



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

6 October 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the latest edition of the Five Acres High School newsletter. I would like to start by thanking you all for your cooperation during our water shortage last week. Your efficiency in collecting students was impressive. I am glad that everything has now been restored and we can continue to focus on teaching and learning.

Over the next week or so you may hear sound bites from our politicians about the direction of education, for example the Education Secretary this week has made mention about guidance on mobile phone use within school and the Prime Minister has mentioned a potential shake up in post-16 qualifications. I want to say that no matter what the next big idea is, we will always strive to ensure that our offer is exceptional and is rooted in the latest guidance and evidence. On the subject of mobile phones, you will know that we have a policy which restricts access during the day. We will be tightening our guidance to students around their use at the end of the day and giving clarity

on where they can be used once school is finished. We would appreciate it if you could use the recognised forms of communication (via email to subject teachers or email and phone call to reception) should you wish to contact your child during the school day to help avoid any confusing messages.

Setting high standards is important to us because it helps to ensure that the messages that we give are clear and precise; we invest a lot of time in thinking about how we can help students be successful and the kindest thing that we can do for them is to be clear. Our high standards are often a feature of conversations with new parents who come to look around the school. They are appreciative of the environment that this allows, especially the disruption-free learning, which ensures every student is given an opportunity to learn and excel. Recently we have welcomed in 100s of parents and children during our Open Evening and School in Action days. Our visitors are always keen to congratulate our students on their



behaviour, their engagement in activities throughout the school and the way they enthusiastically talk about their experiences here.

This week sees the first of three groups of our Year 7 students visiting Viney Hill. I hope they have a brilliant time and that the weather is kind to them. During this time I am sure they will make good friends and begin to develop the values that are so important to us. On page 4 is an example of what can be achieved when students are committed to achieving personal success. I congratulate Josh and Anastasia on being the first students to achieve this accolade. I hope you all have a fantastic weekend.

PROSTARS PRIMARY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday 29 September saw Prostars' hold their first league meeting for Year 5/6 students, hosted at Five Acres High School. It was great to see so many players playing with smiles on their faces, and after some extremely close group games, both St John's and Offas Mead made it through to the final. Offas Mead went on to narrowly beat St John's 1-0.



ACADEMIES & SOCIETIES

Staff have been busy working on the timetable for our extensive extra-curricular academies and societies programme. We have shared the most up to date versions of the timetables as we get them, but due to staff commitments there are times where they are subject to change. We encourage students to check in regularly with the academy and society leads and the student notice boards.

Academies and Societies - Sept to Dec 2023

	Lunchtime	Who?	Where?	After school	Who?	Where?
Monday	Chess	All	30	<p>Please see the PE and Performance timetables for all music, drama and sporting academies and societies.</p>  <p>Aim high. Work hard. Be kind.</p>		
	French Interventions (invited YR11 students only)	YR11	44			
	YR7 book club	YR7	36			
Tuesday	Eco Society	All	22			
	YR9 book club	YR9	Library			
	Cipher Challenge	All	33			
Wednesday	Further Maths	YR11	30			
	Maths Academy	All	33			
	Art Leadership	Art leaders only	5			
	YR8 book club	YR8	Library			
Thursday	Board Game Society	All	33			
	Enterprise	All	27			
	KS3 and KS4 Art	All	5			
	YR10 book club	YR10	Library			
Friday	GCSE Art	GCSE Art students only	5	Lego Academy - all	All	Library

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Tuesday 26 September pupils celebrated the European Day of Languages with a delicious paella, traditional Spanish omelette and French pastries in the canteen. Pupils have also been set a French or Spanish challenge in order to widen their cultural knowledge and work towards their determination gold badge. Muchas gracias a todos! Merci beaucoup à tous! Thank you to everyone!



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES - STUDENT RECIPE

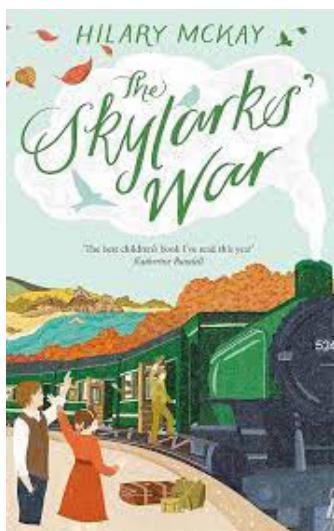
Ava is taking part in the Spanish Language challenge to celebrate the European Day of Languages. Here she is displaying her cooking skills with her Spanish omelette.



READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Our Reading Programme

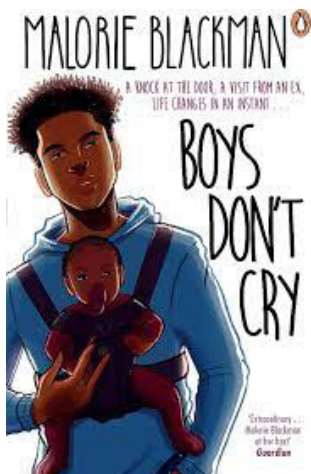
Lead, Miss Phelps shares her picks for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.



The Skylarks' War
by Hilary McKay

Clarry and her brother Peter live for their annual summer trips to Cornwall – a chance not only to escape their apathetic father, but to experience the joy of exploring nature with their cousin Rupert. But when the First World War begins and Rupert enlists in the army, their world is thrown upside down – will they ever see him again? And how will the shadow of conflict change their lives?

The Skylarks' War is a triumph of a book, managing to simultaneously be small-scale while encompassing huge themes of war, love, sexism and family. Every single word is carefully chosen by Hilary McKay, resulting in some incredible passages that will stop you in your tracks. The descriptions of life on the front are hugely evocative and brutal, skilfully portraying the horrors of war while never being too violent for young readers. But the effects of the war are felt by the characters who stay in England, too, from one girl's new life as a nurse to the impact of food shortages. *The Skylarks' War* will transport you into Clarry and Peter's lives, following them all the way from childhood mishaps to adult decisions.



Boys Don't Cry
by Malorie Blackman

This is the explosively page-turning novel for teenagers from the author of the award-winning *Noughts and Crosses* sequence. You're about to receive your A-level results and then a future of university and journalism awaits. But the day they're due to arrive your old girlfriend Melanie turns up unexpectedly... with a baby. You assume Melanie's helping a friend, until she nips out to buy some essentials, leaving you literally holding the baby.

Malorie's dramatic new novel will keep you on the edge of your seat right to the final page.

The Guardian describes it as "An extraordinary book, and truly is Malorie Blackman at her best". *The Times* review includes: "Blackman's emotional intelligence is such that *Boys Don't Cry* should be read aloud in every secondary school."

If you have been inspired by our choices, you can buy books and support the school through our partnership with Rossiter Books - <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/fiveacres>

KEY DATES

Friday 6 October

Y7 Residential Group 1

Thursday 12 October

Chelsea's Choice

Thursday 12 October

Y11 Parents Information Evening

Friday 13 October

Y7 Residential Group 2

Tuesday 17 October

Careers Event

Friday 20 October

Y7 Residential Group 3

W/C 23 October

Year 11 PPEs Week 1

Wednesday 25 October

Open Mic Night

Thursday 26 October

Y7 Parents Evening

STAR STUDENTS

Thank you to all the students who supported our Open Events this term. We had fantastic tour guides at our Open Evening and students confidently shared their passion for subjects. Our School In Action morning tours have been a great success, with excellent feedback from parents and primary school students looking to make their choices for the next step of their education journey. Well done everyone!

HONOURS BOARD

Congratulations to Anastasia and Josh who have become the first two students to feature on our brand new Honours Board. This is an opportunity for the school to celebrate those students who have received all five of our value postcards earning recognition for Ambition, Confidence, Creativity, Determination and Respect. Josh is pictured below with his dad and Mr Phelps.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Students can buy a Pudsey bear badge for Children in Need for £1 (cash only) in the hub each morning before line-up. These can be worn on student blazers to show they are supporting the charity. There are also two square boards to win a Pudsey Bear teddy bear and a tin of sweets. Each square on the board is £1 (cash only). Students can decide what is Pudsey's favourite food or where Pudsey likes to go on holiday. This will be taking place each morning before line-up in the hub. We are hoping to raise lots of money for this great children's charity.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

FOREST VOLUNTARY ACTION FORUM AWARDS

Well done to Ebony and Evie who were recognised at the recent Forest Voluntary Action Forum awards for all of their dedicated volunteering efforts.



CHARITY SUPPORT

On September 8, Cllr Nick Penny, Mayor of Coleford, launched his charity for this civic year by turning the town green! As part of the #GreenForGWAAC campaign run by the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity, Nick arranged for traders to theme their windows green, lit the clock tower for the evening, and even encouraged people to gather in the town centre wearing green to raise awareness for the charity.

Nick said, "It still amazes me how few people in our town recognise the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity as our local air ambulance, and the aim of my fundraising this year is to help raise awareness of this. Around 80% of all HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medicine Service) calls to Gloucestershire are responded to by GWAAC, with the other 20% covered by 4 or 5 other air ambulance charities.

"During the next 6-8 months, I would like Coleford to come together and work with me to raise awareness of GWAAC and the amazing work they do in our community. If you would like to support in any way by organising your own fundraising event, or by supporting one of mine, please do get in touch by email at musicindustrieservices@hotmail.co.uk"

The school is also working this term on supporting the GWAAC and will be fundraising throughout this full term. The Student Leadership Team is looking for raffle prizes for the GWAAC, so please take any donations to Room 27.



CONTACT US

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

To contact the school, please call 01594 832263 or email admin@5acreshighschool.co.uk

AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

BLACK HISTORY MONTH - POETRY

To recognise Black History Month, below is a poem by Y10 student Rey dedicated to political and social activist Angela Davis

In the heart of struggle,
Angela took her stand,
A warrior for justice, across
the land.
Born in Birmingham, in the
Midlands' vivid glow,
Her path was set where civil
rights would grow.
A scholar, an activist, with
courage in her veins,
She challenged the system,
broke its chains.
With fiery words and
unwavering might,
She fought for Black freedom,
day and night.
From classrooms to prisons,
she made her mark,
A voice for the voiceless, a
light in the dark.
Her afro, her symbol, her
fist held high,
Angela Davis, the people's
battle cry.
Arrested, accused, but not
broken or swayed,
She stood strong and
undaunted, unafraid.
Her fight for justice, for
the oppressed,
Inspired generation,
we're forever blessed.
Black History Month, a
time to recall,
The legacy of Angela,
who gave her all.
In the annals of history,
her name will reside,
A fearless champion, with justice
as her guide.

CAREERS EVENT

On Tuesday 17 October we will be hosting our Careers Event, from 3:30-6pm. Y10 and Y11 students are invited to attend with their parents/carers. Year 11 will be able to visit the event following Period 6 at 4pm. This is an excellent opportunity to meet employers and post-16 education providers.



CAREERS EVENT

*A fantastic opportunity to meet
local employers and post-16
education providers*

 **TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023**

 **3:30-6:00PM**

 **FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL**

ENTERPRISE SOCIETY

We have awarded £150 to students from the Enterprise Society to start their businesses. Many will be creating Christmas treats ready to sell at our Christmas Market to be held next half term.



Enterprise Society

Thursday lunchtime in Room 27

- Would you like to be able to achieve up to three character education badges?
- Would you like to set up a business ready for the Christmas market at school?
- If so, come along each **Thursday lunchtime** and we will help you plan your business, you will get **£10** to set up your enterprise and then you have 12 weeks to raise money for a registered charity of your choice
- You can be a sole trader or work as part of a team!

