres offering sailing for young people:

- Reading Haven Yacht Club (Berkshire/Hampshire - 30 miles west)
- Bournemouth Sailing Club (Bournemouth - 100 miles west)
- Royal Yacht Club (Bournemouth)
- Wokingham Yacht Club (Berkshire)
- Solihull Yacht Club (Birmingham)
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- Solihull Yacht Club (Birmingham)



NEW PARTNER

We have teamed up with the local Sea Scouts who can now support further sailing opportunities too.

DEVELOP SKILLS. BUILD CONFIDENCE. ENJOY SAILING!

Parent and Caregiver Peer Support Sessions

11th June 2026 (9am – 11am) Cowes Family Centre

16th July 2026 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

16th September 2026 (9am – 11am) Ventnor Family Centre

16th October 2026 (9am – 11am) Sandown Family Centre

18th November 2026 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

13th January 2027 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

10th February 2027 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church



Drop in for a chat, a cuppa and shared experiences

No booking needed



Isle of Wight
Neurodiversity
Team

Cowes Family Centre –
Love Lane, Cowes PO31 7ET
Carisbrook & Gunville Church
Gunville Road, Newport
PO30 5LS
Ventnor Family Centre
Albert Street, Ventnor PO38 1EZ
Sandown Family Centre
The Fairway, Sandown PO36 9EQ



St Catherine's

Specialists in Speech, Language and
Communication Needs
School - College - Post 19

Charity Shop

St Catherine's School Charity shop in Ventnor is looking for good-quality clothes, books, CDs, DVDs, games, jigsaws, bric-a-brac, and toys to sell to raise vital funds for St Catherine's School.

Please donate items to our Charity Shop
Church Street, Ventnor

Charity Number: 288148

Speech &
Language Therapy

Occupational
Therapy

Sign Supported
English

Residential and
Day School

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Residential
School & College



Ofsted
Good
Provider

Education
School & College

ISLE OF WIGHT POTTERY

Summer Pottery Club!

- Pottery Wheel
- Model Making
- Pottery Painting

£27.50

MESSY HANDS HAPPY MIND

WEEKDAYS DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Sessions available
10am-12pm & 2pm-4pm

Book online

www.isleofwightpottery.com

Freshwater, Isle of Wight

**St James' Church
East Cowes
Isle of Wight**

Home Of The Original

JIGSAW PUZZLE FESTIVAL

10th - 15th August
Daily 10am to 4pm
Also Wed & Thurs - 6:30pm to 8:30pm

**100'S OF PUZZLES ON
DISPLAY AND TO BUY**

**Refreshments, Tombola,
Books, Souvenirs
Available**

**Adults £1
Children Free**

TSA

CHEER TRYOUTS

JOIN THE TSA CHEER FAMILY!

LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

TEAMWORK

DEDICATION

LEADERSHIP

CONFIDENCE

PERSONAL GROWTH

**COME BUILD
CONFIDENCE, MAKE
LIFELONG FRIENDS AND
SPARKLE WITH THE TSA
CHEER SQUAD!!**

27TH JULY

£5

**10 & UNDER
5PM - 6 PM
11 & OVER
6PM - 7PM**

**THE STARLIGHT ACADEMY
8 BARRY WAY - NEWPORT**

WOLFHEIM VIKING FESTIVAL

AT ARRETON BARN

DONATIONS
WELCOME FOR



LIVING HISTORY ENCAMPMENT, RE-ENACTMENT BATTLES,
VIKING CRAFTS, ARCHERY, AXE THROWING,
VIKING SAGAS, RUNE HUNT & MORE

FREE
FAMILY
EVENT

8TH - 9TH AUGUST 10AM - 4PM

HOSTED BY WOLFGUARD RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY
WOLFGUARDIOW.CO.UK

ARRETON BARN, MAIN ROAD, ARRETON, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT, PO30 3AA

NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Polyino and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

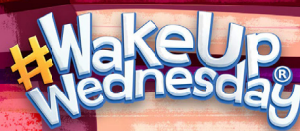
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



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