



Weekly News – 17th July 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE: It has been great to read the great feedback from employers our Year 12 have received, post their work experience week. This has been followed up with a 'Futures Day' about careers and a 'Finance' day, culminating in a session for their parents and carers on 'Finances'. After the disappointment of Wednesday evening's loss, our students have rallied, jumping, throwing and running, further and faster for their athletics days. It was a great atmosphere along with students giving generously for the RSPCA charity being supported. Lessons continue as normal next week up until 3.25pm on Wednesday 22 July. Our new Year 7 and 12 will then start on Thursday 3 September and then all year groups will be in on Friday 4 September. Have a great weekend.

Uniform: With the weather predicted to remain hot next week, students have the option of wearing PE kit or uniform. Students should still bring their phone lockers in, whether they have a phone or not.

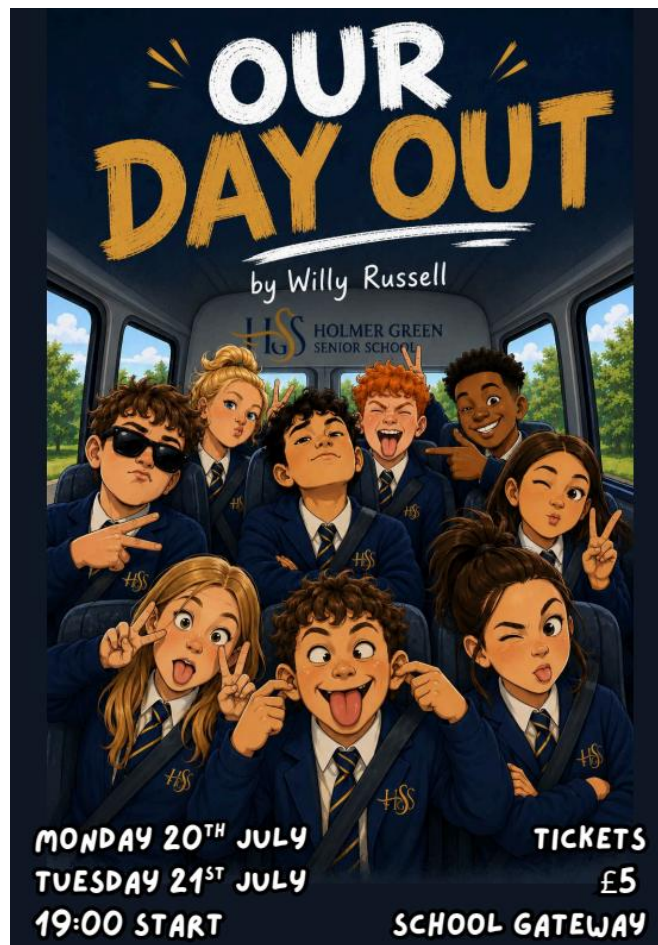
Summer production: Don't forget – it's our Summer Production on Monday and Tuesday next week and tickets are available on School Gateway. It will be a fantastic night, so please do come and support! Please bring your own refreshments as we are unable to provide them this year.

Music lessons: Instrumental lessons play a vital role in developing students' musical skills, confidence and creativity. We offer lessons for piano, vocals, drums, electric guitar, classical guitar, strings and brass. These lessons are offered privately, and each music teacher organises their own timetable and invoicing. The details of each lesson and current costings can be found following this link: [Instrumental lessons booklet](#).

If you would like your son/daughter to participate in instrumental lessons from September, please can you complete the following forms link so we can establish interest and organise teacher availability: [Instrumental Lessons Interest Form](#).

School uniform labels: Many of you will be purchasing new uniform and equipment over the summer break. We ask that all items are clearly named. If you need to purchase name labels, please consider supporting the Parents' Association by ordering these from Stikins. They are a one-size, multipurpose label, which can also be used on school items such as shoes, plastic boxes, water bottles, pencil cases as well as uniform and PE kit.

Each order placed quoting the school reference number (9897) will provide the school with 30% commission. [Click here](#) and the number is filled in automatically for you. The link is also available on the [uniform and equipment page](#) on our website.



Uniform and Equipment Reminder for September

As we approach the summer holidays, we would like to thank families for their continued support and remind everyone of our expectations regarding uniform and equipment for September.

At Holmer Green Senior School, we believe that high standards of uniform and readiness for learning help students develop confidence, responsibility and a sense of belonging. Ensuring students are correctly dressed and fully equipped from the first day of term helps them settle quickly and focus on their learning.

Uniform reminders

Please ensure that students return in September wearing the correct school uniform:

- Skirts should be an A-line design, non-stretchy material and worn at a smart school length (no more than 2 inches above the knee).
- Trousers should be plain black, tailored school trousers.
- Shoes must be plain black leather or leather-imitation school shoes. Trainers and branded sports footwear are not permitted.



Correct black school shoe



Trainer



- Socks should be black.
- Coats should be black or navy blue.
- Students may wear one pair of small stud earrings only.
- Nose piercings are permitted only with a clear retainer.
- All other facial and body piercings are not permitted.
- Acrylic nails, false nails and gel nail extensions are not permitted.

Hair and appearance

If haircuts or colouring are planned over the summer, please ensure they comply with our uniform policy. Hair should be a natural colour and extreme hairstyles, including shaved patterns, razor lines and dramatic undercuts, are not permitted.

If any piercings are planned during the summer holidays, we strongly recommend that they take place at the start of the break to allow sufficient healing time before September. Please be aware that students will be expected to comply with the school's jewellery expectations from the first day of term. Any additional piercings that do not meet the school's policy must be removed.

Equipment

Students should arrive each day fully equipped for learning, including:

- A suitable school bag
- A pencil case containing essential stationery
- A scientific calculator
- A reading book
- A fully charged Windows laptop (where applicable)
- Please also ensure that students are prepared to use our phone locker system every day. Mobile phones must be switched off and secured in their phone pouch throughout the school day. Phones are for the journey to and from school, not for use on site.

☐  BLUE OR BLACK PEN/BIRO x 2	☐  GREEN PEN	☐  HB PENCIL	☐  SHARPENER
☐  ERASER	☐  30CM RULER (TO INCLUDE MM)	☐  GLUE STICK	☐  COLOURED PENCILS
☐  WHITEBOARD PEN	☐  PAIR OF COMPASSES	☐  180° PROTRACTOR	☐  CALCULATOR (RECOMMENDED: CASIO CLASSWIZ SCIENTIFIC CALCULATOR FX-83GTCW)
☐  3x HIGHLIGHTERS	☐  SCISSORS	☐  ALL STATIONERY TO BE KEPT IN A CLEAR PENCIL CASE (NECESSARY FOR EXAM USE) NOT IN BLAZER POCKETS	☐  WINDOWS-BASED LAPTOP (SIM FREE PLEASE. SCHOOL WIFI ONLY TO BE USED ON SITE)
☐  READING BOOK	☐  PHONE LOCKER	☐  WATER BOTTLE (MIN 750ML)	

Being organised and equipped helps students participate fully in lessons, avoid unnecessary disruption and develop the habits that underpin success.

If you are unsure whether an item of uniform or equipment meets our expectations, please contact the school before making a purchase. We would much rather answer a question in advance than have a student arrive in September with an item that does not comply with our policy.

Full details of our uniform and equipment requirements can be found [here](#):

Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure that every student starts the new academic year ready to learn, ready to participate and ready to succeed.

Message from Mrs Golding, Assistant Head teacher Sixth Form and Careers

After 28 wonderful years at the school, I will be stepping down from my role as Assistant Headteacher at the end of this academic year. While I am retiring from this position, I am delighted to be continuing my journey with the school on a part-time basis. It has been a privilege to work with so many exceptional students, dedicated colleagues and supportive families over the years. I would like to thank our parents and students for their kindness and support and wish everyone every success and happiness for the future. Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to continuing to see our students thrive and achieve in September.

Diary for week commencing 20th July:

Date	Time	Event
Monday 13 th July	9am – 12.30pm 7-9pm	Single wicket cricket competition Summer production (main hall)
Tuesday 14 th July	7-9pm	Summer production (main hall)
Wednesday 15 th July	3.25pm	Last day of term. Finish at normal time of 3.25pm

School restarts on **Thursday 3rd September for Years 7 and 12 only**. Individual school photos will be done on this date for those year groups.

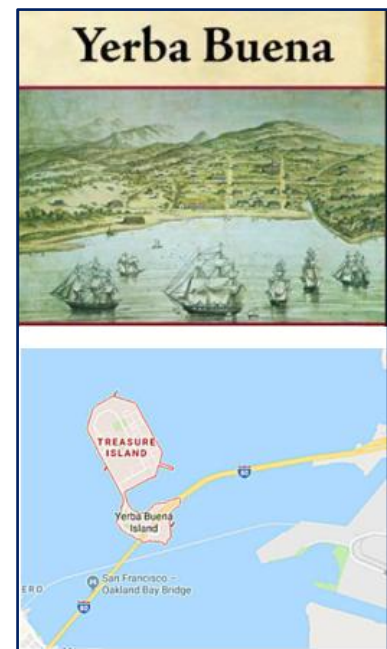
All students are due in on Friday 4th September and photos will be taken of students in Years 8-11 and Year 13.

As we approach the holidays, many of you will be going away but thanks to Mrs Carter – our wonderful Trips Coordinator – we can all enjoy a virtual trip to San Francisco!



San Francisco!

San Francisco has not always been the name we know this region for, but was once a small city called **Yerba Buena**, meaning 'good herb' in Spanish, as this plant grew abundantly around the Bay Area. The settlement was founded in 1776 but was renamed in 1846, when it had a population of less than 1,000 people. Today there is approximately 812,000 people, which is incredibly around 60,000 less than the population peak in 2020.



Settlers from New Spain established the Presidio of San Francisco at the Golden Gate, and the Mission San Francisco de Asis a few miles away, both named for Francis of Assisi. The Californian Gold Rush of 1849 brought rapid growth, making it the largest city on the West Coast at the time. In 1856, San Francisco became a consolidated city-county. After three-quarter of the city was destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire, it was rebuilt, hosting the Panama-Pacific International Exposition nine years later.

The city is built on dozens of hills. The proverbial “city of seven hills” includes well-known places such as Russian Hill, Nob Hill, Telegraph Hill and Twin Peaks, but in total, there are more than 50 named hills.

[San Francisco Map - Explained](#)

United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz Island, also known simply as Alcatraz or The Rock, was a maximum security federal prison on Alcatraz Island, 1.25 miles off the coast of San Francisco, California. The site of a fort since the 1850s, the main prison building was built from 1910 to 1912 as a U.S. Army military prison. This was then acquired and adapted to be used as a prison of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, in 1934, closing in 1963. Please watch this video to see that it is now a place of history, reflection and surprising beauty.

[Inside Alcatraz](#)

[San Francisco Travel Guide](#)

[The difference between San Francisco, Silicon Valley and Bay Area explained](#)

[Nature: Muir Woods National Monument](#)

Fun facts

1. The accidental colour choice for the Golden Gate Bridge, called International Orange. It wasn't a colour from the original list of options. It was the primer used to protect the steel for the bridge during transit, and the architect loved it more than the other options, so he selected it as the official colour.
2. San Francisco's Candlestick Park was the site of The Beatles last ever concert in 1966. Only 25,000 people attended, despite the venue having space for 42,000.
3. Makoto Hagiwara of San Francisco is known as the creator of the modern-day fortune cookie. He was the first person in the US to serve it in his tea garden in the late 1890s.
4. The first electric TV was invented in San Francisco in 1927 by Philio Farnsworth. His working laboratory was at 202 Green Street.

Famous people born in San Francisco

Bruce Lee, Actor, 1940

Clint Eastwood, Actor/Director, 1930

Danny Glover, Actor, 1946

Natalie Wood, Actor, 1938

Robert Frost, Poet, 1874