



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

18 December 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As this term draws to a close, I would like to start by thanking you for your support and commitment to ensuring that your child has a better chance of success by attending Five Acres High School. This has been an excellent term, with so many students achieving brilliant outcomes (Year 7, 9 and 11) and Character Education badges. I have also been delighted to see a huge increase in the number of tokens and postcards being distributed as students show their excellence in lessons and around the school.

This term has been a challenging term for whole school attendance and whilst our figures are in line with national data, I know we are capable of so much more. Last year's Year 11 students have shown that excellent attendance and being in lessons on time are the biggest indicator of sustained academic progress. Whilst we have a number of initiatives running in school to encourage good attendance, such as the In It To Win It daily draws and the Champions League competition, we also want to continue to work with parents to develop good

habits around attendance as we know these habits transfer into post-16 and employment opportunities.

With the term extending deep into December, we will ensure that we will finish on a high and want all students to benefit from the expert-led lessons, celebration opportunities and festive activities. Attending every day will ensure that your child does not miss out. Our festive activities include the design a Christmas Card competition, which has been won by Chloe (Year 11), a remarkable fifth triumph in a row. We have also continued to support the Forest Foodbank appeal, your response has been excellent so far and we look forward to receiving your donations as part of our Christmas Jumper (Tie & Socks) Day on Wednesday 20 December. On this day we will also serve traditional Christmas lunch in the canteen and all week there will be a special Christmas menu.

I have also been delighted to see the take up of the free porridge offer over recent weeks. We plan to continue this into the new year. We have also committed



to opening the canteen at 3pm and 4pm to allow students to buy drinks and snacks as they leave their lessons and after school activities.

As Christmas approaches I want to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year, and look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Tuesday 9 January 2024. The Christmas season can be a time of hope and joy for many and offers us a chance to be with family and friends providing us with a sense of meaning, purpose and belonging. When we return in 2024 we will continue to work on ensuring all students experience the same at Five Acres High School, where we encourage everyone to aim high, work hard and be kind.

KEY STAGE 3 PANTOMIME TRIP

On Thursday 14 December 73 Key Stage 3 students had the opportunity to attend the pantomime, Peter Pan, at Bristol Hippodrome. Our students behaved brilliantly and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



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

LANGUAGE NUT CHALLENGE UPDATE

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the national LanguageNut challenge. Five Acres made it into the top 20% of schools across the whole country! Pupils who participated got points by completing a variety of language challenges online. A big shout out to our top linguists who have got themselves a certificate for their fantastic point scores.

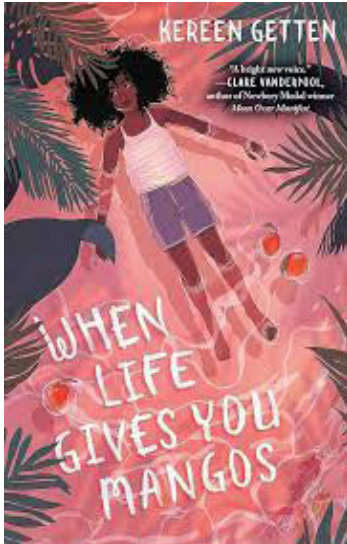
Name	Points	Name	Points
Veronica	805300	Lola	28600
Lillie	125900	Isla	28500
Corbin	124100	Evie	18200
Gracie-May	122700	Amelie	14100
Amelia	61600	Jake	13600
Sienna	38200	Riley	5800
Imogen	37800	Charlie	5800
Evie	35800	Chloe	3900



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

READING RECOMMENDATIONS

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



When Life Gives You Mangos by Kereen Getten

The story is about a young girl who can't remember anything from her previous summer after a hurricane.

Twelve-year-old Clara lives on an island that visitors call exotic. But there's nothing exotic about it to Clara. She loves eating ripe mangoes off the ground, running outside in the rain with her Papa during the rainy season, and going to her secret hide-out with Gaynah - even though lately she's not acting like a best friend. The only thing out of the ordinary for Clara is that something happened to her memory that made her forget everything that happened last summer after a hurricane hit. Sometimes things come back to her in drips

like a tap that hasn't been turned off properly. Other times her Mama fills in the blanks... Only she knows those aren't her memories and it is hard feeling like she is not like everybody else. But this summer is going to be different for Clara. Everyone is buzzing with excitement over a new girl in the village who is not like other visitors. She is about to make big waves on the island - and give Clara a summer she won't forget.



The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan

Anthony Peardew is the keeper of lost things. Forty years ago, he carelessly lost a keepsake from his beloved fiancée, Therese. That very same day, she died unexpectedly. Broken-hearted, Anthony sought consolation in rescuing lost objects—the things others have dropped, misplaced, or accidentally left behind—and writing stories about them. Now, in the twilight of his life, Anthony worries

that he has not fully discharged his duty to reconcile all the lost things with their owners. As the end nears, he bequeaths his secret life's mission to his unsuspecting assistant, Laura, leaving her his house and all its lost treasures, including an irritable ghost.

Recovering from a bad divorce, Laura moves into his mansion, her life begins to change. She finds a new friend in the neighbour's quirky daughter, Sunshine, and a welcome distraction in Freddy, the rugged gardener. As the dark cloud engulfing her lifts, Laura, accompanied by her new companions, sets out to realise Anthony's last wish: reuniting his cherished lost objects with their owners.

Long ago, Eunice found a trinket on the London pavement and kept it through the years. Now, with her own end drawing near, she has lost something precious—a tragic twist of fate that forces her to break a promise she once made. As the Keeper of Lost Objects, Laura holds the key to Anthony and Eunice's redemption. But can she unlock the past and make the connections that will lay their spirits to rest?

***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>

UPDATES FROM HEADS OF KEY STAGES

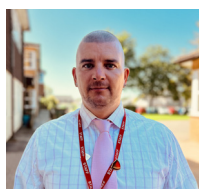
MR JONES - HEAD OF YEAR 7



The vast majority of students are aiming high, working hard, being kind and having such a positive secondary school experience. There has been lots of feedback for students to act upon in lessons this week as Year 7s reflect on their first secondary school assessments in all subject areas. It has been wonderful to read out so many positive postcards each morning that reflect how hard students have worked. Year 7 attendance is the best in the school at 95.7% - in particular 7YWN are smashing it and are into the Attendance

Champions League Final! Y7 are also leading the way in terms of Character Education badges awarded this term - with a whopping 435 badges earned! A special shout out to 7APZ who have a combined total of 106 badges shimmering on their blazer lapels. Incredible! Sorry about the amount of superlatives and exclamation marks... but what a delight it is to be Head of Year 7.

MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEARS 8 & 9



We are now on the final push to Christmas. Year 8 and Year 9 students continue to gain a really impressive amount of positive tokens - last week Year 8 gained 334 tokens, which put them second for the week and Year 9 gained 265 positive tokens, which put them third. I want to give a shout out to some of the top token earners from last week - Year 8: Jack, Poppy, Mariska, Cody, Jack, Jake, Max, Max, Isla and Henry. Y9: Tio, Amelia, Maisy, Holly, Peyton-Louise, Sophia and Dexter. Well done for your consistent hard work.

Year 9 students this week have received an email from Mrs McKenzie about options choices, the form is asking for an idea of what students may like to opt for, this is just a rough idea at this stage. The online form needs to be completed by Friday 22 December. Next term there will be an option evening where more information will be given. Students will receive an options booklet at the evening which contains all of the relevant information - this will then be followed up with a Year 9 Parents' Evening, which is designed to help students choose wisely.

MRS HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEARS 10 & 11



It has been another fantastic couple of weeks for Key Stage 4. Our Year 10 students doubled their previous week's total for positive points earned! In the last 2 weeks, Key Stage 4 have earned over 600 positive tokens and postcards home - wow! Special mentions to our top earners Millie, Jade, Kiera, Lily, Kaci-Mae and Jacob. It is fantastic to see so many students flourishing and demonstrating our core values each day.

All Year 11 students should have now received their PPE results. I know there were plenty of happy faces - such a great reward for all of the hard work students have put into their studies this year. The majority of students have made at least another level of progress (many far more) since their last PPEs in June, demonstrating the effectiveness of attendance, Period 6 sessions and the completion of their revision-based homework. I look forward to celebrating so many achievements this term in our assembly next week.

A reminder that all Year 11 students should have applied to at least one post-16 option by now. If they are yet to do this and would like some support, please ensure they see me to get another career meeting booked with Mrs Dobson.

I have been so impressed with Year 10 students and their dedication to ensuring they are prepared for their upcoming assessments in January. I have been handing out flash cards by the packet and love seeing students testing each other's (and my) knowledge on the lunch queue. Thank you for all of your positive contributions to our school.

FESTIVE FUN AT FIVE ACRES

Alongside our Christmas Jumper (Ties and Socks) Day on Wednesday 20 December, 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 20 December will be serving a traditional Christmas Roast.

For those who wish to wear Christmas jumpers (and/or ties and socks), we are asking for a donation towards our Forest Foodbank appeal. Donations can be left at Reception.



On Tuesday 19 December, we will be holding our Christmas Carol Service at Mount of Olives Church, Coleford. Members of our Student Leadership Team will be sharing readings and there will be musical performances from students, as well as traditional carols.



For students to take part in the end of term House treat, they need to wear their house badge. If any students have lost theirs, a replacement can be purchased from Reception for £1.

KEY DATES

Tuesday 19 December

Christmas Carol Service, Mount of Olives Church, Coleford

Wednesday 20 December

Festive Canteen menu & Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 21 December

Year 7, 9 and 11 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

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

Sunday 14 January 2024

Ten Tors Navigation Event

Week Commencing 15 January 2024

Year 8 & 10 Assessments

Tuesday 23 January 2024

Governors Meeting

Thursday 25 January 2024

Year 9 Options Information

Evening

Tuesday 30 January 2024

Year 9 Aim Higher Talk

Wednesday 31 January 2024

Year 8 NHS Theatre presentation

Thursday 1 February 2024

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 7 February 2024

Year 8 & 10 Celebrations Evening

Thursday 8 February 2024

Open Mic Night

Monday 12-Friday 16 February

Half Term

Week Commencing 19 February

Year 11 PPEs

Saturday 24-Sunday 25 Feb

Ten Tors Training

BEDROCK UPDATE

Since the start of this academic year, 350 active learners at Five Acres High School have read a total of 2,023,500 words and have been taught a grand total of 10,974 key tier 2 words using Bedrock's core curriculum. Well done to all the students who consistently engage with Bedrock in and out of the classroom.



MEET OUR GOVERNORS

Through our newsletters, we would like to take the opportunity to introduce you to members of our Governing Body.

For this edition, please meet Mr Dean Lambert, Staff Governor. Mr Lambert is one of our Teaching Assistants.

I am reading:

Goldfinger by Ian Flemming

I am listening to:

Any type of music, apart from heavy metal.

Lifetime achievement: Going to Africa to work shows how sport can motivate a community. I am so thankful for the opportunity to do this.

I am excited to be a Governor because:

It has been great to receive positive comments for the hard work we do. I want to be able to share concerns that are raised so that staff feel listened to as part of the wider school community.



ENTERPRISE ACADEMY CHRISTMAS MARKETS

We had 15 businesses this year making goods to sell for the Christmas market held in school on 12/13th December. We will let you know how much money was raised in the New Year.



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

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WINTER PRODUCTION POSTPONED



Five Acres High School

A Night of Shakespeare

POSTPONED

Romeo and Juliet

Twelfth Night

New Date Thursday 18th January 6pm

FREE ENTRY

Romeo and Juliet Abridged by Martin Lamb and Penelope Middelboe

Twelfth Night Abridged by Jonny Flood

BIKE TRIALS SUCCESS

Congratulations to Year 8 student Harry, who is now the Western Centre C Class Bike Trials champion. Harry is really dedicated to his sport and has put in a lot of hard work over the past year, so this is a fantastic achievement. Well done!



SPORT AT FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

We are thrilled to share with you the exciting experience our Year 9 boys team had last week when they had the incredible opportunity to play at the Kingsholm stadium against King Alfred's Academy.

While the final score may not have been in our favour, the resilience and sportsmanship displayed by our boys throughout the game were truly commendable. It was a day filled with learning, growth, and unforgettable memories that will stay with our young athletes.

Playing at a professional ground like Kingsholm is a dream for many aspiring rugby players, and our boys had the chance to step onto the same field where some of the sport's greatest moments have unfolded.

Despite the loss, the boys showcased incredible teamwork, skill, and a positive attitude on the field. The experience of playing at a professional stadium provided them with a unique insight into the world of high-level rugby, inspiring them to set new goals and work even harder to achieve them. The boys impressed not only by their performance but also by their ability to stay focused and maintain good sportsmanship throughout the match.



STAR STUDENTS

Ellie (9AWS) is always punctual, polite and organised, she is an asset to our tutor group.

Miss Williams

Connor (10BRS) is a star student for continually helping out the tutor group, handing out books, being respectful and polite.

Mr Robbins

Since joining Five Acres High School, Rebecca (8SHN) has thrown herself into school life. Her homework is always completed to an excellent standard, she works hard in lessons and recently applied for and secured the position of a student ambassador!

Mrs Harrison

HIGH FLYERS

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

**Week Commencing
4 December**

Year 7 Tristan (17 Awards)
Year 8 Jack (8 Awards)
Year 9 (Tio 7 Awards)
Year 10 Kiera (4 Awards)
Year 11
Toby and Jacob (4 Awards)