



# FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

9 February 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. With the half term break now on us, I wish you all a good rest and look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Monday 19 February.

Whilst the term has been very short we have still managed to pack a lot in. We continue to be impressed with student attitudes to learning and towards personal development. It has been a joy to hear over 350 badges or shields have been awarded this term as part of our Character Education programme, as well as multiple students signing up to work towards their Platinum shields. I look forward to sharing details of their finished projects with you all in due course.

Over the last term, we have talked about the conditions that allow students and staff to be successful at Five Acres High School, and two of these conditions have included supporting students through high expectations and ensuring that students are in school and in lessons a maximum amount of time. Standards are important because they allow students to know what is expected and how

to get things right. Today we are rewarding multiple students across every year group for the completion of the term with no Standards Card strikes. We also very much enjoy being able to issue tokens on a weekly basis for students who continue to get things right at every opportunity.

Attendance continues to hit the headlines and it continues to be a concern for us at Five Acres. When students attend school not only do they receive expert-led education they can also take advantage of the multiple areas of support on offer and they can access more opportunities to build their character.

With Year 11 exams currently happening as they work towards their final exams it is once again worth mentioning the correlation between student attendance and outcomes. When students attend less than 96% of the time, their grades are hit on average by around half a grade, for students who attend less than 80% of the time (one day a week absence) grades, on average, are affected by 1.5 grades. The gap in attainment is even more evident where attendance has been low



throughout a student's school career. Whilst we understand that there are always occasions where absence cannot be helped, we want to ensure that we do everything to support good attendance and better outcomes, and we encourage all families to have a similar mindset.

A recent visitor to Five Acres High School left us with this quote - "You are all just normal people". They intended this as a huge compliment because of the brilliant things they could see going on. Through this issue of our newsletter we hope that you once again gain a sense of the amazing achievements of our wonderful "normal" students and staff and the breadth of opportunities available.

## DRAMA SHOWCASE

Well done to all the students who took part in the recent Drama showcase including Shakespeare performance. It is brilliant to see students' confidence and talents shine.



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.

	Lunchtime	Where?	After-school, 3pm-4pm	Where
<b>Monday</b>	Music Practice Drop-In Chess competition	Room 42 Room 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YR7 Netball</li> <li>• Fitness</li> <li>• Elite Singers Rehearsals</li> <li>• 'The Addams Family' Acting Rehearsals</li> </ul>	Blue Gym Room 42 Room 48
<b>Tuesday</b>	Principal Rehearsals for 'The Addams Family' YR8 and YR9 book club	Room 42 Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YR8 Netball</li> <li>• YR7 boys' Football</li> <li>• Badminton</li> <li>• 'The Addams Family' Singing Rehearsals</li> </ul>	10 Block
<b>Wednesday</b>	Music Practice Drop-In Further Maths	Room 42 Room 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YR7-YR10 girls' Football</li> <li>• YR8 boys' Football</li> <li>• Badminton</li> <li>• Junior Rock Band (Y7 Only)</li> <li>• 'The Addams Family' Acting Rehearsals</li> <li>• Art Academy</li> </ul>	Room 42 Room 48 10 Block Room 1
<b>Thursday</b>	Mathematical Arts YR10 book club	Room 31 Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YR9 and YR10 Netball</li> <li>• YR9 and YR10 Boys' Football</li> <li>• Dance</li> </ul>	
<b>Friday</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magistrates Mock Trial</li> <li>• Lego / Crochet</li> </ul>	Room 37 Library

## SPORTS ACADEMIES

	<div>  <div> <h3 style="text-align: center;">SPRING TERM</h3> <h3 style="text-align: center;">SPORTS ACADEMY TIMETABLE</h3> <h3 style="text-align: center;">3-4PM</h3> </div> </div>			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	YEAR 7 NETBALL	YEAR 8 NETBALL	Y7-Y10 GIRLS FOOTBALL	Y9 & 10 NETBALL
		Y7 BOYS FOOTBALL	Y8 BOYS FOOTBALL	Y9 & Y10 BOYS FOOTBALL
	FITNESS BLUE GYM	Badminton BLUE GYM	Badminton BLUE GYM	DANCE BLUE GYM

## UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS



### Upcoming Tournaments

#### Football:

Thursday 18th January - Year 8 Boys 7 aside District (Cinderford 4G)  
 Tuesday 30th January - Year 7 Boys 7 aside District (Cinderford 4G)  
 Wednesday 24th January - Year 9 Boys 7 aside District (Cinderford 4G)  
 Thursday 25th January - Year 10 Boys 7 aside District (Cinderford 4G)

Wednesday 31st January - U16 Girls 7 aside District (Cinderford 4G)  
 Wednesday 7th February - U14 Girls 7 aside District (Cinderford 4G)  
 Thursday 8th February - U12 Girls 7 aside District (Cinderford 4G)

#### Handball:

Monday 29th January - Year 8 Boys & Girls County Tournament (Wycliffe College)  
 Monday 5th February - Year 10 Boys & Girls County Tournament (Wycliffe College)

#### Indoor Cricket Tournaments:

Friday 2nd February - U15 Boys (Newent)  
 TBC - U13 Boys  
 TBC - U13 and U15 Girls

#### Rugby 7s

Wednesday 6th March - Year 7 Monmouth Boys Rugby 7s (Monmouth Boys)  
 Wednesday 20th March - U14 and U16 Girls Sibford 7s (Sibford)  
 Thursday 21st March - U15 Boys Sibford 7s (Sibford)

## PERFORMANCE ACADEMIES

FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMIES & SOCIETIES			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
LUNCHTIME	LUNCHTIME	LUNCHTIME	LUNCHTIME
Music Practice Drop-In Session Room 42	Principal Rehearsals for 'The Addams Family' with Mr Hutton Room 42	Music Practice Drop-In Session Room 42	Music Department Closed
AFTER SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL
Elite Singers Rehearsals Room 42  'The Addams Family' Acting Rehearsals Room 48	'The Addams Family' Singing Rehearsals 10 Block	Junior Rock Band (Y7 Only) Room 42  'The Addams Family' Acting Rehearsals Room 48	Y11 Music P6 (Week B Only) Room 42  Y11 Drama P6 Room 48



## KEY DATES

**Monday 12 - Friday 16 February**  
Half Term

**Week Commencing 19 February**  
Year 11 PPEs

**Thursday 22 February**  
Year 8 & 10 Celebrations Evening

**Saturday 24 - Sunday 25 Feb**  
Ten Tors Training

**Sunday 25 February**  
Dry Ski Slope session

**Week Commencing 26 February**  
Year 11 PPEs

**Saturday 9 - Saturday 16 March**  
Ski trip

**Saturday 16 - Sunday 17 March**  
TenTors Training

**Wednesday 20 March**  
Spring Concert

**Monday 25 March-Friday 5 April**  
Easter Holidays

**Monday 8 April**  
INSET Day

**Saturday 19 - Sunday 20 April**  
TenTors Training

**Monday 6 May**  
Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 7 May**  
Governors Meeting

**Friday 10 - Sunday 12 May**  
Ten Tors Event

**Thursday 16 May**  
Year 8 Parents' Evening

**Wednesday 22 May**  
Open Mic Night

**Thursday 21 May**  
Year 10 DEI workshop with Peter Radford

**Monday 27 May-Friday 31 May**  
Half Term

**Week commencing 3 June**  
Year 7 & 9 Assessments

**Friday 14 - Sunday 16 June**  
DofE Bronze/Silver Expedition

**Wednesday 19 June**  
National Thank A Teacher Day

**Week commencing 24 June**  
Year 8 & 10 Assessments

**Week commencing 1 July**  
Year 6 Welcome Week

## CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Our canteen staff offered a themed-menu to celebrate Chinese New Year this week. Staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the special menu.



## YEAR 11 RUGBY SUCCESS

Congratulations to Year 11 student Joby who has been selected to be the captain for Gloucester Rugby Club against Bristol Bears. This is a fantastic honour and the school is proud of you and your achievements in rugby.

<b>GLoucester 16s</b> <b>VS BRISTOL SCHOOLS</b> <b>STARTING XV</b>		
1. JOEL GIBBONS BERKELEY GREEN/DURSLEY RFC	9. OSCAR SMITH DENE MAGNA/CHELT SARACENS RFC	17. JAMES FISH (FR) CRYPT/CHELT SARACENS RFC
2. ELLIS JONES BISHOPS/LEDBURY RFC	10. JAKE WEBB THE COTSWOLD/STOW RFC	18. ALFIE ALLEN (SR) MAIDEN HILL/STROUD RFC
3. MATTHEW JONES NEWENT/CHELT TIGERS RFC	11. OWEN PARRY THE COTSWOLD/STOW RFC	19. CHARLIE COTTON (BR) THE COTSWOLD/OLD PATS RFC
4. LEWIS PRICE THE CRYPT/CHELT SARACENS RFC	12. JACK RENDERS RADLEY/HENLEY HAWKS RFC	20. JOE WESTMORELAND (SH) COKETHORPE/OXFORD RFC
5. HERBIE BLOUNT KINGHAM HILL/STOW RFC	13. ARCHIE SLATER KINGS/CHELT TIGERS RFC	21. THEO GRINNELL (FH) ST PETERS/GORDON LEAGUE RFC
6. HARRY DAWSON THE CRYPT/CHELT SARACENS RFC	14. OSCAR WILSON ST PETERS/LONGLEVENS RFC	22. JACOB LAKE (CTR) ST BIRNUS/HENLEY HAWKS RFC
7. JOBY FISSENDEN (C) FIVE ACRES/CINDERFORD RFC	15. LEWIS COLLINS CLEEVE/BREDON RFC	23. KWABENA OFOSU-APEA (C) PITTVILLE/CHELT TIGERS
8. MAX GODBOLD RADLEY/CHICHESTER RFC		24. MARCUS BURTON (FB) THE COTSWOLD/STOW RFC

## READING AT FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL



The reading culture at Five Acres High School is one we are immensely proud of, during this half term we would encourage all students to continue developing the habit of reading excellent books as often as they can to develop their confidence with reading. See below for this week's Reading Recommendations, our recommendations give a breadth and depth of reading material that we hope can inspire and challenge all students.

### READING RECOMMENDATIONS

*English Teacher, Miss Butler  
shares her picks for Key Stage 3  
and Key Stage 4.*

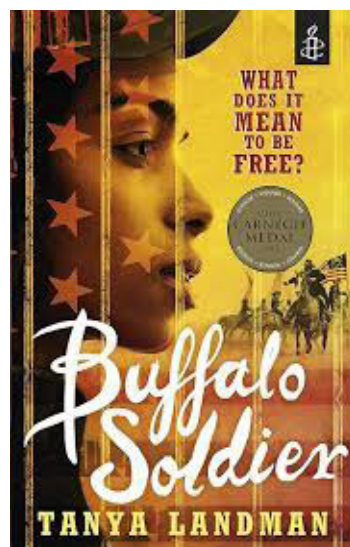


***The Blackthorn Branch***  
by Elen Caldecott

Cassie's older brother Byron has fallen in with the wrong crowd – it's soon 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?



***Buffalo Soldier***  
by Tanya Landman

What kind of a girl steals the clothes from a dead man's back and runs off to join the army? A desperate one. That's who."

At the end of the American Civil War, Charley – a young African-American slave from the deep south – is ostensibly freed. But then her adopted mother is raped and lynched at the hands of a mob and Charley is left alone. In a terrifyingly lawless land, where the colour of a person's skin can bring violent death, Charley disguises herself as a man and joins the army.

Soon she's being sent to the prairies to fight a whole new war against the "savage Indians". Trapped in a world of injustice and inequality, it's only when Charley is posted to Apache territory that she begins to learn what it is to be truly free.

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



## UPDATES FROM HEADS OF KEY STAGES

### MR JONES - HEAD OF YEAR 7



It has been a short, sharp but smashing half term for Year 7 students at Five Acres High School. A special shout-out goes to all the Year 7 students who performed in the Shakespeare Showcase last week and who sang in the Coleford Music Memory Choir this week. Mr Williamson and Mr Brinson have been beaming about the acting and singing talent in Year 7!

Year 7s have increased their haul of Character Education badges this term and with now 146 badges awarded over the year 7DWN have recently overtaken 7APZ (129 badges to date). Year 7 attendance continues to hold up well - despite some recent illness floating around. We are currently at 94.56% as a year group. 7SPE and 7JWS (both on 96% for this term) are currently battling it out in our latest attendance competition The Weakest Link. Year 7s were awarded 428 positive behaviour points last week with Chloe (7SPE) topping the charts with a whopping 14 personal positive behaviour points.

### MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEARS 8 & 9



Year 8 continue to consistently gain a high number of positive points each week averaging well over 300. Year 9 are behind Year 8 in terms of weekly numbers but are still getting a really impressive total each week. Both year groups have amazing positive to negative points ratios. Recent top token earners aka our 'High Flyers' in Year 8 were Robert, Asha, Kayen and Isla. In Year 9 our 'High Flyers' were Tio, Amelia, Aiden, Coby, Amelia, Codi and Olivia. Tio received an impressive 11 tokens in one week which is a new Year 9 record.

The Year 9 options evening was really well attended and we hope that parents/carers and students found this useful, and thank you to all those who attended Year 9 Parents' Evening, which I hope will have supported students in making their option choices.

### MRS HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEARS 10 & 11



The final round of PPEs got off to a fantastic start this week for Year 11. It was great to see so many students and parents at our information evening, attending the subject specific sessions. We hope you found these useful during this exam period and beyond. If students need an extra copy of their exam timetable for the final two weeks, please come and grab one. I look forward to the year group showcasing all of the hard work they have been putting in to their studies since the last round.

With our Year 11s in exams over the next two school weeks, we have an increased number of spaces for careers meetings with Mrs Dobson. Any Year 10 students who have not yet had their careers meeting and would be keen to do this now should speak with myself or their tutor.

Well done to all of our students who have been celebrated for their ambition and dedication to their learning, gaining the highest number of positive points over the last two weeks, Luke in Year 10 and Emma in Year 11.

## 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)

## COLEFORD MUSIC MEMORY CAFE VISIT

On Wednesday 7 February nine students from the Elite choir performed at the Coleford Music Memory Cafe. We have received some amazing feedback, so well done to all involved.

*On Wednesday morning, 7 February 2024, I took my mother in law to the Music Memory Cafe, at the Main Place, in Coleford where the "entertainment" was provided by your choir (or a section of it! ) I write to congratulate the youngsters on their appearance - their uniforms were immaculate, with ties all done up properly too! Their singing was cheerful, enthusiastic and obviously well rehearsed. All the youngsters enjoyed their singing, and were becoming more relaxed the longer they sang. It was lovely to hear the variety of songs and rhythms, as well as the harmonies - all of which were delivered very well.*

*The other observation I would like to make is how well the youngsters coped with their audience - it isn't easy to concentrate and continue singing when people around you are talking or moving around, but they didn't miss a beat!*



## NATIONAL PIZZA DAY

The themed canteen menus continued to the end of the week, with Friday's National Pizza Day recognition.



## STAR STUDENTS

*Jak (8JLN) leads the line in perfectly everyday and is always one of the first to complete his equipment checks in the DEAR session.*

**Mr Robbins**

*Evie and Emily (10ESN) both currently have 100% attendance and have earned a brilliant number of positive house points. Evie 18 and Emily 8. Both students have had an excellent half term.*

**Mr Strachan**

*Tommy-Lee (7JWS) has been smashing it this term receiving 2 postcards of recognition, 1 Kindness token and 8 orange tokens. Well done, you are showing how committed you are to your school life by participating in clubs and attending homework support!*

**Mrs Walters**

## HIGH FLYERS

*The students listed below have received the most positive rewards for the week commencing 29 January 2024*

*Year 7*

*Chloe (12 awards)*

*Year 8*

*Evie (12 awards)*

*Year 9*

*Kairos*

*Spencer*

*Alexandra*

*Beatrice*

*Hannah*

*Macey*

*Peyton-Louise*

*Summer*

*Misha*

*Archie*

*(4 awards)*

*Year 10*

*Luke (6 awards)*

*Year 11*

*Sophie (8 awards)*