



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

16 June 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. It is at this time of the year that we begin to bid farewell to our amazing Year 11 cohort. Many of our Year 11s have sat their last exam today and whilst it is with sadness that we see them go, we wish them bright and successful futures as they head into their next steps. Our goodbye is more poignant this year given very recent events. We hope that on leaving our school all students remember the value of respect and that they make valuable contributions to making our society a safer place to be.

As we say goodbye to one year group, our attention swiftly moves to the other students who will begin their assessments and PPEs on Monday. All students should by now have received their PPE and assessment timetable along with an assessment manifest reminding them of the topics and themes they will be tested on. Our end of year

assessments are an opportunity for students to show their progress over the last 12 months and will provide us with an opportunity to support them with valuable information on how they can continue to succeed into next year.

On Thursday it was a privilege to watch an assembly created by Miss Harris introducing our new kindness initiatives. As I have previously mentioned kindness will become a more explicit part of our mission within school as we encourage everyone to aim high, work hard and be kind. This will be a theme that we will return to in the coming months as we celebrate students who receive our new purple tokens, kindness postcards and participate in our kindness buffet.

With kindness at the heart of our future plans, we are grateful to the many parents who regularly contact us with their thanks for the work we do on a daily basis. You will have received an



email this week asking you to do this in a more formal way through the Thank A Teacher initiative. Please be reminded that this is not just for teachers, but for all of our brilliant staff working within Five Acres High School. Alongside receiving your thanks and best wishes, we also really enjoy hearing about our students' activities and successes outside of school. Please continue to share these with us and confirm if you are happy for us to celebrate these stories through our newsletter and social media.

I hope that you enjoy reading the rest of this edition.

YEAR 9 UNIVERSITY INSIGHT DAY



On Tuesday 13 June, over 40 Year 9 students visited the University of Gloucestershire's Longlevens Campus. They were given a tour of the facilities and spoke to current students about their experiences of higher education.

The event, supported by GROWS, gave our students a chance to learn more about what options and courses are available when they are looking ahead to their next steps.

AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

UPDATES FROM HEADS OF KEY STAGES

MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF KEY STAGE 3



We have roughly five weeks left and students will be beginning their summer assessments, which will be their last round of data this year. The Key Stage 3 assessment window runs from 19-30 June. All students have Knowledge Organisers and Assessment Manifests which will aid their revision. If a student is missing anything we encourage them to ask their tutor or class teacher so that they have all of the required resources. Within the Assessment Manifest there is an exam timetable.

The Year 9 options process is now complete, as you will know we have been waiting to confirm next year's staffing before releasing the finalised choices. All students in Year 9 were given their confirmed options in a letter on 14 June by their tutors - if for whatever reason a student was absent they can collect their letter from their tutor. There is an email address on the letter to direct any questions relating to options.

There are some key dates coming up with Sports Days on the 13 and 14 of July and the Greenshaw Athletics Tournament that we organise at the Prince of Wales Stadium on 11 July, these will be some fantastic events to round off the year.

MRS HAYWARD - HEAD OF KEY STAGE 4



The time has arrived for us to say goodbye to our 2023 Year 11 cohort, with the final exam on Wednesday. Our students have continued to work so hard and show such dedication to their learning. I would also like to thank the teachers who have provided all of the extra Period 6 and Champions Hour sessions as well as the parents and carers who continue to work with us in supporting our young people in their success. The invites went out this week for our leavers assembly on Tuesday and we look forward to sharing memories with students and carrying out the traditional shirt signing. We also have our Prom to look forward to. Parents should expect more information in the next week in relation to this.

Monday marks the very first PPE series for Year 10s. Students will be sitting their assessments in exam areas under the same exam conditions as their official exams. This will allow students to get familiar with where they will be sitting, as well as the entrance and exit routines. From previous experience, making this setting feel more 'normal' helps to remove some of the anxieties which can arise during the exam period. I have been incredibly impressed with the number of Year 10 students who have been producing extra revision materials in preparation. We would love to encourage more students to share their independent revision with their teachers and peers as working together as a team always helps us to get the best from each other.

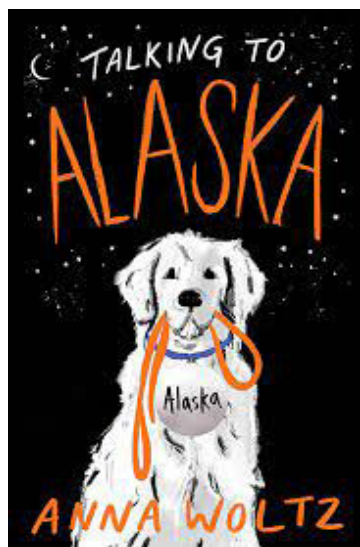
NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER DAY

The UK-wide celebration of all teaching and support staff is back. National Thank a Teacher Day will be celebrated on Wednesday 21 June at Five Acres High School! This year is all about gratitude, recognising the long-lasting impact that education has on individuals and throughout society. Recently supported by celebrities such as Dame Helen Mirren, Stephen Fry and David Walliams, don't miss your chance to join them in saying thank you by leaving your message by scanning the QR code below or via the Google form at this link - <https://forms.gle/FBBF1wbV1VFDVwEfA>



READING RECOMMENDATIONS

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



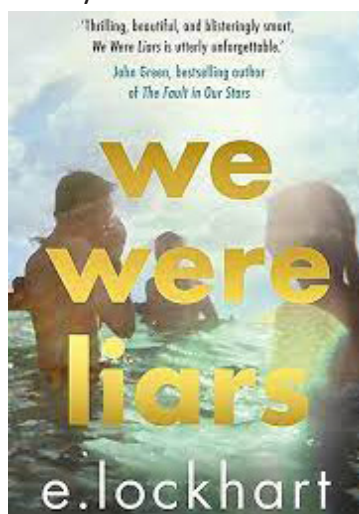
Talking to Alaska
by Anna Woltz

It only takes one day at their new school for Parker and Sven to become mortal enemies. Parker's had a terrible summer and just wants to be invisible, while Sven is desperate to make an impression and be known as anything other than 'that kid with epilepsy.'

When Parker discovers her beloved dog Alaska – who she had to give away last year – now belongs to Sven, she's determined to steal her back. Of course, that's much easier said than done...

Meanwhile, Sven is mortified when Alaska is brought to meet him wearing her fluorescent Assistance Dog vest. Having epilepsy feels like he has no control over his life anymore, so when Parker – face covered and in disguise – arrives in his bedroom at midnight to take Alaska back, there's something new to think about. But after spilling all his secrets to her, what'll happen if he uncovers her real identity?

Told in alternating chapters between the two characters, this is a heartfelt story about understanding others. It's a relatively short read, but Anna Woltz packs a lot in, including themes of bullying, trauma, and coping with life-altering situations, while the characters make unexpected discoveries about friendship – and a special discovery about Alaska too.



We Were Liars by E Lockhart

A beautiful and distinguished family.

A private island.

A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy.

A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive.

A revolution. An accident. A secret.

Lies upon lies.

True love.

The truth.

We Were Liars is a modern, sophisticated suspense novel from *New York Times* bestselling author, National Book Award finalist, and Printz Award honouree E. Lockhart.

Read it, and if anyone asks you how it ends, just LIE...

Waterstones describes it as "Gloriously witty, sharp and utterly addictive, *We Were Liars* explores outwardly perfect lives consumed by secrets, deception and privileges..."

*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](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 TIMETABLE

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

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
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

NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Congratulations to our new Student Leadership Team. Our new head students are Ellie and Isla, Deputy Head Students are Zhia and Tia. Our Character Education Value Leads are Jasmine (Ambition), George (Confidence), Chloe (Creativity), Sophie (Determination) and Gracie-Mae (Respect). Our Character Education Deputy Leads are Esme (Ambition), Amelia (Confidence), Anastasia (Creativity), Evie (Determination) and Shannon (Respect)

Thank you to all the students who applied, everyone who took part in the process did brilliantly and should be proud.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

WE WILL ROCK YOU

On Thursday 15 June, 60 students visited London to watch the West End show *We Will Rock You* ahead of our very own school production on 5 and 6 July. See the poster below for details on how to get your tickets for our show.



KEY DATES

W/C 19 June

Year 7 - 10 Assessments

Wednesday 21 June

Big Bang Fair

Thursday 29 June

Year 8 Parents' Evening

W/C Monday 3 July

Year 6 Welcome Days

Tuesday 4 July

New Year 7 Parents
Information Evening

Wednesday 5 and

Thursday 6 July

We Will Rock You
school production

Friday 7 July

Year 9 Dip/MenACWY
vaccinations

Friday 7 July

Year 11 Prom

Tuesday 11 July

Greenshaw
Learning Trust
Athletics
Tournament

Thursday 13 and

Friday 14 July

Sports Days

Sunday 16 -

Monday 31 July

Borneo expedition

Thursday 20 July

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Friday 21 July

Monkhouse on-site
uniform sales event

Monday 24 July

Celebrations Evening

Tuesday 25 July

End of summer term

Monday 4 and

Tuesday 5 September

INSET Days

Wednesday 6 September

Students return to school

Tuesday 3 October

New Y7 and Y11
school photos

FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL
presents

**WE WILL
ROCK
YOU**

**SCHOOL EDITION
2023**

5th - 6th July *only!*

MAIN HALL
DOORS OPEN AT 6.30PM
SHOW STARTS 7.00PM

TICKET PRICE: £5 FOR OVER 18'S
£3 FOR UNDER 18'S
BUY ON LINE OR CASH AT RECEPTION

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk>



KINDNESS INITIATIVE

“In A World Where You Can Do Or Be Anything, Aim High, Work Hard, Be Kind...”

As you will be aware, before Easter, students were asked to complete our annual student survey and the results were clear - our students want to attend a kinder school. This week, it has been exciting to launch new initiatives on how we will be instilling the virtue of kindness in our students over the coming weeks and months.

We are also pleased to announce the following:

While our vision for the year 2023/2024 remains the same, we have refined our mission statement to better align with our commitment to creating a positive and inclusive school environment. Our updated mission is as follows: “We make our vision possible by creating a sense of purpose, belonging, and meaning that allows individuals to aim high, work hard, and be kind.”

To reinforce the importance of kindness in our school community, we have adopted a new mantra: “Aim high, work hard, and be kind.” This mantra will be integrated into our daily communications with students and parents, ensuring that it becomes a guiding principle in their actions and interactions.

Kindness will serve as our new virtue, and we are excited to update our existing five values to reflect this essential attribute. The updated value pledges will now include language that encourages and expects kindness, such as compassion, courtesy, understanding, decency, emphasising its significance within our school community.

We will be using our Character Education programme to support the development of our new virtue. Starting from the upcoming academic year, our Character Education programme will incorporate a new kindness badge. This badge can be earned by students who consistently demonstrate habits of kindness. It will serve as a symbol of recognition for their exemplary behaviour and will inspire others to follow suit.

In addition, we are pleased to inform you that a new purple token has been created to reward students who are kind to each other and their community. Each token is worth 50 house points and will be awarded to students who consistently display kind habits. They will hold significant prestige within our school and act as a special acknowledgment of their compassionate actions. Furthermore, we are introducing a new kindness postcard, similar to our black values postcards. These purple postcards will be used to recognise and appreciate those students who demonstrate kindness day in, day out. It will be a wonderful way to highlight and celebrate their continuous commitment to being kind.



To celebrate acts of kindness and their positive impact on our school community, we will be organising a Kindness Buffet, much like our Golden Ticket events. This special occasion will serve as a platform to honour and acknowledge those students who make a difference with their kindness.

We will also be hosting Random Acts of Kindness weeks at various points during the year. These events will encourage students to engage in acts of kindness that go above and beyond, fostering a culture of compassion and empathy within our school community.


Lastly, we would like to invite both students and parents to participate in the upcoming National Thank a Teacher Day, which will take place next week. This is a wonderful opportunity to express gratitude and appreciation to our dedicated staff who play a significant role in shaping the lives of our children.

We are confident that by placing an emphasis on kindness, we will continue to nurture an environment where every student feels valued and supported alongside a sense of increased sense of purpose and belonging. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these values at home and look forward to witnessing the positive impact they will have on our school community in which kindness is the norm.

MONKHOUSE UNIFORM SALES

As we are now in the summer term, you may be thinking about purchasing uniform for September. You can find full details of uniform, appointment bookings for fittings and more at our uniform supplier's website.

If you have uniform that is no longer required or your child is growing out of, please consider donating this to our nearly new uniform shop. All donations of uniform and PE kit are gratefully received and help us to support students throughout the school.



The banner features the Monkhouse logo at the top, which consists of three colored circles (red, blue, yellow) and the text 'monkhouse® schoolwear specialists' and 'Your official uniform supplier'. Below this, a teal section contains the text 'Your Back to School information is now now available at:' followed by a red button with 'www.monkhouse.com'. At the bottom, a light blue section invites users to 'Sign up to our newsletter to unlock your school information and get our exclusive offers.' with three icons: a star for 'Exclusive offers', a jacket for 'School uniform updates', and a document for 'Latest news'.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH EVENTS

Last weekend, our Duke of Edinburgh students completed their training and practice expeditions around the local area. Our Silver group (Emma, Chloe, George, Elicia, Sarah and Matilda) were out in Hereford and the Wye Valley. They walked just over 18 miles altogether over the three days and navigated fantastically despite the very overgrown paths - they described nettles and weeds over head height!

We also had 23 of our Bronze students at the school, training on camp craft, navigation and kit. They were joined by 150 other students from other GLT schools, a very busy day! Students learned how to pack and fit their bags, put up tents and cooked their evening meal on gas stoves. We also covered map symbols and navigation then went on a 5-mile walk during which each of the four groups had a turn to navigate. Highlights from the walk included a field full of cows, spying a couple of deer, forging our own path and a muddy puddle - it's not DofE if you come home clean!

STAR STUDENTS

Lucy (7SHN) demonstrates all of our values every time she is in her tutor group. She is kind and respectful, always offering to help hand out books, but she does this without disruption - just getting on with the job! She loves DEAR Time, always taking the opportunity to get straight on with reading. She is also a member of quite a few societies.

Esme (9LTM) works incredibly hard and thrives at school due to taking every opportunity available to her to learn and grow as an individual. She has just been selected to join the student leadership team and has been celebrated during celebration assembly multiple times this week. It is brilliant to see you take so much pride in everything you do! Ambition and determination in bucket loads. Looking forward to seeing you achieve your next goal already.

Ruby (10BRS) is always a lifting spirit to her friends and peers. She consistently meets the expectations of the school and is generally a student who has the ability to settle the atmosphere of a classroom. Well done Ruby!

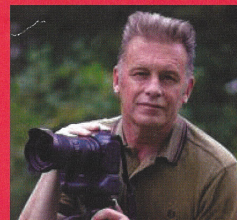
AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT



WIN

- ▶ TROPHIES
- ▶ AMAZON VOUCHERS
- ▶ AN EPIC TRIP!

If you're 18 or under, an animal lover, and you can take great photos, this is the competition for you! Send us your animal images by **15 August 2023**. Finalists are invited to our Tower of London awards ceremony with TV's Chris Packham.



Hope Skidmore - winner of 12-15 Mobile Phone and Devices category

ENTER NOW!



FOR MORE INFO:
rspca.org.uk/ypa