



Equity, Excellence, Evolution

The Five Islands Academy is an all-age, multi-site, Church of England Academy, serving the island communities of Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's and Treasco. It is part of the Leading Edge Academies Partnership.

Thursday 11th September 2025

Y7 Key Information and Guidance

Dear Parents,

To support you and your child, we have drawn together the information below as a checklist and guide.

We are working towards confirming the exact dates so those outlined below are subject to change if needed. We will inform you of any changes as quickly as possible. All the events below are fully inclusive and appropriate adjustments will be made accordingly by liaising with students and parents.

| What | When and Where | Responsibility | Outcome |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| CATS testing | Week commencing 15th September 2025 | Mrs Banfield, Students | Students will sit their Cognitive Ability Tests, more information below. |
| College and Careers Convention 2025 Delegate Fair | FIA St Mary's base. Thursday 9th October 2025 | Mr Garratt, FIA staff and delegates | Students and parents are invited to a Careers exhibition to meet post-16 providers and representatives from the world of work and higher education. |
| Quadmester 1 Data Reports | Week commencing 24th November 2025 | All teachers | Parents will receive a data update from all teachers on their progress, effort and homework for the first quadmester. |
| Quadmester 2 Assessments | 19th Jan-30th Jan 2026 | Students | Students will sit the end of quadmester 2 assessments in all subjects. More information will be sent out regarding preparation for these. |
| Quadmester 2 Data and Written Reports | Week commencing 2nd March 2026 | All teachers | Parents will receive a written update from all teachers on their progress, effort and homework for the second quadmester. This will contain next steps too from the most recent assessment for each subject. |

All aboard! Navigating together

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| Quadmester 3 Data Reports | Week commencing 18th May 2025 | All teachers | Parents will receive a data update from all teachers on their progress, effort and homework for the third quadmester. |
| Year 7 Parents' Evening | FIA St Mary's Base / online 11th June 2026 | Parents, Students and Teachers | Parents meet with teachers and tutors to discuss their child's progress in all subjects. Data reports will be shared each quadmester. |
| Summer Exams | 29th June-10th July | Students | Students will sit the Summer assessments in all subjects. More information will be sent out regarding preparation for these. |
| Orange Scilly | Week commencing 20th July 2026 | Students and Teachers | Students will participate in our week of 'adventures at home' activities, challenging themselves and celebrating our unique island environment. |
| Quadmester 4 Data Reports | Week commencing 20th July 2026 | All teachers | Parents will receive a data update from all teachers on their progress, effort and homework for the fourth quadmester. |

Next week your child will be sitting the Cognitive Abilities Tests, CATs. These are online tests which will be completed on the students' iPads. CATs are designed to assess a pupil's ability in three different areas: verbal (thinking with words); quantitative (thinking with numbers); and non-verbal (thinking with shapes and space).

The tests are designed to be taken without any revision or preparation so they can assess a child's potential in their ability to reason. CATs are not testing children's knowledge and understanding as a maths or English exam might, so they can't 'learn' how to answer the questions or revise for these. Therefore the students should not be worried about these.

The scores are used to calculate predicted levels and can also be used to predict the outcome of GCSEs. If there is a wide variation between the scores in different aspects of the test, this may flag up a child who is experiencing difficulties in one area and can lead to a diagnosis, such as dyslexia. Extra support can then be put in place to help the child at school.

Please can you ensure that your child arrives at school on Monday with a fully charged iPad and headphones (if they have their own set). If you have any further questions regarding these tests please be in touch by emailing emilybanfield@fiveislands.org

Your feedback throughout this year on reports and assessments is really important and we welcome the communications.

Yours faithfully,

Emily Banfield

Senior Assistant Head: Achievement & Standards