



**The Hollyfield School e-bulletin**  
 Surbiton Hill Road, Surbiton, KT6 4TU  
 020 8339 4500

“Pupils’ behaviour is exemplary, and they demonstrate exceptional attitudes to learning” Ofsted 2025

**Head’s line...**

Dear Hollyfield Community

It has been another busy week here and staff and students alike have been working really hard. Last night was our sixth form parents’ evening. There was a fantastic turn out and some really fruitful conversations as to how we can support the students to achieve as highly as possible.

Two theatre trips took place this week: Ms Welsh took a number of our Phoenix students to The Rose Theatre in Kingston for a wonderful afternoon. She says: For some, this was their first theatre experience, and they were completely enthralled by the music, lighting, and stage effects. Our Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Drama students also enjoyed a matinee yesterday, at The Gillian Lynne Theatre in London. They watched the RSC’s *My Neighbour Totoro*, which will inspire their own performance work. Miss O’Shea reports that the students were impeccably behaved and a credit to the school.

Please can I remind parents that the options selection form deadline is 27 February. Please speak with your child about their choices and encourage them to speak to staff if they have any queries. The feedback from the options taster days this week was overwhelmingly positive. Students had an opportunity to try out some of the subjects they haven’t yet studied - and staff appreciated a chance to give them a little flavour of the KS4 experience.

We are very much looking forward to our Alumni Event on Wednesday 25 February. We will be joined by a range of former students, who have gone on to successful careers in the arts. Among them are performers, directors, producers, designers, editors, engineers, storybook illustrators, photographers and art/drama school graduates. We can’t wait to welcome them back and to engage them in conversations about the wonderful work they do now.

Three ski trips depart today: one for Italy, two for Austria. We are looking forward to spending the week on the snow and giving the students the opportunity to learn or master different snow sports and to soak up the spectacular scenery (as well as a hot chocolate or two!)

**Half Term and Inset - 23 February 2026**

Next Week is half term. Please can I remind all parents that half term is from Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February. Monday 23 February is an INSET day for staff. The school will be closed to students in all year groups.

**Join Our Governing Body: Governance Professional Vacancy**

We are currently seeking a highly organised and self-motivated **Governance Professional** (formerly known as Clerk to the Governors) to join us. This is a vital role that sits at the heart of our school’s leadership, providing administrative support and procedural advice to our Governing Board. If you have excellent communication skills, a professional eye for detail, and a desire to contribute to our school’s success on a flexible, part-time basis, we would love to hear from you. For a full job description and details on how to apply, please visit the **Vacancies** section of our school website.

The holy month of Ramadan begins on 17 February, so on behalf of the school community, happy fasting and Ramadan Mubarak to all the Muslims in our community.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term.

Regards.

**Amy Jackson, Headteacher**



**Term Dates**

**Autumn Term 2025**

1 September to 19 December  
 (Inset Day – 1-2 Sept, 6-7 Nov & 5 Dec)

**Half Term**

27 October - 7 November

**Christmas Holiday**

22 December - 2 January 2026

**Spring Term 2026**

5 January – 27 March  
 (Inset Day – 23 Feb)

**Half Term**

16-20 February (see above)

**Easter Holiday**

30 March – 10 April (Bank Hol 3 & 5 Apr)

**Summer Term 2026**

13 April – 17 July (Bank Hol 4 & 25 May)

**Half Term**

25 - 29 May

**..... Stop Press.....**

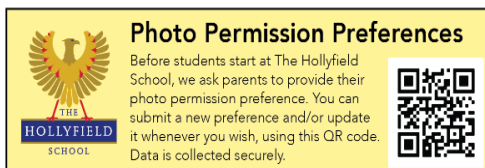
- 25/2 – Y8-13 VPA Alumni Event
- 3/3 -Y12 Surrey Uni and App Fair
- 3-6/3–Y11 GCSE Food Practical Exam
- 4-6/3–Y7-9 Ilex Theatre Britney’s Lock (NT Connections Home Performances)
- 11/3–Y8 Strand Hotel Workplace Visit (9.30am-3pm)
- 13/3 – Y7-9 Rpt emailed Home
- 16/3–Y13 Rpt emailed home
- 18/3 – Activity Day

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“Pupils achieve very well in their examinations. This is because the school delivers an ambitious and balanced curriculum, underpinned by the highest expectations for all pupils. This includes the popular and successful sixth form“ Ofsted 2025

## OTHER NOTICES



**Photo Permission Preferences**

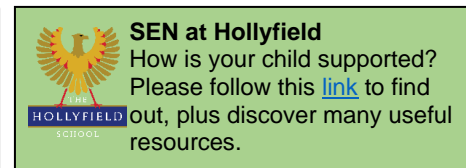
Before students start at The Hollyfield School, we ask parents to provide their photo permission preference. You can submit a new preference and/or update it whenever you wish, using this QR code. Data is collected securely.



**Free School Meals**

**Is your child eligible for Free School Meals?**

A small percentage of eligible students do not claim them. We email parents frequently to let them know. During the term, eligible students can claim a nutritious hot meal, drink or delicious dessert every day. If they are entitled, make sure your child is claiming theirs. If you need further assistance, please contact us.



**SEN at Hollyfield**

How is your child supported? Please follow this [link](#) to find out, plus discover many useful resources.

### Reporting your child's absence

When reporting your child's absence from school on the dedicated absence line - 0208 339 4518 preferably before 8.30am on the morning of your child's absence from school. Please leave their name, spelling out any unusual names, year group and the reason for their absence and your details. Alternatively, you can email the school [attendance@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk).

### Valuables in school

The school policy and guidance with regard to pupil possessions is clear that they are brought into school at their own risk. The Hollyfield School does not accept liability for any items that may be lost, damaged or stolen. While theft is taken extremely seriously and thoroughly investigated, the school is not in a position to cover the cost of any item stolen.

Of course, with respect to the last point, steps and measures are put in place to mitigate against such circumstances, especially during PE and Games lessons, where pupils' items are locked in the changing rooms. While this is standard procedure, there may be some extenuating circumstances where this cannot always be guaranteed. Therefore, I would urge your son/daughter not to bring expensive items into school.

### Medical Condition(s) and Individual Healthcare Plans

Can we please request that you complete the following medical information collection form if your child has any medical conditions, no matter how small. If your child has a new diagnosis we ask you to also complete this form even if you have already done so for a different medical condition to ensure we have the most up-to-date information. Form: <https://forms.gle/pxTajACe1yUNSKdx9>. Once complete, this will form part of your child's Individual Healthcare Plan which will be sent to you for approval, the communication will come from [noreply@medicaltracker.co.uk](mailto:noreply@medicaltracker.co.uk). Please allow emails from this address.

### Changed your address/email/phone number????

If you have changed your contact details, please email the school office on [office@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:office@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk) stating your child's name and form and the change of details. It is important to keep these details up to date in case of an emergency. Don't forget to update your Parentmail account with your new details.

### Water Bottles

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle with them to school every day, it is even more important during hot weather. Our water fountains can be used to refill bottles as necessary during break and lunch, it is not possible to drink from the fountains direct and we do not have bottles or cups to give out to students. Alternatively, bottles of water can be purchased (and refilled) in the cafeteria, please ensure your Parentmail account has enough funds to enable this.

### Surbiton Hill Road Entrance for cars

If you drive/collect students to or from school the visitor's car park/Surbiton Hill Road entrance **should not be used to drop off students**. This causes congestion for people entering the site and staff access, cars travelling on Surbiton Hill Road and is potentially dangerous for pedestrians.

### Dinner Money Top Up

Please ensure funds are available 24 hours before they are required when topping up your child's dinner money on Parentmail. If you add funds on the day they are to be used we will not be able to see the credit instantly until the system has processed it, therefore creating a delay in your child buying food at the canteen.

### Contribution to the School Fund

#### Standing Order Contributions to School Fund

If you already donate to the school by standing order, please consider setting up a direct debit donation on our new platform Enthuse and cancelling your current standing order with your bank. This will maximise your donation as gift aid will be claimed automatically, and reduces administration time for the school. Links to the Enthuse donation platform for both Main School and 6<sup>th</sup> form can be found [here](#).

All contributions received are very much appreciated and directly benefit all students within the school. We value each and every pound donated to provide a better education experience for our students.

If you would like to help contribute to the school fund to provide additional facilities to the school and students, please click [here](#) for more information. We acknowledge that not all of our parents can make a commitment on a monthly basis. Having listened to those parents we also understand that some would like to make a contribution whenever they can. A donation payment link is available in your ParentMail account. We are grateful for any contribution you can make, regardless of the amount. Every penny will be spent improving students' experiences. Like the monthly contributions, your donation will go into the school fund. It will be used in accordance with the guidance given to schools regarding parental contributions.

### Open Door

Ms Jackson holds Parent Clinics on Thursday afternoon during term time. These are from 3.00pm-4.30pm for parents/carers to speak directly to her regarding any unresolved concerns/ suggestions. Please contact Louise Sutton to arrange an appointment on 0208 339 4500 or email [lsutton@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:lsutton@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk).

## SAFE HANDS/PASTORAL SUPPORT

Once again, for your information, the key contacts are:

School - Get in touch with the Designated Safeguarding Team

Ms Patel: [spatel@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:spatel@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk)

Mr Buckman: [nbuckman@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:nbuckman@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk)

Single Point of Access 020 8547 5008.



[Click here to view workshops and book](#)

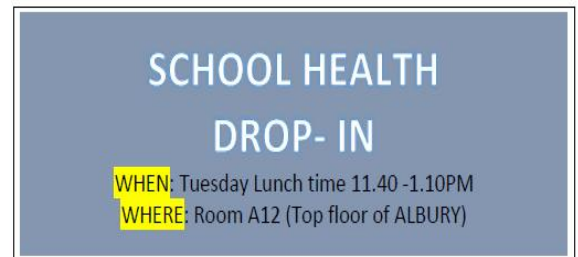
### Balancing the Energy Books

There is no question that there are greater demands placed on students within mainstream secondary schools compared to primary. Lesson pace, sensory overload, academic pressure, personal accountability and social masking can take a heavy toll on many young people with additional needs causing them to become exhausted and unable to contribute to activities or basic activities at home.

Spoon Theory, created by Christine Miserandino, aims to contextualise our personal energy usage that we need to get through each day. What may take one 'spoon of energy' for a neurotypical individual, such as taking public transport or getting ready in the morning, may take a neurodiverse person two or three 'spoons' leading to a deficit at the end of the day.

Spoon Theory aims to identify the major energy draining activities but most importantly, the activities that can be implemented to refill their reserve throughout the day, leading to improved energy management and resilience.

[Link to find out more.](#)



Come along for a **CONFIDENTIAL** chat with your School Health Practitioner about anything that is worrying you....





# HOLLYFIELD PTA NEWS

Dear Parents & Carers

This week we kicked off our planning for Hollyfest 2026. We reviewed all the feedback from last year and have a solid foundation for organising the event in July.

Over the coming weeks we'll be spotlighting the key volunteer roles needed to support the event.

First up is a role that requires support early in the planning and so we're keen to find someone as soon as possible. If you have a friend (or friends) you want to share a role with, that's fine too.

## Sponsorship

### Distribution of activity:

From: March-July

Pre-event: 90%

On the day: 5%

Post event: 5%

Needed at regular meetings? Some

The Sponsorship lead will coordinate efforts to secure sponsorship and advertising for Hollyfest. This includes reaching out to local businesses, managing sponsor relationships, and ensuring they receive appropriate recognition in the programme and on social media. This role needs to coordinate with the Raffle Manager.

If you're interested or would like to know more, email us at [ptahollyfield@gmail.com](mailto:ptahollyfield@gmail.com). If you'd like to read about the other key roles, take a look [here](#).

Many thanks

Hannah & Bryn, co-chairs of The Hollyfield School PTA

**One School. One community. One amazing day.**

## ✿ Supporting Our School Through Sherpa Tutors ✿

*[Please note: Hollyfield School is not affiliated to and does not endorse any specific tutor service, nor can we quality assure their services.]*

We're pleased to share that our PTA has partnered with [Sherpa Tutors](#) as part of their fundraising programme, giving families a simple way to support our school.

When parents register using our referral link, the PTA earns **£5 for every lesson completed** by a student, up to **£100 per family**. These funds are donated directly to the PTA and help support activities, resources, and events for our children.

By taking part, families can benefit from additional learning support while helping to raise valuable funds for our school community.



[@hollyfieldpta](https://twitter.com/hollyfieldpta)



[@hollyfield\\_pta](https://www.instagram.com/hollyfield_pta)



[@TheHollyfieldSchoolPTA](https://www.facebook.com/TheHollyfieldSchoolPTA)



[ptahollyfield@gmail.com](mailto:ptahollyfield@gmail.com)



[www.hollyfieldpta.org](http://www.hollyfieldpta.org)

To join and support the PTA, please [sign up here](#). Thank you for your continued support.

### ✦ Volunteer Opportunity: Social Media Whizz Wanted! ✦

Hollyfield's PTA is on the lookout for a Social Media Whizz to help us spread the word about our events, fundraising and school community.

If you have a little time to spare and knowledge of all (or even some!) things social media, we'd absolutely love to hear from you. Whether you enjoy creating posts, sharing updates, or just keeping things ticking along, every bit of help makes a big difference.

#### 📅 What you'll do:

- Help manage and update our social media
- Share news, events and PTA activities
- Support our lovely school community

#### ♥ What you'll get:

- A flexible, volunteer role
- A chance to support the school and make an impact
- Lots of appreciation from the PTA team!

**Interested or want to know more? Please get in touch — we'd love to welcome you to the team! You can drop us an email at [ptahollyfield@gmail.com](mailto:ptahollyfield@gmail.com).**

### ★ Join the PTA ★

We are a group of parent and carer volunteers creating fun and fundraising events that directly benefit the school. Help shape how funds are spent and make a real difference to our children's experience.

Our meetings usually take place on the 3 Tuesday of every month. Our next general PTA meeting will be Tuesday 17 March.

Get Involved:

- Volunteer your time 🕒 at events and stalls.
- Attend PTA events 🌿 — fun and fundraising combined!
- Come to monthly meetings 📅 (usually the 3rd Tuesday).
- Stay updated via:



**Get Regular Updates** [Join the WhatsApp Community](#) for the PTA



**Follow us on Instagram** [@hollyfield\\_pta](#) for the latest news



**Drop us an email** [ptahollyfield@gmail.com](mailto:ptahollyfield@gmail.com) to find out more

📅 **Coming soon.....** 📅

### Quiz Night for Adults only - date TBC

After the success of our Year 7 Quiz in November we will be holding an adults only quiz night later this term.



[@hollyfieldpta](#)



[@hollyfield\\_pta](#)



[@TheHollyfieldSchoolPTA](#)




[ptahollyfield@gmail.com](mailto:ptahollyfield@gmail.com)





[www.hollyfieldpta.org](http://www.hollyfieldpta.org)

**April** - We are delighted to share that our school has secured a place in next year's London Marathon! The place has been offered to our staff team and one brave and dedicated runner will be taking on the challenge to raise vital funds for the school in April. Stay tuned—full details will be revealed shortly!

### **Pre-loved Uniform Store**

 **Date:** TBC (early next term)

 **Time:** 10:00am to 12:00pm

 **Location:** Holyfield School, The Old Music Building, next to the Dome, Close to the Lamberts Road Gate

[What three words location: [firms.square.energy](https://www.firms.square.energy/)]

A big thank you to the volunteers and families who came along to our Pre-loved Uniform Store two Saturday's ago. **We raised just over £100 for the school by selling pre-loved uniforms!**

If your child has lost or outgrown their uniform or PE kit please drop in and see if we can help. Anyone is welcome to take what items they need - it is best the items get used rather than sit in a store or be thrown away! We operate a donation system for those that can afford to contribute and we have a large stock of uniform items. Availability varies.

### **Register for Easy Fundraising before starting your online shopping and raise money for Hollyfield School**

Please support The Hollyfield School PTA - Surbiton on #easyfundraising, you'll raise FREE donations for us with your everyday shopping.

This is a really simple way to help raise funds for the PTA in order to support the school and students. Easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

Follow this link to register and start raising some much needed funding : Select The Hollyfield School PTA, Surbiton: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1>



@hollyfieldpta



@hollyfield\_pta



@TheHollyfieldSchoolPTA



ptahollyfield@gmail.com



[www.hollyfieldpta.org](http://www.hollyfieldpta.org)

## THIS WEEK.....




### TOP ATTENDERS

The year group with the highest overall attendance so far this year is Year 7 with a total of 96.23%. The top form group within each year this week is:

7SNE= 98.71%  
 8LGR = 98.39%  
 9SCM = 98.75%  
 10KWH = 96.67%  
 11JLU = 93.93%

Well done to all these students, keep up the excellent work.

### HOUSE POINTS

	 Eagle	 Falcon	 Osprey
Year 7	7452	7874	9039
Year 8	7320	7663	5283
Year 9	6790	6536	7873
Year 10	4470	4772	6624
Year 11	2093	3504	2342
<b>Total</b>	<b>28125</b>	<b>30349</b>	<b>31161</b>

### NEXT WEEK

<b>Monday 23 February</b>	INSET DAY
<b>Tuesday 24 February</b>	Yr 11 Trial Exams (Practical and Orals) – 23-27 Feb Year 7 Assembly (LGBT History and Rights) – Dining Hall Year 13 Assembly – Common Room
<b>Wednesday 25 February</b>	Year 8 Assembly (LGBT History and Rights) – Dining Hall Yr 8-13 VPA Alumni Event (6.00-7.30pm)
<b>Thursday 26 February</b>	Year 9 Assembly (LGBT History and Rights) – Dining Hall
<b>Friday 27 February</b>	Year 10 Assembly (LGBT History and Rights) – Dining Hall Yr 9 Option Form Deadline

### FORTHCOMING DATES

**16-20 February 2026 – Half Term**

**23 February – Inset Day – School Closed**

25 February – Year 8-13 VPA Alumni Event

2 March - Annual Royal Institution Science Show (Blue Band) (Surbiton High) (9.00-10.00am)

3 March - Year 12 Surrey University and Apprenticeship Fair

3-6 March – Year 11 GCSE Food Practical Exam

4-6 March – Year 7-9 Ilex Theatre Britney's Lock (NT Connections Home Performances)

6 March – Annual Royal Institution Science Show (Red Band) (Surbiton High) (9.00-10.00am)

10-13 March – Year 11 Back Up GCSE practical Exam

11 March – Year 8 Strand Hotel Workplace Visit (9.30am-3pm)

13 March – Year 7, 8 & 9 Report Emailed Home  
 16 March – Year 13 Report emailed to parents  
 18 March – Activity Day  
 19 March – BTEC Level 3 Results published  
 19 March – Year 11 GCSE Drama C2 Performance Exam  
 19 March – Year 7 Parent Consultation evening - 4.00pm  
 20 March – Year 11 Report emailed to parents  
 23 March-17 April – Year 13 Final Trial Exams  
 23 March – Year 9 DTP & Men ACWY Vaccinations  
 26 March - Year 7-13 Culture Day  
 27 March – Year 11 Level 2 BTEC Media Exam  
 27 March – Year 10 Reports emailed to parents  
 27 March – Non-uniform day - £1 donation to charity  
 27 March - End of Term – students dismissed from 12.00pm

### 30 March – 10 April 2026 – Easter Holidays

## ACHIEVEMENT POINTS

Achievement and behaviour points are awarded every day at Hollyfield in line with our school policy and are a fundamental part of school life. We want students to be the best versions of themselves and we explicitly teach the behaviour we want our young people to develop through our GO BIG character virtues (Good Communication / Organisation / Bouncebackability/Initiative/Gratitude). Students are therefore rewarded for when they demonstrate these character virtues either in class, around our school environment and even outside of school. The school also gives out termly prizes for great progress, engagement in learning, attendance and also contribution to school life. We also continually try to celebrate the successes of our students outside of school life and encourage all students to be proud of their successes in whatever area they come from.

Behaviour points are given to students in line with our behaviour policy. At the heart of our behaviour policy is restorative approaches which is a strategy the school uses to allow students to discuss their behaviours with one another and also key staff and to move past incidents in a non-judgemental way.

Both of the school's rewards and behaviour policies can be found on the school website and if you have any questions about them please don't hesitate to contact Miss Patel (Assistant Headteacher).

The year group weekly totals are below:

Year 7 878 Year 8 614 Year 9 592 Year 10 473 Year 11 117

The top performing forms per year group in terms of overall achievements were:

7BRO 320 8LGR 156 9PTA 138 10DMI 145 11HBL 31

The top performing students from each year were:

Year 7 Riley B Year 9 Mihin F Year 11 Fawad R  
 Year 8 Alan A Year 10 Georgie C

## TEACHING & LEARNING



**PIANO AND VOICE  
LESSONS AT  
Hollyfield**

Are you interested in 1:1 instrument Lessons at school? Let us know and sign up today to start learning!

Is there something else you'd like to learn? Get in touch: [musicservice@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@kingston.gov.uk)

**APPLY NOW!**

**Kingston MUSIC Service**

THE KINGDOM OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES

[HTTPS://UKKINGSTON.SPEEDADMIN.DK/REGISTRATION#/  
/](https://ukkingston.speedadmin.dk/registration#/)

## GETTING TO KNOW.....

### English Department

#### Ali Mirhashem - Head of English

After working in Law for several years, I decided to go travelling for 4 months. Once I returned, a friend suggested I look into becoming a teacher. I thought he was mad.

Having attended a get into teaching event, I became a Teaching Assistant at a school in Epsom. After which, my career snowballed.

I started at Hollyfield in September 2023 as Head of Faculty and the time has flown by. I am proud to work at Hollyfield. The staff are collegiate, friendly and supportive by nature. The students are fantastic too. I am proud of what wonderful opportunities they are given, both inside and out of the classroom, to flourish.

I have since forgiven my friend for encouraging me to attend that 'Get into Teaching Event' eight years ago and remained indebted to him and the first Headteacher who gave me the chance to explore the world of education.

#### Assistant Headteacher: Josephine Rhodes

I started teaching in September 2006 after dropping off an application at Grey Court serendipitously on my way out with some friends. Before I had even arrived I had received a telephone call inviting me in for an interview the following week! I was so excited! At this time Grey Court was at the beginning of its transformation and whilst there were challenging moments, they were exciting times and I have never looked back.

Over the last 20 (ish) years I have continued to develop my careers working in different roles, and different schools, from the Opening Minds' Coordinator, to the Head of English at

a school in Wimbledon, before I transitioned to the Head of Faculty role here, at Hollyfield in 2014.

Whilst teaching English still remains the best part of the job my AHT role now enables me to develop links and relationships with local primary schools, work closely with the Year 7 and 8 pastoral team and develop the Year 6 primary transition process.

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### **2<sup>nd</sup> in Charge: Vicki Callaghan**

My teaching vocation began 17 years ago at Grey Court School where I was mentored by none other than current Assistant Headteacher Josephine Rhodes! Over the course of my career I have held positions including Key Stage 3 Coordinator, Head of Year 9, Teacher in charge of Intervention and now, 2<sup>nd</sup> in charge of English. My favourite place to be is in the classroom, engaging with the students and sharing a love of learning.

I have been at Hollyfield School for 8 years and have enjoyed getting to know students from Year 7 all the way up to Year 13. Teaching English at Hollyfield is a privilege and a daily reminder that teaching is the only job I'd want to do!

### **Deputy SENCO and English teacher: Joy Turner Smith**

I have had many interesting teaching roles and have taught at Hollyfield for 10 years. It's a rewarding job and the staff and students are lovely.

It's satisfying to have the feeling at the end of each day that you have helped someone emotionally or with their education. I love learning about the students and expanding my subject knowledge.

I like to spend my spare time being creative, reading, learning about History and Art (I would love to have been a History teacher) and spending time with friends and family.

### **English Teacher: Natasha Manchester**

I teach English and Drama at Hollyfield, as well as being a form tutor for Year 8 performing arts students. The best thing about Hollyfield is the creativity, determination and ambition of our lovely students. I am proud of what they achieve every day. Additionally, I am lucky to work with dedicated and inspiring colleagues in the English department. In my spare time, I enjoy going to the theatre, museums (the V&A is my favourite) and searching in Waterstones for my next read. I was educated in British international schools and have lived in 6 different countries including Germany, the USA, Egypt (twice!), Hungary and Ireland.

### **SRP Lead and English teacher - Kamenthrie Welsh**

My teaching career began in South Africa, then took me to the USA, and now I'm based in the UK, with most of my experience in primary schools. After spending some time in mainstream classrooms, I chose to specialise in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), where I've focused on supporting neurodiverse students to succeed in a nurturing environment. In addition to being SENDCO and Head of Specialist Provision, I've also taught Year 6 students, helping them prepare for their transition to secondary school.

I joined Hollyfield School in September 2024 as the Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) Lead. What I love most about working at Hollyfield is the wonderful teams of people who collaborate so well together. It's clear to see how much support and attention is given to developing each student to the best of their ability. In addition to leading the SRP, I teach English in smaller, supportive classes, helping students thrive in a more personalised setting.

Having recently moved into secondary education, I understand the challenges students face as they transition. My aim is to create a positive, inclusive environment where students feel supported and confident to learn and grow.

**English teacher: Attina Zarnani**

'Teaching at Hollyfield is the culmination of a lifelong passion for literature and the power of language. After a rewarding career in the wine industry—complete with a Level 2 WSET diploma—I decided it was time to uncork my true calling: teaching.

Every day, I'm grateful to walk into a school filled with incredible students and inspiring colleagues. Sharing my love of stories, words, and creativity while watching young minds flourish is truly the best job in the world. Hollyfield is the perfect place to write the next chapter of my journey.'

**SENCO & English teacher: David Dowdle**

Many moons ago I started my career as a Teaching Assistant across various Primary and Secondary schools in West London. Over the years I took great pride in helping the students with complex needs achieve and take ownership of who they are and what they are capable of, leading me to complete my degree and teacher training. I spent five years in West London as an English Teacher, moving on to SEN Manager of English and Whole school Literacy Lead before spending time working as a teacher in a Special School in Wandsworth. This led to my current position as a fully qualified SENCO at Hollyfield, working to ensure that we continue to remove and reduce the barriers that students with additional needs face daily whilst also promoting their resilience and empowerment.

**Head of Key Stage 5 English: Suzanne Darby:**

I wanted to be a teacher from quite a young age and developed a passion for reading and writing from my mid-teens, many years ago. I trained soon after university, juggling studies and a young family but I always found the experience of working with young people rewarding and fun. I taught first at Rutlish School in Merton, for four years followed by a nineteen year long stint at Three Rivers Academy, a school in Walton-on-Thames.

I joined the English Department at Hollyfield in June 2024 as Key Stage 5 lead for English and feel extremely grateful to have found a school that is so dedicated to the development of the whole person as well as a commitment to ensuring students leave with excellent academic outcomes. I am really proud to be a part of the Hollyfield journey - it really is a fantastic community of young people, as well as dedicated staff.

**Head of Key Stage 3 English: Corin Vafidis**

I began my teaching career modestly as a Drama Assistant in Canterbury. It was never always my intention as a profession. I originally wanted to be a West End Actor. My passion for Drama and Literature would be fulfilled; just not in the way I thought. The feeling of satisfaction and pride of seeing young people flourish and engage in learning soon directed me towards my current career. I enjoy the opportunity to explore learning creatively and foster a "sense of play" when it comes to education.

This is my third year at Hollyfield. The very first thing I noticed was the welcoming atmosphere and sense of teamwork which marks the school its place on the map. Everyday brings new rigorous challenges and is always an exciting experience. It is my pleasure to teach English and Drama at Hollyfield, exploring the beauties and intricacies of language, not only through analysis but through oracy and performance too. I additionally am honoured to have been given the responsibility of Year 7 Transition Co-ordinator, where I plan exciting activities to immerse students in literacy and reading. It really helps confirm how lucky I am to be in this job.

**English teacher: [Rachel Clark](#)**

My teaching journey stems back to first grade when I received a chalkboard easel as a Christmas gift. At the time I thought it was a weird, slightly random gift, but then it quickly became my favorite thing. From that day on, I've found joy in teaching and how dynamic it is- how every day presents a different opportunity to be challenged and to learn and grow.

Since my chalkboard days, I've worked as a tutor and a volunteer in Switzerland and Egypt and as a TA at school in Quito, Ecuador. I started at Hollyfield last January and I have enjoyed getting to know our school's truly unique students and staff, all while exploring a subject I am truly passionate about.

## CAREERS

### CAREERS

#### Careers Briefing 13 February 2026 Mr Poole & Miss Corrighan (Careers team)

**Year 9 Options Choices**

**On Monday 9 February, it was the Careers and Subject Taster day** where Year 9s had the chance to take part in some KS4 Subject taster lessons and the careers speed networking event.

This event allowed students to meet with Volunteers from different businesses and industries to talk about their experiences of education and employment, and hopefully they gained some good advice about career choices for the future. There were a range of industries represented including; engineering, finance, science, the Police, healthcare and many more. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time to speak to our students - it was an inspiring day!



The guests were very positive about the Year 9 students who had to cope with a speed networking event and talked to a different employer every 5 or 6 minutes. As one guest said: "It was a fab experience and the students were really great and thoroughly engaged. I had many very interesting questions and interested students. It was not easy for them to switch from one set of employers to the next in the very short space of time that they had and they showed adaptability and excellent communication skills'.

**Year 11 Sixth form & college Applications for Sept 2026**

If students are not planning to attend Hollyfield Sixth Form next year, there is still time to apply to college or an apprenticeship. Many students may decide to stay in the Sixth Form, but you need to apply to college to ensure you have a backup plan. Kingston College, NESCOL, Richmond upon Thames, and others are still taking applications, so if you have not applied yet, you need to do so.

For apprenticeships, students and parents and carers can look at the [Find an apprenticeship](#) website and look for jobs that will start in Sept 2026.

If you are not sure how to apply, speak to Mr Poole, [ipool@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:ipool@hollyfield.kingston.sch.uk), who is based in Albury in the Careers office.

### Spring Term Open Events



South Thames College	Wednesday 4 March, 4.30pm-6.30pm	<a href="#">Register here</a>
Merton College	Wednesday 11 March, 5pm-7pm	<a href="#">Register here</a>
Kingston College	Wednesday 18 March, 4.30pm-6.30pm	<a href="#">Register here</a>

### nescot

NESCOT have an open evening in **March 3rd** [Nescot Open Events](#)



NESCOT also runs many fun activities through their **Saturday academies**. They are currently taking bookings for the next round of activities which begins at the end of February and includes a number of practical, vocational courses, **including animal management, construction and cooking**. The price of the 4-week course is £95.

See link for details: [Saturday Academies for 13-16 year olds | Nescot](#)



**Richmond upon Thames College** in Twickenham has an open event in March [Events | Richmond Upon Thames College 4th March](#)



[Talking futures](#) is a great resource to inform parents and carers about the options available to their children. It has conversation starters, information about the range of options, which include technical qualifications and apprenticeships and more. It is a really good starting point for parents and carers to find out more about what their children can do in this ever-changing education landscape.

### Careers opportunities

We encourage sixth form students and parents and carers to access our **weekly Careers Opportunities bulletin**. All of these opportunities allow students to explore their ideas and look great on uni or apprenticeship applications. Students and parents/carers can access this here: [HF Careers opportunities bulletin 13/02/26](#)

This includes;

- **Work experience**
- **Careers talks**
- **University open days/tasters**
- **Apprenticeships**
- **Unifrog resources and events**
- **and much more**

**Students in year 12 will do a work experience placement in the last week of the summer term - 13-17th July** so students should be looking for placements now for that

week and once confirmed it needs to be recorded on Unifrog (See more info in the careers opps bulletin).

### National Apprenticeship week 2026 (NAW)



Last week we advertised a range of activities going on in National Apprenticeship week. For more information on apprenticeships see our weekly careers bulletin in the apprenticeships section. This includes lots of apprenticeships that students can apply to including local and national companies. Also access; [Higher and Degree Listing - Amazing Apprenticeships](#) which was updated Jan 2026 and lists the range of apprenticeships.

#### Apprenticeships of the week:

#### Apprenticeships - BT Group



Every year, we help more than 700 apprentices from all walks of life to start new chapters in their careers – more than any other private sector business in the UK. Deadline to apply: 22 February - apply now! Find out more about the range of options: [Early Careers Exploration Hub](#)

- **Software Engineering**
- **Engineering**
- **Data and AI**
- **Transformation and Delivery**
- **Service**



### National Physical Laboratory in Teddington

This week, we're celebrating the positive impact of **apprenticeships**, helping young people build confidence, develop practical skills, and **take the first step into an exciting career**.

Our **Measurement Technician Apprentice role** is now available for students to apply. As a Junior Measurement Apprentice, you will **build your knowledge** in the science of measurement, which is at the heart of all science and engineering. Share this with your students and networks to offer them the chance to **learn from world leading experts** while gaining a fully funded qualification to start in 2026: [Measurement Technician Apprentice in Teddington, United Kingdom - National Physical Laboratory](#)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Links to Useful Information

[Term Dates 2025-2026](#)

[Uniform List](#)

[Extra-Curricular Activities](#)

[Severe Weather Procedure](#)

[Form Tutor List](#)

[The School Day Times](#)

[Student well-being and safety](#)

[Donation to School Fund](#)

[Key Dates](#)

[Menus](#)

[Staff List and Structure](#)

Important reminders for PE clubs:

- students receive 1 achievement point for attending
- clubs are free and no pre sign is required

- clubs at the school field will have a coach to drop them off and pick them up or students can make their own way home using public transport
- PE kit is not required for clubs during lunchtime
- For after school clubs, students should bring PE kit to get changed after 3.05pm unless they are already wearing their PE kit for their PE lesson that day
- If a student has a repair, they need to attend the repair as the priority

### Resilience in Children

If you are interested in further reading around building resilience in children this article is worth a read.

<https://cmom.org/press/the-british-psychological-society-five-ways-to-boost-resilience-in-children/>

## LOCAL INFORMATION

### Kooth

Kooth is an online crisis messenger service that Children and young people can access for free online mental health support with a professional counsellor - [www.Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com).

### Mental Health Resource sites

- Mind in Kingston: run daily activities on zoom. Email [RachelDykens@mindinkingston.org.uk](mailto:RachelDykens@mindinkingston.org.uk) for details.
- Childline: [information and advice](#) on a range of topics including feelings, relationships, family and schools. Childline is there to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through. Call: [0800 1111](tel:08001111).
- Anna Freud Centre: 90 resources and strategies <https://www.annafreud.org/selfcare/>.
- Samaritans: Samaritans a safe place for you to talk any time you like, in your own way, about whatever's getting to you. Call: [116 123](tel:116123).
- Shout - Shout is the UK's first free 24/7 text service for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. Text Shout to [85258](tel:85258).
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: We are a team of highly-trained, female advisers. We won't judge you or tell you what to do; we are here to listen. Call: [0808 2000 247](tel:08082000247)/online chat.

### Information for adults

Young Minds - Parents Helpline - Worried about a child or young person's behaviour or mental health? Call the free helpline for confidential, expert advice. For more information visit: [www.youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/). Call 0808 802 5544.

DRAMA SINGING DANCE

## JIGSAW PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOLS

3-18 years

SCHOOLS IN:

- Battersea**  
Saturday mornings
- Surbiton**  
Saturday mornings
- Croydon**  
Saturday afternoons

WhatsApp: 020 8108 5985

T: 020 8108 5985 W: [jigsaw-arts.co.uk](http://jigsaw-arts.co.uk)

EST. 1995

I didn't think I could...

Fostering ...but now I am

You could be exactly the right person, no matter your background, culture, religion, ethnicity, sexuality or relationship status to be a great foster carer!

Enquire today to find out how fostering could be right for you.

Enquire or check out the website for more information  
 E: [info@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:info@achievingforchildren.org.uk)  
 T: 0300 131 2797  
 W: [achievingforchildren.org.uk/contact-fostering](http://achievingforchildren.org.uk/contact-fostering)

achieving for children

Fostering SOUTH EAST

Funded by UK Government

### The Nurturing Programme

**FAMILY LINKS**  
The Centre for Emotional Health

## Talking Teens

### Four week parent group

The Talking Teens Parent Group helps deal with your challenges over four sessions, so you can have a calmer, happier family life.

- 1 Being a parent of a teenager**
  - The role of parents for teenagers
  - Responding to difficult feelings
- 2 Understanding your teenager**
  - Understanding teenage development
  - Parenting styles
  - Praise and criticism
- 3 Communicating with your teenager**
  - Talking and listening
  - Communicating clearly
  - Handling difficult issues
- 4 Managing conflict**
  - Rules and boundaries
  - Choosing how to respond
  - Problem solving

**Contact details**  
 Karen Williams, Parenting Officer  
 E: [karen.williams@achievingforchildren.org.uk](mailto:karen.williams@achievingforchildren.org.uk)  
 T: 020 8547 6965  
 M: 07771 974388



Counselling and Therapy

Morag Shrafeddin is a qualified Counsellor with a Masters from Roehampton University in Integrative Counselling and Psychotherapy specialising in work with Children, Adolescents and Families. She also works in Fulham as a School Project Manager with the school counselling service Place2Be.

Morag is dedicated to supporting children and adolescents with their emotional well-being and personal growth. With a compassionate and client-centred approach, she aims to empower children and young people to overcome challenges and thrive in their lives.

**Morag Shrafeddin**  
 Specialist in Children and Adolescent Therapy  
 (MA Roehampton University)

(M) 079 5639 2216  
 (E) [morag@shrafeddins-therapy.co.uk](mailto:morag@shrafeddins-therapy.co.uk)  
 (W) [shrafeddins-therapy.co.uk](http://shrafeddins-therapy.co.uk)

Enabling people to help themselves

## Parenting Workshop

Helping You Navigate the Challenges of Parenting Adolescents

**Do you ever feel...**

- Stressed or overwhelmed by your teenager's behaviour?
- Unsure how to set boundaries that actually work?
- Alone when dealing with school issues or conflict at home?

You're not alone. Join our friendly, supportive group for parents of young people aged 11-18.

**What to Expect**

Share practical strategies for positive behaviour management.  
Explore effective communication tools.  
Experience a safe, non-judgemental space to talk and connect.

**Facilitated by Experienced Children's Counsellors & Psychotherapists**

Natalia Watts – MA, HCPC, EMDR Accred.  
Jessica Dahl – MA, MBACP  
Ruth Kendrick – BACP Accred., EMDR

**You Will Learn**

Proven parenting techniques that build cooperation and respect.  
Strategies to support emotional regulation.  
Insights into teenage brain development – and how it shapes thoughts, feelings, and behaviour.

**Workshop Details**

Starting Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> of January to March the 9<sup>th</sup> 2026 (no workshop during half term).  
Monday mornings 9:15-10:45 AM  
St Mary's Hall, Weybridge  
8-week workshop – £400

**Book Your Place**

**Email:** [info@thepractice.co.uk](mailto:info@thepractice.co.uk)  
**Phone:** 0333 009 6321  
**www.thepractice.co.uk**

Kingston and Richmond  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Become a member of your local NHS trust

- ✓ Are you interested in **working in healthcare**?
- ✓ Do you have **experience of health services** in Kingston and Richmond?
- ✓ Are you interested in **giving back** to your local community?

If you are **aged 14+** and any of these apply, why not become a member of Kingston and Richmond NHS Foundation Trust.

**Benefits include:**

- Volunteering opportunities
- Opportunities to access health talks and hear from experts
- Ability to attend Council of Governors meetings and stand for election to the Council of Governors, if you want to!

Scan with your phone camera

[www.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk](http://www.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk)

# LOOKING FOR A DOG?

ADOPT A RESCUE DOG ON CHANNEL 4'S *the Dog House*

APPLY HERE

4

[C4THEDOGHOUSETAKEPART.CO.UK](http://C4THEDOGHOUSETAKEPART.CO.UK)

FEBRUARY FREE PARENTING CLINIC

RAISING RESILIENT KIDS: BUILDING REAL CONFIDENCE

# PARENTING CLINIC

## RAISING RESILIENT KIDS

23 FEB

12.00 TO 12.30PM  
HOSTED ON ZOOM  
Come live or catch the replay

In this month's Free Parenting Clinic, we'll explore:

- The real difference between confidence and self-esteem (spoiler: they're not the same)
- Why "praise more" doesn't always build resilient kids
- How confidence is quietly shaped at home, every single day
- Practical, realistic ways to support your child to bounce back, believe in themselves, and try again

This isn't about raising loud, fearless children. It's about raising kids who trust themselves, cope with setbacks, and keep going when things wobble.

Join Anisa Lewis, Parenting Coach, for a relaxed, supportive 30-minute online talk, designed for busy parents who want tools that actually work in real family life.

**Book your free place here:**  
<https://anisalewis.as.me/theclinic>  
or email: [hello@anisalewis.com](mailto:hello@anisalewis.com) for the booking link.



Is your child holding it together all day, only to fall apart where it's safe?

Or maybe they doubt themselves, avoid challenges, or give up quickly when things feel hard?

We talk about confidence a lot... but what does it actually mean for our children?



Anisa Lewis  
Parenting Coach

## WEBSITES TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN ENGLISH

[Book Creator](#)

[Games to Learn English](#)

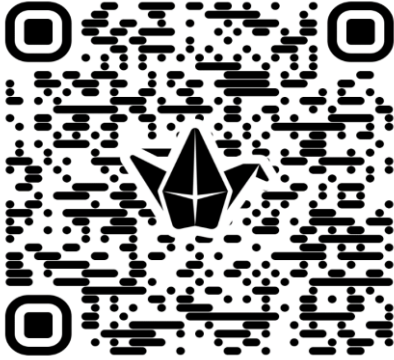
[A1-A2 vocabulary | LearnEnglish Teens](#)

[MES Online Flash Cards](#)

[Liveworksheets.com](#)

[ESL Worksheets English Exercises](#)

[Materials - The English Hub for Refugees](#)



THIS QR CODE WILL TAKE YOU TO A HUGE BANK OF RESOURCES - SCAN ON YOUR SMARTPHONE