

Devizes Dispatch



Mr. Cave's weekly message:

As we draw to a close this academic year, I reflect on how incredibly fortunate I am to be a part of this school. In our final assembly today we listed the many events that have taken place, such as Remembrance Day, Ski Trips, gaining our Young Carers Award, the 500kg Food Bank donation, Wear it Green Day, our fundraising virtual journey to Ypres for Comic Relief, opening our new Sixth Form Café, and our various award events throughout the year. In between all that, the fantastic daily efforts of students and staff in ensuring we are always moving forwards towards success. It's a genuine joy to work at this school and for this community.

This dispatch contains lots of information for you that I encourage you to take the time to read. We look forward to celebrating exam success with Years 11 and 13 in August before returning in September- have a wonderful summer break everyone.

School Uniform from September 2026:

Following our uniform trial since Easter, we are now in a position to update our overall uniform expectations that will come into effect from September 2026. Thank you to students and families who responded to our feedback surveys to help inform our decisions.

First of all, the option of wearing either a jumper or a blazer will become a permanent feature. Bar special conditions such as the recent heatwaves we have experienced, all students will be expected to wear one of these items (or both if they wish). The wearing of a house tie will remain, with their tie worn to their top button and displaying at least five stripes or long enough to be tucked into their V-neck jumper. The other main aspects of school uniform- shirts, trousers, skirts and shoes, remain unchanged. We are aware that many have fed back about the way that some students wear items incorrectly. Please note that from September we will be resetting our expectations over the correct wearing of both trousers and skirts. Our attached updated guidance specifies clearly which type of skirt is permitted, and how skirts or trousers should be worn correctly.

The trial of allowing hair colours and types of nails received a mixed response amongst those who responded. We have decided to provide greater clarity over what is permitted in school, and extend the trial of this until the end of 2026, before reviewing whether students can meet these expectations correctly. These are again outlined in the attached



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guidance, with particular attention paid to the length of any nails (real or fake) to allow students to take a full part in their whole school curriculum. From September bright, artificial hair colours such as pink, blue, green or bright reds/purples are not permitted (both in a full head of hair or as a peek-a-boo colour), but natural colours, copper colours and burgundies/dark reds are acceptable.

We have put a limit on the amount of bracelets that can be worn moving forward, but not removed the ability to wear them altogether. We have also provided greater clarity over what types of earrings are permitted. We hope this will ensure we strike the right balance between wearing what is practical for school with allowing students to express themselves and feel comfortable.

We will continue to review the topic of hair colours and nails as stated, and also begin reviewing other aspects of our approach to uniform in the Autumn term, with the view of potential changes from September 2027. We acknowledge comments around modern uniforms, footwear and suppliers, and will give all aspects our full consideration as we move through the first part of the new academic year.

Thank you for your support and feedback at this time- we aim to create a school uniform that represents our school community with a sense of pride and community, that provides an equal footing for those who may experience disadvantage and opportunities for individual expressions where appropriate.

September plans

Years 7 and 12 return on Thursday September 3rd 2026 for enrolment. Year 11 enjoy their reward trip to Thorpe Park that day too, before the rest of the school rejoin us on Friday September 4th 2026. Students will be issued timetables and handbooks on this day, which form an essential part of their daily equipment. Please note that PSHE lessons have been renamed 'Personal Development' from next year- the content of the lessons remain largely unchanged. Please ensure your child arrives promptly back to school by 0830 on their allotted first day, with correct uniform, school bag and full equipment.

Staff changes

As the year comes to an end we have some staff who are sadly leaving us for pastures new, but excitingly some new staff coming into the buildings in September. We say goodbye to Miss Rendell, Mrs Johnson, Mr Knight, Mrs Crickmay, Miss Luscombe, Mr West and Mrs Andrew and wish them well with all that is to come for them.



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We welcome:

Mrs Webb: English
Mrs Illman: English
Mrs Coco-Allan: Drama
Mr Cole: Music
Mr Hayward: Geography

Mobile Phones

Many of you will be aware that the government recently brought in legislation that stated that schools in England are legally required to be mobile phone-free environments by default throughout the entire school day, including breaktimes and lunchtimes. At Devizes School we have banned the use of mobile phones by default for a long time. We are exploring whether we would like to adopt a strategy that further ensures students cannot use their mobile phones in school, but this would be adopted at a later date. For now, please ensure you support us by:

- Contacting the school reception if you need to get a message to your child, rather than texting/calling them directly- this has never been permitted.
- Telling your child they must use the Hub to arrange contact home with yourself
- Ensuring any ParentPay accounts are sufficiently topped up so students can buy food in a timely manner

Please note that if we are contacted by you regarding an incident in school that you could only know about through your child using their mobile device, we will act on this breach of school rules.

ICT Infrastructure improvements

Over the summer holidays there will be significant updates to our IT structures in school, which includes new email addresses for the entire school. Please note that teaching staff will not be contactable during the summer holidays whilst this work is carried out. Should you wish to urgently get in contact with the school over the summer, you can email office@devizesschool.co.uk and this will be passed on to the most relevant member of staff who can assist you. During the holiday period students will not be able to access their own email accounts or cloud-based platforms.

Summer Support

The school is normally on hand to support students' well-being throughout the academic year, but due to the infrastructure changes our support will be limited during this holiday period. Should you require it, you can contact CAMHS Emergency out of hours advice on 0800 023 2133 or their advice service if you are an open case on 01865 903422. Other useful organisations include:



- <https://giveusashout.org/> - in a crisis - parent or friend or the young person can text the word SHOUT to 85258 to get 24/7 support
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/> - Phone and online support
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> - More advice and a helpline for adults and children:
 - For children – call 0800 1111
 - For parents/carers – call 0808 800 5000
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/find-help/> - Help pages for children and their parents about Mental Health
- <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/> - Suicide support for young people and families - they have a HOPEline to call for support in a crisis (9am to midnight). Call 0800 068 4141 or text 07860039967

EXAM RESULTS COLLECTION UPDATE:

Exam results will be available for collection from Devizes School Lower School dining hall.

A Level results on Thursday 13th August 2026 8.30am – 10.30am
GCSE results on Thursday 20th August 2026 9.00am – 10.00am

If your child is unable to collect results in person and they would like someone else to collect them on their behalf then we must receive written confirmation of this from the students via email to exams@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

VERY IMPORTANT: Due to the school migration to a new IT system, students will NOT be able to access their results electronically via Arbor using their school email address on results day, as school email accounts will have become inactive.

Queries with Results: Information about Post result services will be available from the school website under <Learning & Education < Exams>

Please email any results related queries to exams@devizes.wilts.sch.uk

Finally, I hope that your child gets the results they want and wish them all the best in the future.



Year 1 PE sessions

A brilliant end to Year 1 PE sessions at Bishops Cannings School, Devizes!

Here is Mrs Hobbs heading off to teach her final PE lesson with the fantastic Year 1 pupils from Bishops Cannings School. She has enjoyed working with such an enthusiastic group, who have brought great energy and excitement to every session.

Mrs Hobbs said:

"It has been a pleasure to teach the Year 1s, they have been so enthusiastic. We have mainly been working on our co-ordination and throwing skills, and I love their 'show me 5!' which is very similar to our own Devizes School FOCUS. The pupils have been wonderful ambassadors for their school, and we hope to welcome many of them to Devizes Secondary School in the future!"

As a special thank you for their hard work and enthusiasm, Mrs Hobbs gifted the pupils a Devizes School water bottle – a much-appreciated gift, especially during the recent hot weather!

Well done, Year 1 – keep practising those skills and we look forward to seeing you again soon!

TeamDevizes #PE #PrimaryTransition #FutureStudents #BishopsCanningsSchool#

Wiltshire County FA Survey

Wiltshire County FA is conducting a survey to better understand the experiences, interests, and participation of young people in football across Wiltshire.

<https://forms.gle/incL9ptPiDyvqnZb6>

The survey is aimed at children and young people and asks about their involvement in football, the opportunities available to them, any barriers they may face, and what would encourage them to take part more often. The responses will help us build a clearer picture of youth football across the county and identify where we can improve opportunities and provide additional support.

All responses will be completely anonymous. No individual child or school will be identified, and the information collected will only be used to analyse trends and help shape the future development of football across Wiltshire.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday September 3rd - Years 7 & 12 return for enrolment

Thursday September 3rd.- Year 11 & Year 13 reward trip to Thorpe Park

Friday September 4th – All year groups