



# FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

20 November 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to our November issue of the school newsletter. Over the following pages you will be able to see some of the fantastic achievements made by our students and the opportunities they have had to be successful so far.

There is a clear correlation between success at any school and attendance, even more so where students Aim High and Work hard. As you may be aware there has been a nation-wide drive by the Government focusing on school attendance. Our students benefit so much by being in school, supported by subject experts and having access to an incredible character education programme on a daily basis. Our recent social media posts highlight the way in which we are recognising good attendance as we seek to protect lesson time.

We understand that from time to time, parents are required to make difficult choices about sending in students who may be suffering from symptoms of an illness but are not sure if they should prevent students from coming into school. The NHS has a useful document that gives some clear guidance; this can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>. Within school we have a team of trained first-aiders who will contact you if they are worried about your child's symptoms and feel that a

decision is required about them being in school during the day. If you are concerned about your child attending school due to symptoms, please contact Mr Mark Jones to discuss how the school can support their care within this setting.

Parents and schools working in tandem is essential for the success of any child. We value your input, feedback and contact which is overwhelmingly positive. Unfortunately, we have recently experienced some parents expecting an immediate meeting with particular members of staff. We understand the urgency of some matters (those of a serious safeguarding and welfare need) and will always involve the correct member of staff at that time. However, it is not possible to commit to all members of staff being readily available throughout the day due to pre-existing meetings and teaching commitments. Where this is the case I would ask you to be patient with our office staff. They will always be happy to book an appointment or take a detailed message to pass on to a relevant colleague who will respond when they are available. Treating each other with respect and kindness has been a big part of our emphasis over the past 12 months. A change in emphasis and the introduction of specific recognition around kindness is really helping to



shape our school community.

Continuing on the subject of kindness I would like to thank all the parents and students who contributed to the Children In Need appeal. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated. This week we are launching our next appeal which will support the local foodbank and the many families who use this valuable service. Details of our Reverse Advent Calendar have been made available and we hope that many of you can support by donating items throughout the next few weeks.

Finally, I want to say a massive thank you to the parents of our Year 11 student who have supported them through their recent series of exams. The students have been brilliant and we look forward to sharing news of their success in the coming weeks. We also wish our Year 7s and 9s well as they begin their assessments - we know they will take this opportunity to shine and look forward to celebrating their successes also.

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

## PCSHE UPDATES

Over the past month we have been really excited to invite Greg Steer (Police Community Support Officer) to come into Five Acres High School to speak to our Year 9 students in PCSHE about county lines. Within these lessons he has provided more detail about what county lines are, what makes people more likely to get involved in these groups, the risks associated with county lines and the support available. These visits are to support our PCSHE curriculum which focuses on Gangs and the Law in the Autumn term of Year 9. For further information on the PCSHE curriculum please visit: <https://www.5acreshighschool.co.uk/information/curriculum/subjects>

On Thursday 30 November, Year 9s will have the opportunity to attend an assembly led by educational theatre company Loudmouth. The aim of the assembly is to educate and support our young people in understanding sexual harm and sexual harassment and how to seek support.

## FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB



Hopefully, you will have seen the image below on our social media pages. If you would be interested in joining our Community Book Club, please click on this link - <https://buff.ly/49jpi3Y>

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

## CHARACTER EDUCATION SHIELD PRESENTATION

Congratulations to Cole and Spencer who received their Determination Character Education shields and certificates last week. Luke (second from left) was recently successful in achieving his Character Education Platinum award.



### READING RECOMMENDATIONS

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



***The Hunger Games***  
by Suzanne Collins

The story begins on the day of the Reaping for the 74th Hunger Games. Katniss Everdeen worries for her childhood friend Gale, who submitted his name in the Games in order to get more money for food for his family. People who are starving were often known to

trade "entries" in the Games for food vouchers, which increased their chances of being chosen in the Games. Katniss's beloved little sister, Prim, has just turned twelve and is thus eligible for the Games for the first time. Katniss assures Prim she will not be picked; however, Prim is indeed selected. Knowing Prim has little chance of survival in the Games, Katniss volunteers as tribute to save her sister. The story then follows Katniss on her adventures during the games.



***Six of Crows***  
by Leigh Bardugo

Criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams - but he can't pull it off alone.

A convict with a thirst for revenge

A sharpshooter who can't walk away from a wager.

A runaway with a privileged past.

A spy known as the Wraith.

A Heartrender using her magic to survive the slums.

A thief with a gift for unlikely escapes.

Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist.

Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction - if they don't kill each other first...

***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](https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/fiveacres)***



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## UPDATES FROM HEADS OF KEY STAGES

### MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF KEY STAGE 3



Year 7 students have now completed their first half term and completed it strongly, they had the most reward tokens in comparison to other year groups and had the best attendance. Students have attended many academies, societies and sporting fixtures as well as having taken part in a residential trip. Our Year 7 students have settled in well and are now working towards their first secondary school assessments, which will take place from next week. Their assessments will take place in the week commencing 20th November.

Sticking with assessment, Year 9 assessments will also begin the week commencing 20 November. Year 8s will begin week commencing 8 January 2024. Year 9 will be picking options in the coming months so a good round of assessments will give a more secure idea of what subjects should be considered.

Mr Jones is now back in school and resumes his role as Head of Year 7 and Transition Coordinator. Which leaves me as Head of Y8 and Y9. Mrs Toulson is Pastoral Lead for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9. Tutors remain the first port of call for parents with pastoral concerns as the tutor will see your student the most so will be able to build an effective and supportive relationship.

### MRS HAYWARD - HEAD OF KEY STAGE 4



Our Year 11 students hit the ground running on their return from the half term break with their PPEs. We have been so impressed with their dedication and commitment to success during these weeks - a huge well done! Grades will be shared from December 1 and students will be receiving their QLAs, which they can use to identify their strengths and areas for further development. A reminder that Year 11 students should now be applying for their future colleges or sixth-forms. If students require support in doing this, please

come and see me or Mrs Dobson, our careers advisor. If parents would like to attend a career meeting with their child for information on how to support them making their applications, we can arrange this also. A key date for the diary is the 28 June 2024. This will be the Year 11 Prom and a celebration to end the exams and students' time at Five Acres High School. Invites for those eligible will go out after the February half term. I will also be looking to form a Prom Committee over the next two weeks. Students involved will be looking to raise money to support the Prom, as well as help in the design and decoration of the event.

Year 10 students have also had a superb couple of weeks back, earning over 300 tokens and postcards, demonstrating their ambition and desire to be successful. Many of our Year 10 students have also been requesting early careers appointments. Both myself and Mrs Dobson have been so impressed with how mature they have been about gaining a better understanding about their futures and the high aspirations they hold. Our Year 10 students have also had a successful start in relation to sport with wins in netball, rugby and cross-country, along with many students being selected to represent the Forest of Dean at the County Cross-Country event. A huge well done to all of our students who continue to demonstrate dedication and commitment to their sports. We are very proud of you all.

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## REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

A number of our students took part in Remembrance Services across the district on Sunday 12 November. Many paid their respects as part of cadets, scout and guide groups and our Head and Deputy Head Students represented the school at Coleford Services. As well as raising money for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies, Year 7 student Kimberley also laid a wreath at the Lydney British Legion service. Kimberley is pictured here with her dad, a serving member of the RAF.



## STUDENT READING RECOMMENDATIONS



**Five Acres  
High School**

# Reading Recommendations

Do you have a favourite author or novel? Have you read an amazing book this term?

You can share your reading recommendations with us by submitting them at this link-  
[tinyurl.com/5Abookrecommendations](https://tinyurl.com/5Abookrecommendations)

We will share our favourites on our social media pages



## LANGUAGEUT COMPETITION

This month many pupils are taking part in the LanguageNut competition online. They have until 3 December to earn as many points as possible and put Five Acres High School on the leader board! The top 50 point scorers will win a £50 Amazon voucher. There are still some log ins available so ask your language teacher if you would like one. A special shout out to our current top scorers so far.

### Top Linguists In Your School

Name	Points
1. Veronica	275800
2. Lillie	125900
3. Gracie-May	84400
4. Amelia	61600
5. Corbin	50100
6. Isla	28500
7. Jake	13600
8. Evie	8800

### STAR STUDENTS

Lily (9AWS) always greets me with a smile in the morning and then again in every French lesson. Always polite and courteous, Lily is an example of our school's value of kindness.

*Miss Williams*

### HIGH FLYERS

The students listed below have been recognised as receiving the most awards

#### Week Commencing 6 November

Akeyla (7DWN) 8 Awards  
Alfie (8JBN), Amelie (8LWS),  
Poppy (8AWD, Scarlett (8LWS)  
5 Awards

Cooper (9TMT) 6 Awards  
Anastasia (10LTM) 5 Awards  
Minnie (11CRS) 7 Awards

### LOST PROPERTY

We are continuing to update the gallery on our website with items of lost property that is unnamed. Please go to [www.5acreshighschool.co.uk](http://www.5acreshighschool.co.uk) and select the Parents tab and click on Lost Property to view the gallery. Any items that haven't been claimed by 1 December 2023 will be donated to the school's nearly new uniform shop.



## BERRY HILL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON



Berry Hill Christmas Lights is supporting

### Forest of Dean Food Bank

Friday 24 November -



Simply "bring a can to the van."



The van will be parked at The Globe from 4.30pm onwards, for Berry Hill's Christmas tree switch on.

Items required; **Tinned:- Hot Pies, Cold Meat, Dog/Cat Food.**

**Jam, UHT Milk, Sponge Puddings, Angel Delight, Jellies, Smash, Honey, Fruit Juice.**

**Men/Women deodorant, washing up liquid, shampoo, shower Gel.**

**All donations gratefully received.**



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## FOREST FOOD BANK DONATIONS

We will be accepting donations for the Forest Foodbank again this year. Below is our Reverse Advent Calendar with suggestions for items. Donations can be left at Reception between 8am and 4pm.



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## CHILDREN IN NEED FUNDRAISING

To support Children In Need this year, students have been invited to guess Pudsey's favourite food and holiday destination for a donation, and decorate a giant Pudsey with silver and gold coins. We will share with you details of the prize winners and the total amount raised via our social media pages.



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

## SPORT AT FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

### KEY DATES

**Week Commencing  
20 November**

Year 7 & Year 9 Assessments

**Thursday 23 November**

KS4 Exam Concert

**Wednesday 29 November**

Governors Meeting

**Thursday 30 November**

Y9 Sexual Harassment assembly

**Thursday 30 November**

Ski Trip Parents

Information Evening

**Friday 1 December**

Sri Lanka trip Quiz Night

Fundraiser

**Thursday 7 December**

Bronze & Silver Duke of  
Edinburgh Awards Parents'

Information Evening

**Friday 8 December**

Year 11 Reports out to parents

**Tuesday 12 &**

**Wednesday 13 December**

Enterprise Academy

Christmas Markets

**Wednesday 13 December**

Christmas Concert

**Wednesday 13 &**

**Thursday 14 December**

Whole school nasal  
flu vaccinations

**Thursday 14 December**

Year 11 Parents' Evening

**Wednesday 20 December**

Festive Canteen menu

**Wednesday 20 December**

Christmas production -  
Twelfth Night

**Thursday 21 December**

Year 7 & 9 Celebrations Evening

**Friday 22 December**

Last day of term

**Monday 25 December -**

**Friday 5 January**

Christmas Holidays

**Monday 8 January 2024**

INSET Day

**Week Commencing 8 January**

Year 8 & 10 assessments

### English Schools FA Cup Success!

Both of our Year 9 teams have progressed in the ESFA Cup over the last week. Our Year 9 A Team were victorious against Castle School, despite going 1-0 down in the first half. The team pulled it back to win 3-1 and progress onto the next round, setting up an away day against Beechen High School in Bath. The Year 9 B Team are going from strength to strength, they also progressed into the next round after an 11-0 win against Sheldon School. Sadly, we have seen our Under-12 and Under-13 Boys now exit the competition and will begin their preparations for the District Competition that starts in January.

### District Cross-Country

Over the past two weeks we have been running our Cross-Country Inter-House event which has resulted in a number of our students being selected for the District Cross-Country event at Newent School. On Wednesday this week, we took over 40 students to compete and all worked incredibly hard! A special mention to Alfie for coming second in Year 7, Ollie P and Oliver P for both placing eighth in their competitions and Ella P for placing fourth in the Inter Girls competition. Those that placed inside the top 10 have all been selected to run at the County Cross-Country event coming soon.

## DANCE AWARDS

Congratulations to Year 7 student Willow who recently aced her dance exams. She is the first under 12 from her dance school to take her IDTA Bronze dance exams and achieved 93% with Honours in the Bronze Ballroom exam and 94% with Honours in her Bronze Latin exam. She recently competed in Reading with the hope to qualify for the Blackpool National finals. Well done, Willow!



## ATTENDANCE INITIATIVES


From the start of this term, we have been running a number of initiatives to encourage 100% attendance from students, including our tutor group champions league and our In It To Win it rewards.

### 'In It To Win It'

Each day to encourage you to be in school there will be a random In It To Win It random draw. Winners will get a lunch pass skip and a free cookie







Five Acres High School

# A Night of Shakespeare

## Romeo and Juliet Twelfth Night

Wednesday 20th December 6pm

FREE ENTRY

Romeo and Juliet Abridged by Martin Lamb and Penelope Middelboe  
Twelfth Night Abridged by Jonny Flood

### CONTACT US

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

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