



# FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

16 December 2022

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Christmas and New Year is an opportunity to look back on what has happened and look forward to what lies ahead. Our year so far gives us pride and joy as we reflect on the achievements of our fantastic students. Our Character Education Kitemark Plus award encapsulates much of this success, it points towards our five values and how they run deeply through what we do.

It is a privilege to celebrate hundreds of our students in so many ways. Our Celebration Evening, sports performers assembly, house celebrations, recent musical and drama performances, along with the thousands of tokens issued, show that students who attend Five Acres High School can be as successful as any student in the country.

In the new term our values focus will be centred around building our collective understanding of respect and inclusion, with a leadership focus on ensuring that all barriers that prevent 100% attendance are understood, with solutions found where possible. We are also excited to also be launching a virtues-based aspect to our Character Education offer to give further opportunities for students to build their character

in readiness for post-16 study. More details will follow.

The beginning of this week brought with it the first disruption of winter from snow. I would like to thank Mr Brace and his helpers for working over the weekend to ensure that the school remained open and provided a safe and warm space for the majority of students who have attended. I also want to pay tribute to the teaching and support staff for their efforts in making it through in often tricky circumstances to ensure that quality face to face teaching has been available. Our commitment is to always be open where possible and practical because we understand that learning in a classroom environment with subject specialists is still the best form of education.

I'd like to remind you that school re-opens on Wednesday 4 January 2023 to all students and we look forward to making yet more progress in the year ahead. During the holiday period our Reception service will be unavailable but will open again on Tuesday 3 January. Whilst all staff are on annual leave during this time, if you need to contact the school the best way, as

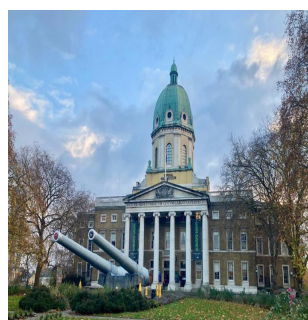


always, is to directly email the person you wish to make contact with or to leave a message on the main school number's answer phone. Due to this being the holiday period these messages will be picked up on staff's return. Whilst we often communicate celebratory messages via our own social media platforms (@FiveAcresHigh - Twitter, Five Acres High School - Facebook and @fiveacreshighschool - Instagram), these are not regularly monitored for responses and we encourage all communication through the ways described above.

For those who celebrate the religious significance of this period they often reflect on the hope and peace the events of the first Christmas bring. As we break for the holidays today I want to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and hope you have a fantastic New Year.

## IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM TRIP

On Friday 2 December, the English Department took 60 Year 9s to London to the Imperial War Museum. Year 9 have been studying Fiction and Poetry from World War 1 and 2 so were able to develop a better understanding of what characters and poets experienced. We also went around the Holocaust Gallery, which was incredibly moving. Our students did us proud and engaged with the thought-provoking exhibits maturely.



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## ACADEMIES & SOCIETIES

### **Monday Lunchtime**

Year 7-11 Music Practise drop-in  
Year 7-11 Film Analysis Club  
Year 7-10 MFL Conversation Club  
Year 7-11 Chess Club  
Year 9 Book Society  
(Week A)

### **Monday After school**

Year 7-10 Winter Play rehearsals  
Y7 & 8 Boys Rugby  
Y7 & 8 Girls Netball  
Y7 & 8 Trampolining

### **Tuesday Lunchtime**

Year 7-10 Performance Techniques  
Year 7-11 Enterprise  
Year 7 & 8 Book Society (Week A)  
Year 7-9 Eco Club

### **Tuesday After school**

Year 7-10 Acapella  
Year 7 & 8 Junior Rock Band  
Year 7 & 8 Art Academy  
Year 7-9 Girls Rugby  
Year 7-9 Girls Cricket  
Table Tennis

### **Wednesday Lunchtime**

Y7-11 Crochet Society  
Y7-11 Harry Potter Club (Week A)  
Y7-11 Music Practise drop-in  
Y7-11 Boccia

### **Wednesday After school**

Y7-10 Winter Play rehearsals  
Y9-10 Senior Rock Band  
Y7-10 STEM Society  
Y9 Electronics Academy  
Y7 Boys Football  
Y7-10 Girls Football  
Y9-10 Boys Football

Y7-11 Golf

### **Thursday Lunchtime**

Y7-11 Band Skills  
Y7-11 Pride Club  
Y7-10 Poetry by Heart (Week A)  
Y10 Book Society (Week B)  
Y11 Book Society (Week A)  
Y7-11 Equestrian Society

### **Thursday After school**

Y7-10 Musical Theatre Choir  
Y8 Boys Football  
Y9-10 Boys Rugby  
Y9-10 Girls Netball

### **Friday Lunchtime**

Y11 Massolit/Homework Support  
Y7-11 Cipher Challenge

### **Friday After school**

Y7-11 Lego Club

## STAR STUDENTS YEAR 10

Rylie (10RSH) is a credit to our tutor group. He is an active member of the cadets and always comes into school prepared for learning. He has achieved two praise postcards this term. He is always respectful to others and is determined to do his very best.

Sarah (10RSH) has been an inspiration this term. She was determined to explain to others in the tutor group about her medical condition. She has successfully led a tutor assembly and was very confident during her delivery.

Well done to Emma (10RHN) and her family who collected over £3000 for the Royal British Legion. Emma volunteered for 5 hours to raise money.

## BEDROCK HOMEWORK

As we reach the end of the term, the English department would like to congratulate the many students that have consistently completed their Bedrock homework since September. Many have gone above and beyond and this has been fantastic to see.

As a reminder, students need to complete two lessons on vocabulary in one week, between Monday 8am and the following Sunday at 7pm.

A lesson should take 15-20 minutes to complete. You can check if your child has completed their homework by clicking on the history tab at the top of the page.

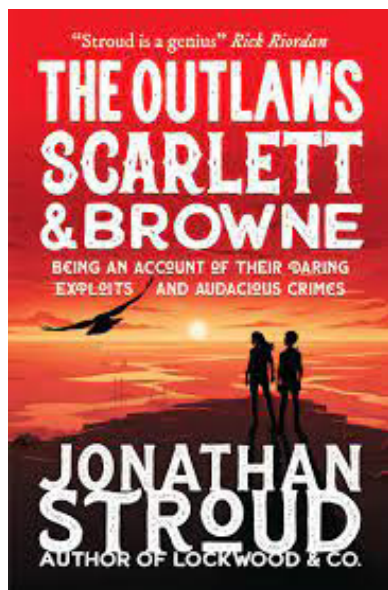
You will see the lesson number, eg lesson 45. If the lesson is completed there will be a green percentage next to it. If it is red (under 60%) it does not count and will need to be redone. This will still be one lesson until it is green.

We are in the process of introducing a whole host of new initiatives to celebrate the fantastic efforts of our students, which will include: prize draws, tokens, certificates and badges. There is more information to come in the new year!



## READING RECOMMENDATIONS

*Our Reading Programme Lead,  
Miss Phelps shares her picks for  
KS3 and KS4.*

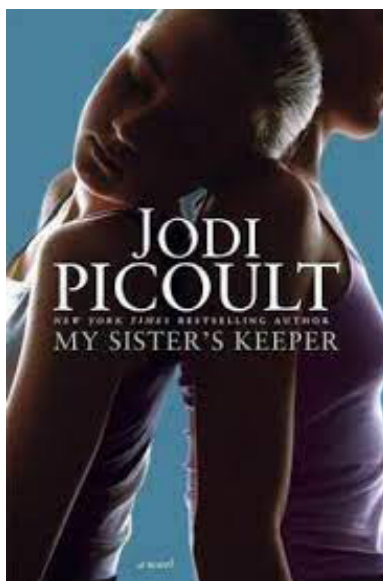


### ***The Outlaws Scarlett & Browne*** by Jonathon Stroud

Set in a fragmented future England, *The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne* introduces us to a world where gunfights and monsters collide, and where the formidable outlaw Scarlett McCain fights daily against the odds. When she discovers a wrecked coach on a lonely road, there is only one survivor – the seemingly hapless youth, Albert Browne. Against her instincts, Scarlett agrees to escort him to safety. This is a mistake. Soon, new and implacable enemies are on her heels. As a relentless pursuit

continues across the broken landscape of England, Scarlett must fight to uncover the secrets of Albert's past – and come to terms with the implications of her own.

In his first new project since Lockwood & Co., Jonathan once again fuses action, humour and mystery to create a uniquely exciting adventure with two fascinating heroes at its heart.



### ***My Sister's Keeper*** by Jodi Picoult

Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. By age 13 she has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions, and shots so that her older sister, Kate, can somehow fight the leukaemia that has plagued her since childhood. The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna

was conceived as a bone marrow match for Kate – a life and a role that she has never challenged... until now. Like most teenagers, Anna is beginning to question who she truly is. But unlike most teenagers, she has always been defined in terms of her sister—and so Anna makes a decision that for most would be unthinkable, a decision that will tear her family apart and have perhaps fatal consequences for the sister she loves.

*My Sister's Keeper* examines what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person. Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life, even if that means infringing upon the rights of another? Is it worth trying to discover who you really are if that quest makes you like yourself less? Should you follow your own heart or let others lead you? Once again, in *My Sister's Keeper*, Jodi Picoult tackles a controversial real-life subject with grace, wisdom, and sensitivity.

*If you have been inspired by  
Miss Phelps' choices, you  
can buy books and support  
the school through our  
partnership with  
Rossiter Books*

- <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/fiveacres>

## CONTACT US

To keep up to date with life at Five Acres High School,  
please follow us on  
Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

To contact the school, please call 01594 832263 or  
email [admin@5acreshighschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@5acreshighschool.co.uk)

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## UPDATES FROM HEADS OF KEY STAGES

### MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF KEY STAGE 3



That's a wrap for the first term, a third of the way through the school year already. A lot has been accomplished so far - the Year 7s have continued with their strong start all the way through the term and still have the best attendance and behaviour record in comparison to other year groups.

KS3 students have now completed their first round of data for this year, with two more left this year. There will be some set moves in the New Year as a result of these assessments. Year 9 students will begin to think about option choices with the deadline for making their choices around May. It is also worth Year 8 students having this in the back of their minds as before they know it, it will be their turn too.

In terms of the wider picture there has been a lot going on in the last few weeks - various sporting fixtures, sporting tournaments, school performances, fundraisers, trips and Christmas activities - it has been great to see so many KS3 students getting involved. I would ask that all KS3 students go home over the Christmas break and think about their involvement in school life - are they getting the balance right? There is so much on offer, grab it while you can as school passes by very quickly. I wish all of KS3 a happy Christmas and hope that they have a well earned break so that they are keen and ready to go again in January.

### MRS HAYWARD - HEAD OF KEY STAGE 4



It's been a fantastic couple of weeks filled with so many accomplishments and celebrations. Well done to Chloe, Isla, Imogen, Keira, Emma and Zane who received golden tickets and enjoyed afternoon tea with Mr Phelps. I am so proud that we had so many nominations in Key Stage 4. Your commitment to both school and the community is outstanding. All students have now received their most recent assessment data and it has been wonderful to celebrate the hard work and determination that students have shown through both assemblies and Celebrations Evening. 10AWS and 11CGN enjoyed a pizza party on Thursday to celebrate being the top tutor groups in their year group - thank you to the canteen staff who provided some tasty treats for them to enjoy and well done to all of the students who played their part in taking their tutor group to the top. In addition we have had cookies for our top attendees and Christmas movies for this term's top house and as the newsletter goes to print, many of our Year 11s will be taking on staff in an end of term quiz.

Whilst considering celebrations, for our Year 11 students, please put Friday 7 July into your diaries as the Year 11 Prom has been officially booked. Tickets will be available later in the school year for all who receive their invite. Our prom committee will meet for the first time in January so please look out for ways in which you can support their fundraising efforts.

Congratulations also go to Chloe in Year 10 who for the fourth year in a row has produced the school's Christmas card. This is a brilliant achievement in a strong line up of creative entries again this year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of all that we have achieved in this first term and can't wait to see Key Stage 4 continue to grow and develop as we arrive into the new year. I hope you all have a wonderful and restful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in 2023!



## ROYAL NAVY LOGISTICS VISIT

On Tuesday 13 December we welcomed two Royal Navy Logistic chefs who spent the afternoon cooking with Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students. Students were placed in teams and were challenged to cook a two-course meal. The dishes chosen were cottage pie and mini fruit pavlovas, with the Navy chefs stating that our students had produced some of the best meringues they had seen and tasted!

A careers presentation was then given to the whole year group focusing on the opportunities the Royal Navy can offer. Further information can be found at [www.royalnavy.co.uk/careers/joining](http://www.royalnavy.co.uk/careers/joining)



## GOLDEN TICKET CELEBRATION

Congratulations to all the students who were awarded Golden Tickets this term and were treated to afternoon tea with Mr Phelps, including a festive sing-a-long!



## KEY DATES

**Tuesday 3 January 2023**

INSET Day

**Wednesday 4 January 2023**

Students return to school

**Thursday 12 January 2023**

Year 7 Parents' Evening

**Thursday 19 and Friday 20**

**January 2023**

Years 7-9

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

## SCOUTS VOLUNTARY WORK

Well done to Year 8 student Tio and his sister Aalish who volunteered with the 1st Royal Forest (Tuesday) Scouts to help pack Christmas boxes for the Salvation Army. They helped to pack 160 boxes and hope to be involved in delivering them too before Christmas.



## SWIMMING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Year 11 student Izzy who won a silver medal in the 50m freestyle at the Soundwell Open Meet at GL1 Leisure Centre, finishing in a superb 32:10 seconds. Your dedication is incredible and all of the hard work is paying off.



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## FOREST FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Forest Food Bank appeal, both in the run up to the last week of term and for Christmas Jumper Day. The donations left on Wednesday formed the second collection made by the Forest Food Bank team, and they were very appreciative of the amount students and staff were able to contribute. Your donations will allow them to support families in the local community over the festive season and into the new year.



## POLICE CADETS

Year 10 student Kaylie has recently joined the Gloucestershire Police Cadets. She feels the decision to join has changed her life for the better, allowing her to make new friends and opening up lots of exciting opportunities to her. She has recently had her passing out parade where she officially became a cadet, unlocking a new world of possibilities for her.



## FESTIVE TREATS FROM BERRY HILL LIGHTS COMMITTEE

Thanks to the very generous donation from the Berry Hill Lights Committee, we were able to provide all of our students with some treats this week - the doughnuts and chocolates were really well received!



## WINTER PRODUCTION - A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Wednesday night saw students present their production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, finishing off the performance department's run of exceptional showcases. Students worked hard to develop their understanding of the language to engage the audience with their brilliant interpretation of the play. Year 10 student Tia is pictured below as the mischievous sprite, Puck.

