Five Acres High School Newsletter

28 April 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Summer seems to have finally arrived today; the sun and rising temperatures are adding to the feel-good factor around school. The start of the term has been excellent, students are focussed in the classroom and continue to improve themselves by engaging in the brilliant opportunities available through our extra-curricular offer and character program. As you will see below, there are several students participating in the Ten Tors challenge this weekend. You can track their progress using the details provided – I wish them well, and know they are going to be fantastic.

This week we took delivery of new table football tables and benches. We have also provided a range of additional games and activities for use in the Quad area and will shortly receive additional outdoor table tennis tables. These additions have come as a result of feedback received through student questionnaires, we really value feedback and continue to work on improving our offer. This term has also seen the start of our finance courses for Years 7-9. Again, responding to feedback, we have used an opportunity to ensure that all Key Stage 3 children are taught about money and finances. The resources are accessible at home so please ask your child about their experience so far and look at the content with them if possible. Another piece of feedback received was about our start to the day. We have improved these to ensure that every student can receive a positive start through the messaging received from Heads of Year – they are doing an amazing job; it is brilliant to see students being celebrated through the reading of postcards, positive messages and the celebration of birthdays. There are also multiple ways that students can be involved in leadership – we look forward to receiving applications over the coming days and announcing new Head students, Value Leads and many other appointments shortly.

With the coronation of King Charles III around the corner I would like to remind you that there is an additional bank holiday planned for May 8. This follows the coming bank holiday on May 1. To avoid confusion with the varied lengths of weeks over this term there will be no changes to our homework requirements. To celebrate the coronation the catering team are laying on a special menu

and we are offering students the opportunity to modify their uniform for the day for a small donation to the Children's Opportunity Centre.

As we look ahead to the middle of May, Year 11s will be starting the main block of exams. Many have already sat exams including photography and art this week. I wish them all well in their preparations. We will communicate with students about adaptions we make to the flow around school to support our them to achieve their best. Through our values work, we will be focussing on ensuring there are plenty of other opportunities on how we can continue to show respect and, in particular, kindness to each other.

I wish you a fantastic bank holiday weekend and look forward to returning on Tuesday with Year 7, 9 and 11s, following the industrial action, and the whole school on Wednesday.

TenTors Challenge

After an early start yesterday, our Outdoor Education team set up base camp for our Ten Tors students. Students from Five Acres High School and other Greenshaw Learning Trust schools are preparing to take on the challenge, and if you wish to track their progress you can follow them via this link https://www.tentors.org.uk/tentors/results

Updates from Heads of Key Stages

Mr Hayward - Head of Key Stage 3

Students are now in the final term of the year - the Summer term. It really does fly by, Year 7 are now two thirds of the way through their first year and they are getting closer to becoming Year 8! Year 8 are now almost Year 9 and Year 9 are about to start their life in Key Stage 4 and will soon begin their GCSE and other courses. We will be having our Year 5 and Year 6 days soon and we are hoping that some of our Key Stage 3 students can help with these transition days.

The timetable for next year is currently being put together, when the school knows what staffing looks like next year the timetable can be finalised. Once this has been completed Year 9 options can then be confirmed. The plan is to announce the options by the end of the current term (Summer Term 1) but hopefully it can be out earlier.

Mrs Hayward - Head of Key Stage 4

Our Year 10 Business, Economic and Engineering students had a great start to this term with a workshop provided by staff at GE Aerospace (two of whom are also past Five Acres High School students). GE is a world leading provider of jet and turboprop engines. The students designed and created their own model planes, having to work within a budget and then competed against each other for flying effectiveness, speed and aesthetics. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to put the many skills they have learnt in their studies to the test, as well as gain an insight into the opportunities available to them for the future. GE also spoke to the year group about the various roles within the company and apprenticeship opportunities. If students would like further information, they should see myself or our careers advisor, Mrs Dobson.

It was fantastic to see so many Year 11 students attending the half term revision and coursework sessions offered, demonstrating their dedication to giving themselves the best chance of success. They have also made a great start to the new term, preparing for their exams. We have had record numbers attending Champions Hour sessions 4-5pm across a range of subjects. It is brilliant to see that our students are understanding and valuing the benefits of being in front of subject specialists. Students should have all received information about the current Champion sessions available. If they have any questions or queries, please see either myself or Miss Cavill.

Prom tickets will become available to purchase from Tuesday 9 May. These will be available from the Head of Year office during break and lunchtimes at a cost of £30. Students will receive an email with further details and information in the next couple of days.

Coronation Celebrations

As the coronation of King Charles III is due to be held on Saturday 6 May, as a school we will mark the occasion on Friday 5 May with a coronation-themed menu available from our canteen. Students will also be invited to wear either red, white or blue socks and/or tie, alongside their school uniform. For those who wish to take part, we are asking for a suggested donation of £1 with all proceeds being donated to the Children's Opportunity Centre. The donations will be collected by the Student Leadership Team during line-up on Friday morning.

FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

To celebrate King Charles III coronation
we will be serving a themed lunch on Friday 5th May
at the main counter in the canteen.

Majestic Chicken pie-
Deep filled chicken pie with decorative crust served with chipped potatoes and seasonal vegetables- £2.10

YORKSHIRE FILLED ROAST BEEF DINNER
Yorkshire pudding filled with traditional roast beef, potatoes, seasonal vegetables and gravy-£2.10

TRADITIONAL FISH AND CHIPS
Battered fish fillet with chips and mushy peas-£2.10

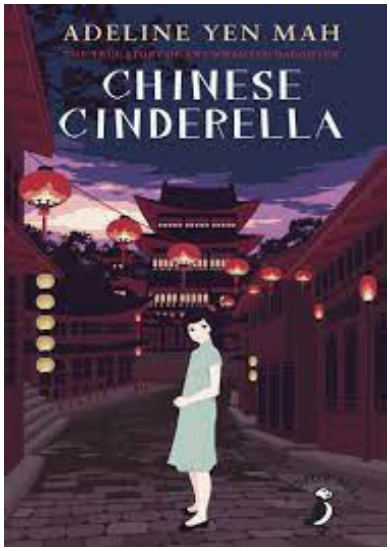
CORONATION QUICHE
This dish has been chosen by the King and Queen as the coronation dish – A deep filled quiche with a crisp, light pastry base and delicate flavours of spinach, broad beans and fresh tarragon -£2.10

A SELECTION OF DESSERTS FIT FOR A KING!
80p-£1.50

AMBITION. CONFIDENCE. CREATIVITY. DETERMINATION. RESPECT

Reading Recommendations

Our Reading Programme Lead, Miss Phelps shares her picks for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

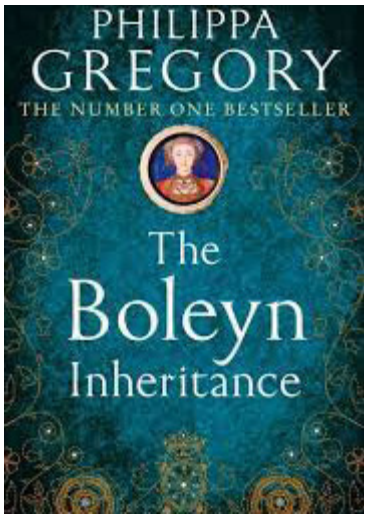


Chinese Cinderella
by Adeline Yen Mah

Chinese Cinderella is an autobiography for children based on the bestselling *Falling Leaves* by Adeline Yen Mah.

Jung-ling's family considers her bad luck because her mother died giving birth to her. They discriminate against her and make her feel unwanted yet she yearns and strives for her parents' love. Her stepmother is vindictive and cruel and her father dismissive. Jung-ling grows up to be an academic child, with a natural ability for writing. Only her aunt and grandfather offer her any love and kindness. The story is of survival in the light of the mental and physical cruelty of her stepmother and the disloyalty of her siblings. Jung-ling blossoms in spite of everything and the story ends as her father agrees to let her study in England.

LoveReading4Kids described the book as 'a unique story of triumph over adversity, told against the background of the Nationalist/Communist struggle for control of China.'



The Boleyn Inheritance
by Philippa Gregory

The year is 1539 and the court of Henry VIII is increasingly fearful of the moods of the ageing sick king. With only a baby in the cradle for an heir, Henry has to take another wife and the dangerous prize of the crown of England is won by Anne of Cleves.

She has her own good reasons for agreeing to marry a man old enough to be her father, in a country where to her both language and habits are foreign.

Although fascinated by the glamour of her new surroundings, she senses a trap closing around her. Katherine Howard is confident that she can follow in the steps of her cousin Anne Boleyn to dazzle her way to the throne but her kinswoman Jane Boleyn, haunted by the past, knows that Anne's path led to Tower Green and to an adulterer's death.

The story of these three young women, trying to make their own way through the most volatile court in Europe at a time of religious upheaval and political uncertainty, is Philippa Gregory's most compelling novel yet.

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

Academies & Societies

Our Academies and Societies are back in full force this term, offering an exciting range of opportunities in a range of areas, from Chess to Gardening Club.

We continue to encourage our students 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 and many of them enable them to earn badges through our Character Education Programme - it's a win, win!

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. You can also scan the QR code below to download an information booklet and view supporting videos.

Timetable

Monday Lunchtime
Year 7-10 MFL Conversation Club
Year 7-11 Chess Club
Year 9 Book Society (Week A)
Squad Y10 Netball

Monday After school
Year 7-10 School Production rehearsals
Y7 & 8 Rounders

Tuesday Lunchtime
Year 7 & 8 Book Society (Week A)
Year 7-9 Eco Club
Curling

Tuesday After school
Year 7-10 Acapella
Year 7 & 8 Junior Rock Band
Art Academy
Softball

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

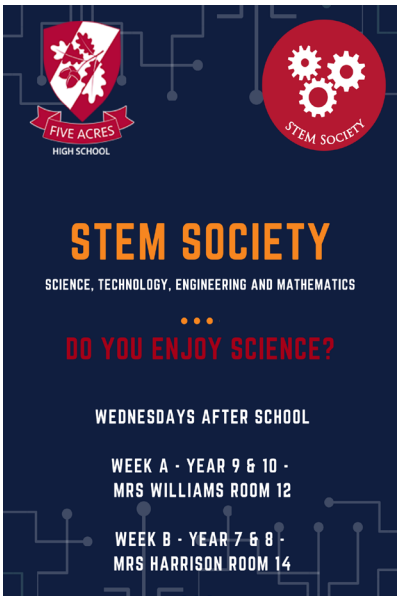
Wednesday After school
Y9-11 Senior Rock Band
STEM Society
Y9 & 10 Rounders
Key Stage 3 Cricket

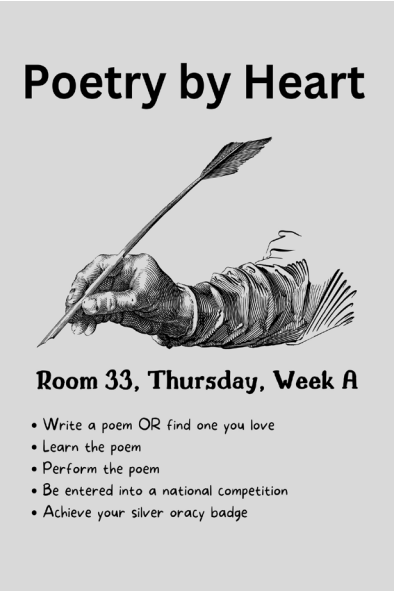
Thursday Lunchtime
Y7-11 Band Skills
Y7-11 Pride Club
Y7-10 Poetry by Heart (Week A)
Y10 Book Society (Week B)
Y11 Book Society (Week A)
Y7-11 Equestrian Society
Science Magazine Society

Thursday After school
School Production Rehearsals
Yoga
Chess Tournament
Social Skills
Athletics

Friday Lunchtime
Y11 Massolit/ Homework Support

Friday After school
Y7-11 Lego Club
Gardening Club





St George's Day Parade

On Sunday 23 April, members of Five Acres High School student leadership team were invited to take part in the Forest of Dean parade to celebrate St George's Day. Saint George's Day is the feast day of Saint George, notably England's patron saint, but celebrated also by Christian churches, countries, and regions of which he is the patron saint. The march took place from St John's School in Coleford to the clock tower and included many of the armed forces cadets and members of the Scouts and Brownies. It was a real delight to see so many of our students representing their values in the parade.

Key Dates

Monday 1 May
Bank Holiday
Thursday 4 - Friday 5 May
Year 7 Heartstarters
Monday 8 May
Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 May
Governors Meeting
Wednesday 10 May
Borneo Expedition Parents Meeting
Friday 12 May - Sunday 14 May
Year 10 PGL
Netball Tournament
Monday 15 May
Y11 Summer Exam Series start
Wednesday 17 May
Year 9 HPV (2nd dose) vaccination session
Monday 29 May-Friday 2 June
Half Term
Monday 5 June
Students return to school
Friday 9 - Sunday 11 June
Bronze Duke of Edinburgh training
Thursday 15 June
We Will Rock You trip (Production cast)
W/C 19 June
Year 7 - 10 Assessments
Wednesday 21 June
Big Bank Fair
W/C Monday 3 July
Year 6 Welcome Days
Tuesday 4 July
Governors Meeting
Wednesday 5 & Thursday 6 July
We Will Rock You school production
W/C Monday 10 July
Year 5 Super Learning Days
Sunday 16 Monday 31 July
Borneo expedition
Friday 21 July
Monkhouse on-site sales event
Monday 24 July
Celebrations Evening

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

HEAD STUDENTS (CURRENT Y10)
CHARACTER EDUCATION
DEPUTIES (CURRENT Y9)

Please check your school email for full details of the roles available and how to apply

Closing date: Tuesday 2 May 2023

Student Survey Results

Towards the end of last term, students had the opportunity to contribute to the development of our school by completing our annual student survey. Like all stakeholder voice, it enables them to give honest feedback about their day-to-day experiences, covering a range of topics, from our Character Education Programme, The Tutor Reading Programme and careers support.

We are really pleased that the majority of our students would recommend Five Acres High School to a friend and there is a really clear sense of what most students believe our strengths are:

- 89% of students across all year groups either strongly agree or agree that they are encouraged to respect people from other backgrounds and to treat everyone equally.
- 88% of YR7s-YR10s strongly agree or agree that the books they read expose them to a range of time periods, cultures and protected characteristics.
- 86% of students feel that they understand our five core values and how to show them in school and in the local community.
- 84% of YR11s strongly agree or agree that they know what revision strategies they need to use to revise.
- 81% of YR11s strongly agree or agree that TTRP and DEAR interventions are effective in supporting their progress.
- 83% of students across all year groups either strongly agree or agree that they are encouraged to be independent and to take on responsibilities.
- 81% of YR11s strongly agree or agree that they are happy with the revision support they have received this year.

We have already started to respond to the areas our students would like to see improvements in. It was clear that they wanted more to do during social times so we have invested in more benches, football and table tennis tables, which are being delivered soon. Board and card games are now also available in the quad at lunchtime and it's been fantastic to see them being enjoyed by so many already. We will also continue to work on our school value of respect to promote kindness to everyone across our community through explicit modelling and whole year group messages to ensure all feel a sense of belonging to our wonderful school.