



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

1 December 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the first December edition of our newsletter. With winter temperatures now the norm for this time of year, I hope that there are plenty of things in this newsletter to warm your hearts and be proud of. Talking to students in my fortnightly catch-ups I am always impressed with their enthusiasm for their learning and their recognition of all that is in place to help them succeed. A recurring theme in these conversations is our canteen offer. The Greenshaw Learning Trust has recently completed a survey of students and we are working to address some of the improvements that have been suggested. I am pleased to follow up our recent social media post by confirming that we will be offering a free porridge breakfast to any student who would like one between 8am and 8:20am each morning. Not only will this ensure students can access a nutritious breakfast, it will also help in these colder temperatures. From Monday 4 December, the canteen will also be providing an after-school service offering snacks and drinks, from 3:00-3:15pm and 4:00-4:15pm.

I have noticed a number of students who arrive at school in the morning

without a coat. Please ensure that your child is wrapped up warm for school wearing a suitable coat and other cold weather items if necessary so that they can enjoy the fresh air during their social times.

In my latest message to staff I referenced the more common phrase found in TV advertising this year about the "gifting season". Whilst I am personally not a fan of this phrase, it has caught my attention about what is classed as a gift. My personal view is that education is a gift, and we take very seriously our responsibility to make sure that the gift at Five Acres is the best it can be. Just like at Christmas, where we are all excited to receive a gift, we continue to work hard to encourage students to value their education and to treasure the time that they spend here. For this reason, attendance continues to be a priority for us. It has been great to see students respond to the various initiatives that we have put in place to acknowledge their attendance. The direct link between attendance and personal development is clear and we will continue to support families to ensure children can be in school and in lessons on time, all of the time.



One advantage of being in school is the opportunity to take part in the huge variety of extra curricular activities that we have. Please look out for details of upcoming shows and activities as we head towards Christmas. These will be shared on our social media platforms.

As you will see later in our newsletter, we have recently appointed a number of enthusiastic Key Stage 3 students to be Student Ambassadors. This and many other opportunities to demonstrate leadership and confidence is another important aspect of our school provision. We are always delighted to award students their Character Education badges for their contributions.

Thank you for continuing to take an interest in our school and for supporting all of our students to be amazing!



MOUNTAIN BIKING SUCCESS

On Sunday 26 November, Year 7 student Riley took part in the Little Fodders Downhill Mountain Bike race. He did amazingly well and came in second place, with the overall second fastest time out of 49 competitors. A fantastic achievement, well done Riley!

AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

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

CHARACTER EDUCATION SHIELD PRESENTATION



Congratulations to Year 8 students Evie and Lucas and Jamie in Year 9 for achieving their Character Education Ambition and Determination shields and certificates. Well done!

AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

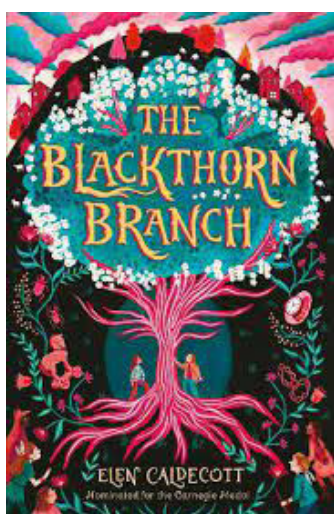
ART LEADERSHIP TEAM CHRISTMAS MARKETS

The Art Leadership Team attended the Cinderford Christmas Light switch on to start their fundraising efforts for their end of year trip. The students have worked hard to make and package all their products and it was great to see them engage with such confidence with members of our community. Thank you to the organisers in supporting us - we are very grateful! Also, listen out for an interview on our much loved local radio station Dean Radio on Friday evening, to find out more about the Art Leadership Team here at Five Acres! The team will also be at Coleford's Christmas Lights switch on event on Saturday 2 December.



READING RECOMMENDATIONS

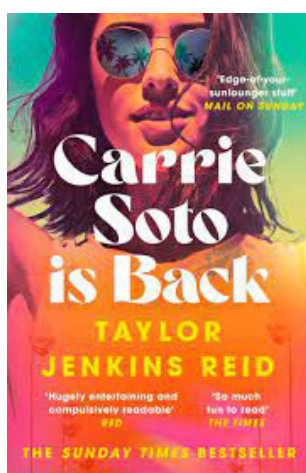
*Our Reading Programme
Lead, Miss Phelps shares her picks
for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.*



The Blackthorn Branch
by Elen Caldecott

Cassie's older brother Byron has fallen in with the wrong crowd – it's clear these boys are wild, reckless and not human at all. They are tylwyth teg – Fair Folk, who tempt humans down into the dark places of the world. And Byron is tempted. When he goes missing, Cassie

and her cousin, Siân, follow his trail to an old abandoned railway tunnel which goes down and down into Annwn, the underworld. Here they find that the tylwyth teg are restless – and angry. Their leader, Gwenhidw, wants to protect Annwn from the damage humans are doing to the world. Byron is part of her plan. But Cassie won't let her big brother be part of anyone's plan. Can she rescue her brother before it is too late?



Carrie Soto Is Back
by Taylor Jenkins Reid
By the time Carrie retires from tennis, she is the best player the world has ever seen. She

has shattered every record and claimed 20 Slam titles. And if you ask her, she is entitled to every one. She sacrificed nearly everything to become the best, with her father as her coach. But six years after her retirement, Carrie finds herself sitting in the stands of the 1994 US Open, watching her record be taken from her by a brutal, stunning, British player named Nicki Chan.

At 37 years old, Carrie makes the decision to come out of retirement and be coached by her father for one last year in an attempt to reclaim her record. Even if her body doesn't move as fast as it did. And even if it means swallowing her pride to train with a man she once almost opened her heart to: Bowe Huntley. He too has something to prove before he gives up the game.

***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)***

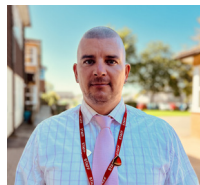
UPDATES FROM HEADS OF KEY STAGES

MR JONES - HEAD OF YEAR 7



Year 7 students continue to smash it across the board at Five Acres High School. Our year group attendance is top of the school with 95.9% to date (just 0.1% off our school target); 3 Y7 tutor groups (7YWN, 7LMS and 7APZ) remain in the quarter finals of Champions League for attendance and without fail every day so far a Y7 has received the 'In it to Win it' cookie! In terms of Character Education, the number of badges being applied for is rising every week. Positive behaviour points (for tokens and postcards) are also flying high in Y7 and the winner for the week is celebrated each week in assembly. A special shout-out to Jolene who has been top or joint top for 3 out of 4 weeks this term. Keep it up Y7!

MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEARS 8 & 9



We are now just 3 school weeks away from Christmas, term 1 is nearly complete. Y8 and Y9 continue to be really strong with their uptake of positive tokens, they are consistently the highest performers in school behind Y7. Unfortunately, attendance has taken a slip in both years with Y8 hovering around 94% and Y9 hovering around 91%. To boost attendance the school have been running a Champions League-style knockout - pitting tutor groups against one another. Currently we are at the Quarter Final stage so I want to give a shout out to 9GTS and 8LWS who are both still going strong in the competition.

I also want to give a shout out to some of our top positive token earners in Y8 and Y9. Y8 - Jack, Poppy, Lucas and Brodan. Y9 - Daniel, Tommy, Freya and Amelia. Well done for your consistent hard work and thank you for all your positive contributions to school.

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

We will share our favourites on our social media pages

SPORT AT FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

The Y7 and Y8 girls' football teams showcased their skills and determination at the recent tournament held at Dean Academy. The team displayed excellent sportsmanship, teamwork, and a passion for the game throughout the competition. Their dedication to the game, combined with skillful plays and effective communication, resulted in two victories and a well-earned draw.

It was a challenging day for Five Acres as the U13 and U15 Netball teams, along with the U13 Rugby Team, travelled to Dene Magna for a series of competitive matches. Despite facing tough opposition, the teams exhibited resilience and a commendable spirit.

The District U16 Netball tournament hosted at Five Acres High School was marked by both fantastic sportsmanship and an unfortunate incident that impacted the course of the games. Our team participated with enthusiasm and skill, displaying good performances against Newent, Wyedean, and Dene Magna. Wyedean claimed the overall win.

It is with mixed emotions that we report on the recent matches of our U12 Girls and U14 Boys Football teams in the ESFA Cup. Despite putting up a valiant effort, both teams were unfortunately knocked out of the competition this week. The focus now turns to upcoming fixtures and the continued development of our talented young footballers. We look forward to seeing the teams bounce back and achieve success in future tournaments.

Well done to all of our students who participated in the District Cross Country event. As always, we were so proud of our students and the determination and ambition they showed. Special mention must go to our Under 14 (Year 8/9) and Under 16 (Year 10) girls teams who both won their team events, beating all other five Forest schools. The Year 10 girls put on an incredible display, with five runners - Ella, Grace, Anastasia, Grace and Georgia - making the top 10 and qualifying for the County event this weekend. Huge congratulations to the following students who also qualified in their age categories for the County event: Y7 - Kacey and Alfie, Lillian and Ollie (Year 8), Daisy and Bea (Year 9) and Oliver (Year 10).



STAR STUDENTS

Elsie (9AWS) is an extremely polite student who always shows kindness in tutor (and in Spanish) by offering to hand resources out. Thank you for being such a helpful member of our tutor group
Miss Williams

Each week Daniel (9LTY) has a fantastic attendance and a very positive attitude towards learning. His low stake quizzes are clearly marked with green pen showing his ability to retrieve information from previous topics using his Knowledge Organiser. In TTRP and DEAR time he is focused and always makes the right choice.
Miss Turvey

Miles (10BRS) Has been a really helpful student in tutor time, handing out books and being a great listener in our reading sessions.
Mr Robbins

HIGH FLYERS

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

Week Commencing 13

November

Year 7 Jolene (13 awards)
Year 8 Lucas & Sophie (8 awards)
Year 9 Freya (7 awards)
Year 10 Owen & Grace (5 awards)
Year 11 Lucy & Isla (4 awards)

Week Commencing 20 November

Year 7 Charlie, Jolene, Theo & Naveah (7 awards)
Year 8 Brodan, Jack, McKenzie, Robert, Asha (5 awards)
Year 9 Amelia (6 awards)
Year 10 Anastasia, Darcy (5 awards)
Year 11 Minnie & Sophie (6 awards)

KEY DATES

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

Key Stage 3 Pantomime trip

Thursday 14 December

GCSE Certificate collection

Thursday 14 December

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 20 December

Festive Canteen menu &
Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 20 December

Christmas production -
Twelfth Night

Thursday 21 December

Year 7 & 9 Celebrations Evening

Friday 22 December

Year 7 & 9 Reports out to parents

Friday 22 December

Last day of term

Monday 25 December -

Friday 5 January

Christmas Holidays

Sunday 7 January 2024

Ten Tors Navigation Event

Monday 8 January 2024

INSET Day

Week Commencing 8 January

Year 8 & 10 assessments

Tuesday 9 January 2024

'It All Adds Up' trip to Oxford
Mathematics Institute

FOREST FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who has already donated to our Forest Foodbank appeal. Below is our Reverse Advent Calendar with suggestions for items. Donations can be left at Reception between 8am and 4pm.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Monday 20 November - Cereal
Tuesday 21 November - Rice pudding
Wednesday 22 November - Tinned fruit
Thursday 23 November - Tinned fish
Friday 24 November - Custard
Monday 27 November - Tea bags/coffee
Tuesday 28 November - Tins of beans
Wednesday 29 November - Pasta
Thursday 30 November - Rice
Friday 1 December - Biscuits
Monday 4 December - Pasta sauce
Tuesday 5 December - Jam
Wednesday 6 December - Toiletries
Thursday 7 December - Tinned vegetables
Friday 8 December - Tins/packages of soup
Monday 11 December - Sponge pudding
Tuesday 12 December - Washing-up liquid
Wednesday 13 December - Stuffing mix
Thursday 14 December - Cranberry sauce
Friday 15 December - Festive items

These are suggestions, and we will gladly accept any donations that students, parents and carers are able to donate

BREAKFAST OFFER



Announcement!

A free breakfast of porridge
will now be available from
the canteen for ALL students
between 8am and 8.20am
every morning.



Aim High. Work Hard. Be Kind.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

For the final week of this half term, week commencing 18 December, the canteen will be offering festive-themed items from its Grab and Go selection and on Wednesday 21 December will be serving a traditional Christmas Roast. Students are also invited to wear Christmas jumpers, ties, socks or hair accessories on Wednesday 21 December. A photo booth will be set up in 10Block for students to take some festive fun pics on that day too.

We are celebrating Christmas at lunchtime in the Canteen every day for the whole week during the last week of this term. 18th-22nd December

There will be grab and go items all week at lunchtime. And our main counter will be serving festive main meals from around the world.

The Christmas grab and go choices that will be available will be a mix up of the following items during the week:

Garlic Snow Balls (V & GF) £1.20
Festive Cheese Twist £1.30
Jumbo pig in blanket pots £1.60
Christmas Chicken Burrito cracker £2.20 (V-Spicy mixed bean) £2.20
Christmas Rustic Cheesy garlic bread pizza £2.20(V)
Festive Stack burger (Beef) (V & GF) £2.20
Brie and Cranberry Panini £2.20 (V & GF)
Brie, bacon and Cranberry Bagel £2.20 (GF)
Jack frost chicken strips (V)£2.20
A selection of festive cold wraps and baguettes (V & GF) £1.80-£2.20

**Festive Meal deals from around the world main & dessert £2.75
OR £2.20 For just the main:**

Monday: Japanese Christmas Ramen bowls (V & GF)
Tuesday: German Jumbo Frankfurters with an assortment of toppings (V & GF)
Wednesday: THE MAIN EVENT - A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS ROAST (V & GF)
Thursday: Indian Festive pilaf rice with a selection of curries. (V & GF)
Friday: British Giant Pig in blanket Yorkshire pudding wrap or Festive fish & chips. (V)

A selection of Festive desserts: 60p-£1.20
Marshmallow chocolate pots, Loaded Cheesecakes, Christmas Cookies, Mince Pies and Festive Traybakes.



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

AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

We are excited to introduce our new student ambassadors of Five Acres High School. These students have undertaken a rigorous application process where they each explained how they represent our school values. These students will be working with the Student Leadership Team to conduct school tours and ensure that all members of our school community continue to feel included and listened to at Five Acres High School.



GROWS POST-16 OPTIONS VIRTUAL EVENT

On Wednesday 6 December GROWS is hosting an online events for Year 10 and Year 11 students and their parents/carers. This is a great opportunity for parents, carers and students to dial in from the comfort of their own home or convenience of their device, wherever they find themselves, to hear from local education experts, careers advisors and real students about the different options available to young people after GCSEs. The online event is from 5:30 to 6:45pm and you can sign up at this link - bit.ly/Futurechoices



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN COLEFORD



COLEFORD CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON SAT 02 DEC

Important Timings for the day:

- 1pm Craft and Food Stalls open and Fun Fair begins
- 2pm Stage Acts start
- 2-4pm Grotto is open - High Street by zebra crossing
- 4.45pm Children meet at the Fire Station who would like to join in with the parade
- 5.30pm Lights are Switched on by a very special guest!
- 5.45pm Grotto re-opens until all children are seen

Carols around
the Christmas
tree with the
**Coleford
Community
Choir**
and a local
Brass Band



Free hot drinks and
mince pie
(whilst available)



Photo: Steven Gregory Photography

**Thursday 21st
December
5:30 – 7:00pm**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FREE SCHOOL MEALS HOLIDAY VOUCHER SCHEME

Gloucestershire County Council has opened applications for its December 2023 Winter Holiday Free School Meal voucher scheme. The scheme is for children in Reception up to Year 11 who are entitled to benefits-related Free School Meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire.

To find out more about the scheme and to apply, please visit <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/holiday-school-meal-vouchers/>

Families who have registered previously for support, do not need to re-register.

The closing date for applications is midday on Tuesday 12 December. If parents/carers have not received their vouchers by 20 December, please contact

childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Families who sign up to the scheme, or who have already registered, will receive a total of £15 per child.

Vouchers will only be awarded once the parent/carer has registered for the scheme and cannot be backdated. Vouchers are valid for 6 months, although should be used in the holiday period in which they are awarded. If vouchers are not claimed and have expired, they cannot be re-issued.

Vouchers not received should be queried via email to childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk

by the end of the holiday period.



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