



# FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

13 January 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Wow, what a start to 2023! Welcome back to our students and thank you for ensuring they have returned from the holiday fully prepared and excited to head into the new term.

There are lots of events coming up for us all to look forward to. On Tuesday 17 Jan Year 10 and 11 students and their parents/carers are invited to our Post-16 provider evening for an opportunity to discuss their pathways when they leave here. On 26 January, the students taking part in the Borneo expedition will spend the day at Blaise High School to meet with students from other GLT schools ahead of their trip in the Summer. The students' dedication to fundraising for the trip has been impressive so far.

We will be holding Parents' Information Evenings over the coming weeks - one for parents/carers of Year 11 students (8 Feb) to help with preparations for exams and for our Year 9 students, there will be a session ahead of them making their subject option choices (15 Feb). It was great to see so many parents of our Year 7 students attending Parents' Evening yesterday. There was a really positive atmosphere, and for those who were unable to complete their virtual appointments due to the power outages, staff will

be in contact over the course of next week.

The term after Christmas is quiet in terms of assessments, however Year 11 students will begin preparing for their PPEs, which start on Monday 13 February and from 23 January all students will undertake the New Group Reading Tests. The results from these tests will provide important data on students' reading skills and allow us to provide additional support where necessary.

A fantastic mix of extra-curricular opportunities awaits students this term, from Hospitality and Catering students dining out at The Ivy to training weekends for our outdoor education events. On page 3 of this newsletter you will find more details on this term's academies and societies for students to get involved in. Attending academies and societies helps students to build friendships outside of their classes, builds their character and can lead to receiving Character Education badges. We are so pleased that so many students wear these with pride alongside their newly-acquired Character Education Quality Mark Plus badge.

Some of our work this term in assemblies will focus on our school value of Respect, including integrity and gratitude. We want to ensure that students are working hard to

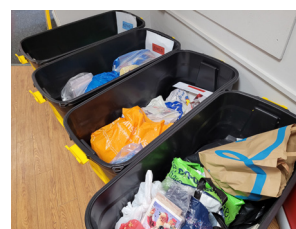


display behaviours that are consistent, showing equal respect to their peers, staff and the wider community and earning respect in return. Our token system continues to be a way for staff to reward positive interactions and the postcards that are sent home recognise our students' hard work and determination. Please continue to talk with your child about the rewards they receive.

We value the feedback that we receive from parents and later in this newsletter there is more information on the results of our parent survey. It was lovely to hear Year 7 parents confirm that their children had settled well, were enjoying the fantastic offer of quality lessons alongside brilliant opportunities and felt like their children were flourishing. We look forward to students demonstrating that they can #Be-MoreFive and wish you well in the new year.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE COBALT APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who donated their Christmas Cards. We had an amazing response, with members of the wider school community dropping their donations in to us too. The house which collected the most cards was Peregrines so a huge well done for their efforts and support for the appeal. Donated cards will be sorted and upcycled by volunteers into new cards to raise vital funds for the charity.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

## CAREERS

On 17 January, we will be hosting our Post-16 Providers Event the evening is aimed at Year 10 and 11 students and their parents and carers. The event will run from 4-6:30pm and will be an opportunity to meet representatives from colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeship providers to find out more about the courses that are available, the application process and more.

AccXel is hosting its Parents Information Evening on Wednesday 1 February at AccXel, Whimsey Industrial Estate, Cinderford with two bookable sessions running from 4:30-5:30pm and 5:30-6:30pm for those students who are interested in careers in construction. To book your preferred time slot, please email [louise.dawson@accxel.co.uk](mailto:louise.dawson@accxel.co.uk).

### POST-16 PROVIDER EVENT 17 JAN 2023

Meet representatives from colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeship providers

Find out about courses, the application process, qualifications and transport



**WHERE: FIVE  
ACRES HIGH SCHOOL  
WHEN: 17/1/2023,  
4-6:30PM**

### STAR STUDENTS YEAR 8

Bella's (8SWS) willingness to help with tasks, the kindness she shows to other students and her determination with her low stake quizzes and reading shows that she is striving to be as successful as she can be.

### YEAR 10

Madison (10RSH) is always prepared for learning with correct equipment and always reading interesting books in DEAR. Low stakes quiz homework is always completed to a very high standard. She is an asset to the tutor group.

Grace (10AWS) is a hard working, modest and conscientious pupil who is a pleasure to have in 10AWS. We are looking forward to seeing the rest of her successes in Year 10!

### YEAR 11

Taylor (11CRS) works really hard in English interventions and also in lessons. He is making use of lunchtime tutorial sessions and working hard on his essay skills and revision material.

### STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Y11 student Freddie who was successful in Gloucester Rugby's Junior Reporter competition. From over 50 applications, Freddie was chosen to become part of the junior reporting team producing match reports for upcoming games. In February he will get the chance to go behind the scenes at the club, meet the players and experience the thrill of live reporting from Kingsholm at Gloucester's match versus Harlequins. You can read Freddie's competition winning entry below. Well done!

#### ***What does Gloucester Rugby mean to you?***

Family. My first rugby shirt was bought by my great-great uncle, from the age of 6 months I was a Gloucester Rugby fan. At my first match, I was a team mascot and my great-great uncle came to watch. He said as a life long Gloucester Rugby supporter, to watch me run on to the Kingsholm pitch, was the proudest day ever for him. From there my passion for joining the Glaws faithful grew and grew. Attending games with my family, joining in the chanting and singing from The Shed, shaking hands with the players after the final whistle, there really is no greater place to watch live sport, make friends and have an awesome day out.



## ACADEMIES & SOCIETIES

A new year brings new opportunities at Five Acres High School and we are excited to be able to offer a fantastic range of Academies and Societies for students to get involved in this term. Some have been running since September and we are delighted to be able to offer some new ones that introduce different challenges and experiences to our students, from Yoga to writing for our Science Magazine.

Over the coming weeks, students will be hearing about what's on offer in more detail through assemblies and we continue to encourage them to get involved in as many of these opportunities as possible. Learning new skills; developing interests; developing friendship groups; and supporting potential career aspirations are just some of the benefits of making the most of what's on offer outside of the classroom

Our Academies and Societies have now started and the full list can be found below. Students should also look out information via Tutor notices, the screens around school and further details can be found on our website.

### ACADEMIES & SOCIETIES

#### **Monday Lunchtime**

Year 7-10 MFL Conversation Club  
Year 7-11 Chess Club  
Year 9 Book Society  
(Week A)

#### **Monday After school**

Year 7-10 School Production  
rehearsals  
Y7-10 Girls Football  
Y7 Boys Rugby

#### **Tuesday Lunchtime**

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  
Art Academy  
Year 7-9 Girls Rugby

U13 and U15 Girls Handball  
Y7-11 Rowing  
Community Engagement  
Programme

#### **Wednesday Lunchtime**

Y7-11 Crochet Society  
Student Leadership Team  
Magistrates Mock Trial  
Further Maths

#### **Wednesday After school**

Y9-11 Senior Rock Band  
STEM Society  
Y7 Boys Football  
Y9-10 Boys Football  
Y7 & 8 Girls Netball  
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  
Science Magazine Society

#### **Thursday After school**

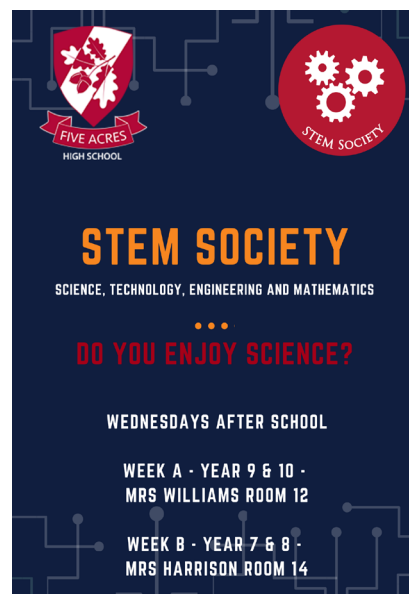
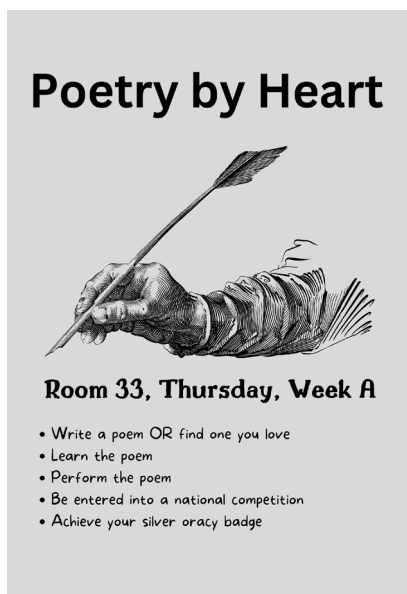
School Production  
Rehearsals  
Y8 Boys Football  
Yoga  
y9-10 Girls Netball  
Chess Tournament  
Social Skills

#### **Friday Lunchtime**

Y11 Massolit/  
Homework Support

#### **Friday After school**

Y7-11 Lego Club  
Gardening Club





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## UPDATES FROM HEADS OF KEY STAGES

### MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF KEY STAGE 3



Welcome back to a new year and a new term, Happy New Year to all of our students, parents and carers. We hope that KS3 students have had a lovely Christmas and have had some well-earned time off.

Year 7 and Year 8 have had a fantastic start back in terms of attendance - both year groups are 95% +, this will stand them in good stead for the rest of the term. KS3 students will have had new planners and new knowledge organisers. Students will also have brought home subject reports and QLAs. If there are any students who have not received a subject report or QLA from a subject teacher, we would ask them to talk to their class teacher so they can receive it. Year 9 will soon begin the options process with the deadline of choosing options in May. With this in mind we would ask students to start considering their preferred route so they are as prepared for the process as they can be.

### MRS HAYWARD - HEAD OF KEY STAGE 4



Happy New Year! It has been fantastic having our students back in the building. Key Stage 4 students have returned with a determination to make this a successful term. I have been impressed with the Year 10 roll call line up. It is so smooth and swift, demonstrating students' willingness to have an effective start to their day and recognising the importance this has on their outcomes. All of our Year 10 students received their assessment reports as we finished for the Christmas break. These will be important for students to support them in their work to close any gaps leading up to their next assessment window. If they have not received these, please ask them to speak with their class teacher.

Our Year 11s are working towards their final PPEs which begin on 13 February. Students should be preparing for these using their revision resources, including assessment manifests, flash cards and past papers for example. This will be the final assessment window before the official exams begin.

Our prom committee are working really hard planning fundraisers for the Year 11 Prom. Their first event will be to celebrate Valentines Day. Keep an eye out for the treats they will have on sale in February.

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## ENTERPRISE SOCIETY



During the last week of term the Enterprise Society held its Christmas market. It was an opportunity for the students who had signed up for the society to be able to sell their goods to the school community, with students from Years 7-9 displaying their creative efforts.

Stalls included a homemade keyring and jewellery stall run by Josh. Tristan and his team held a raffle and sold Christmas presents, whilst Evie and Shannon worked together to encourage shoppers to guess the name of the teddy bear. Year 7 student Evie sold a vast number of homemade Christmas tree gongks, unique little figurines with long bushy beards and knitted hats that are often considered to be the Nordic version of Santa Claus. It was a great atmosphere and lots of sales were made. The final figure for the Enterprise Society and the charities they will be supporting will be announced at the end of January.

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**AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT**

## PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all of you who responded to the recent parent survey. Your feedback is invaluable as we use it to inform the development of our school and it ensures we are working closely together to support the progress of our young people.

We are pleased that the majority of parents who responded would recommend Five Acres High School to another parent and a significant majority either strongly agreed or agreed with all statements that covered topics such as student happiness, welfare, support for SEND students, the academies and societies available, homework and communication.

There is a very clear sense of what most parents regard as the strengths of Five Acres High School:

- Students feel safe at this school
- The school makes parents aware of what students learn during the year
- The school lets parents know how their child is doing
- Students can take part in clubs and activities
- The school makes parents aware of expectations of homework
- Five Acres High School communicates effectively about the opportunities available in school

We have already started to respond to the areas parents and carers feel we need to improve in, particularly focusing on improving how we deal with concerns raised. You will have received an email from Mrs McKenzie, Assistant Head for Behaviour, detailing the contact details for all members of staff to ensure you are able to get in contact with staff directly. As a school, we have been receiving training on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion with Angela Brown to support the development of our practices and policies to ensure they are inclusive of all protected characteristics.

Thank you once again for the positive feedback and we look forward to sharing future progress with you.

## CELEBRATION EVENING DECEMBER 15 2022

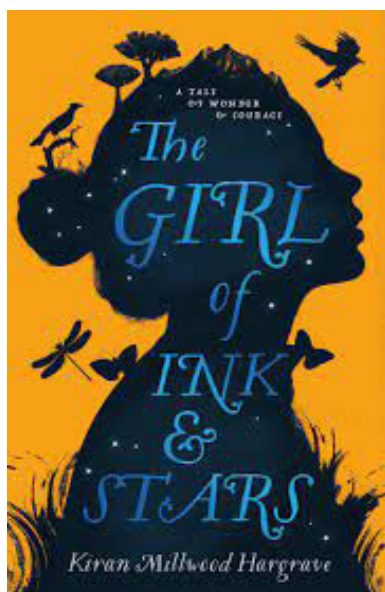
Congratulations to all of those students who received awards at last term's Celebration Evening. We are in the process of uploading the images taken on the evening to the school website, so please check the Photo Albums section.



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## READING RECOMMENDATIONS

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



***The Girl of Ink and Stars***  
by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Isabella Riosse is the daughter of a cartographer who lives on the island of Joya; an isle both steeped in mythology and shrouded in mystery. For the last thirty years, a strict Governor has forbidden the island inhabitants from venturing beyond their small township.

Isabella is fascinated with the ancient myths of Joya, which is said to have once floated freely over the seas. Preoccupied with ideas of exploration and inspired by the far-flung places her father

once documented, she yearns for adventure.

When her best friend Lupe runs away, disappearing into the forbidden forest, Isabella volunteers to bring her back. With only her knowledge of ancient myths and one of her father's maps to guide her, Isabella ventures into the perilous world beyond, where monsters lurk and magical rivers run.

The Girl of Ink and Stars was winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2017, winner of the British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year 2017, and was shortlisted for both the Branford Boase Award and Jhalak Prize.



***Eleanor Oliphant is  
Completely Fine***  
by Gail Honeyman

Eleanor Oliphant has learned how to survive but not how to live

Eleanor Oliphant leads a simple life. She wears the same clothes to work every day, eats the same meal deal for lunch every day and buys the same two bottles of vodka to drink every weekend.

Eleanor Oliphant is happy. Nothing is missing from her carefully timetabled life. Except, sometimes, everything.

One simple act of kindness is about to shatter the walls Eleanor has built around herself. Now she must learn how to navigate the world that everyone else seems to take for granted while searching for the courage to face the dark corners she has avoided all her life.

Change can be good. Change can be bad. But surely any change is better than... fine?

The winner of the Costa First Novel Award and Sunday Times No 1 bestseller is soon to be translated to the big screen in a film produced by Reese Witherspoon.

*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>**

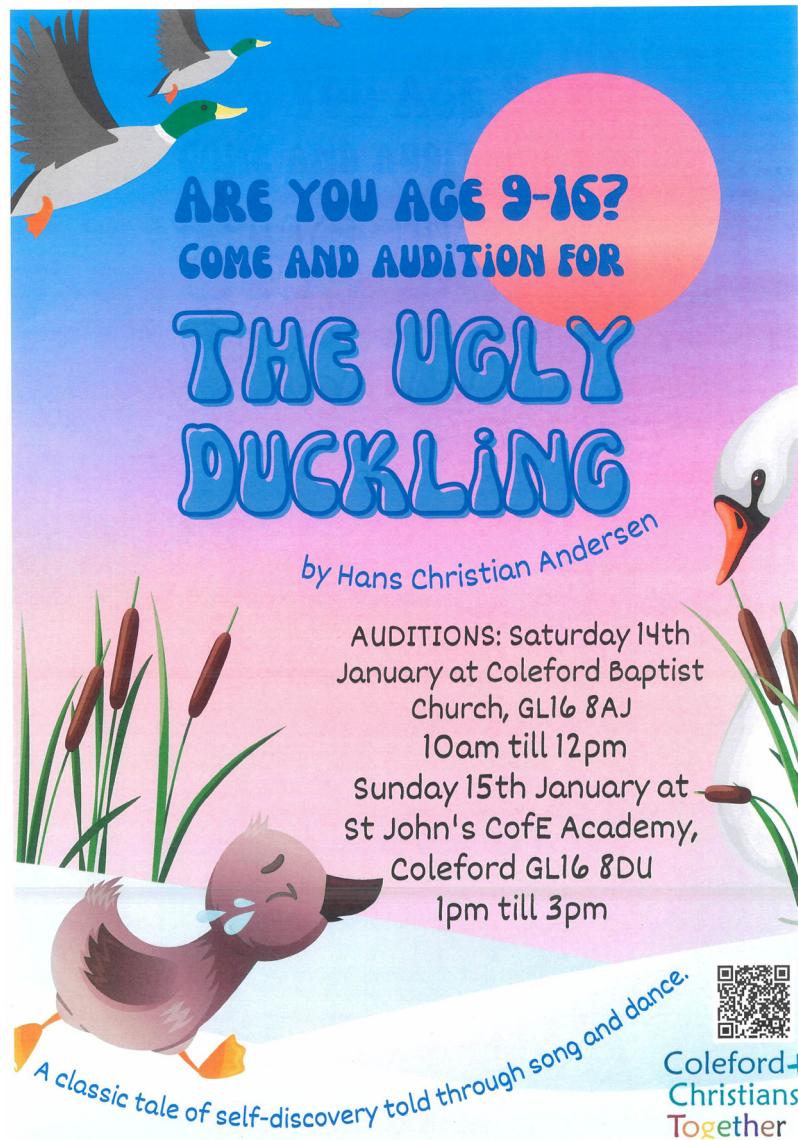
## CONTACT US

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)



## AMATEUR DRAMATICS OPPORTUNITY



### KEY DATES

**Tuesday 17 January 2023**  
Careers / Post-16 Provider event

**Thursday 19 & Friday 20 Jan**  
Years 7-9 Nasal Flu vaccinations

**Saturday 21 January**  
Ten Tors Training Day  
(Llanbedr Hill)

**Week commencing Monday 23 January - Friday 3 February**  
NGRT testing

**Tuesday 24 January**  
Year 10/11 Careers event at  
Glos College

**Thursday 26 January**  
Event for Borneo expedition  
students, Blaise High School

**Tuesday 31 January**  
Governors Meeting 3

**Wednesday 8 February**  
Year 11 Parents Information  
Evening

**Saturday 11 - Sunday 12 February**  
Dartmoor Training Event

**Wednesday 15 February**  
Year 9 Parents Information  
Evening

**Monday 20 - Friday 24 February**  
Half Term

## CHARITY CEILIDH

Mental health charity TIC+ is hosting a fundraising ceilidh on Saturday 28 January, with doors opening at 7pm. As well as an energetic evening of traditional Scottish dancing, there will also be a delicious Scottish themed buffet, silent auction and raffle, with some fantastic prizes up for grabs.

The best part of a ceilidh is that anyone can join in! The professional caller will be guiding every step. Most importantly this night is all about having fun and raising funds.



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