



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

23 December 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the December edition of our newsletter. This has been a fantastic first term, with much to celebrate. One of the ideas that I presented to both staff and students back in September was the theme of philoxenia - showing love for and hospitality to strangers. This has been realised throughout this term with the number of students who have been recognised for their charity fundraising efforts, both in school through our Character Education programme and in the wider community with students receiving awards at the recent Pride of Coleford Awards and *The Forester* newspaper's Community Hero Awards. We have also welcomed a number of new students into our school from diverse backgrounds, and I am pleased to see them settle in and thrive with us.

Our attendance figures have continued to be strong this term. Thank you for the efforts you have made to ensure that your children are in school, every day and ready to learn. During this last week of term alone, students have had opportunities to perform in the Greenshaw Learning Trust Carol Service at Clifton College, Bristol, our own Carol service on Thursday 19 December, take part in a number of Fun Friday activities (every day this week - thank you to Mrs Walters for organising), including the Canteen Canopy Christmas Disco, and enjoy the festive themed menu that the canteen ran all week.

A number of students were individually celebrated for receiving the highest amount of praise points this term. Congratulations to Year 7 students Aalish T (585 points), Oliver S (374), Lily-Rose H (353) and Imogen C (333), Year 8 students Thomas E-E (573), Theo P (361), Isla M (334) and Chloe SC (302), Year 9 students Will B (429), Lucy Q (422), Jake H (384) and Phoebe W (369), Year 10 students Freya L (403), Tio T (322), Lillie W (321) and Ben S (275) and Year 11 students Anastasia R (296), Luke P (294), Shannon D (262) and Summer T (214).



Through our assembly programme in the final week of term, we used the traditional Christmas story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus to encourage students to reflect on how they can continue to give of themselves to our community, and how they can invest in the ongoing events that happen in and out of school and make the most of those opportunities. They were also challenged to find ways in which they can include those who may be on the margins of our school society to help them feel like they belong and have meaning and purpose.

On the subject of giving back to our community, thank you for all of the amazing donations for The Forest Foodbank that were left in the run up to Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday and on the day itself. Those items will make a huge difference to families across the Forest, allowing them to have a better Christmas because of your actions.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and an enjoyable new year. We look forward to seeing all students in school on Tuesday 7 January 2025, ready to learn and ready to excel again next year.

KEY DATES

**Monday 23 December -
Friday 3 January 2025**

Christmas Holiday

Monday 6 January 2025
INSET Day

**Week Commencing
Tuesday 7 January 2025**

Year 7-10 Assessments

Wednesday 22 January 2025
Year 11 Parents' Information Evening
- Subject Specific workshops

Thursday 23 January
Year 9 Options Evening

Sunday 26 January
TenTors Navigation Training Day

Thursday 30 January
Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 13 February
Celebrations Evening

Week commencing 10 February
Year 11 PPEs Week 1

17-21 February
Half term

Week commencing 24 February
Year 11 PPEs Week 2

Week Commencing 3 March
Year 11 PPEs Week 3

Thursday 6 March
Year 8 Parents' Evening

ELITE SINGERS

A number of our Elite Singers have had the opportunity to perform at events throughout December, starting off with Berry Hill Over 75s Christmas lunch on Tuesday 3 December. Students joined children from Berry Hill Under 5s Group and Berry Hill Primary school to share some festive entertainment, and gifts provided by Year 9 student Evie, donated as part of her Enterprise Society fundraising.

On Monday 16 December, the singers joined choirs from other Greenshaw Learning Trust schools to perform at Clifton College Chapel, Bristol. On Thursday 19 December, the singers, alongside the student leadership team, performed at our Carol Service at Coleford Baptist Church.



THE FORESTER COMMUNITY HERO AWARDS

Congratulations to all of the winners of *The Forester* Community Hero awards. A number of our students, and former students, were recognised at the awards presentation on Friday 6 December.

The Young Hero award was presented to Archie and Evie H for their commitment to fundraising for TIC+ since they started at Five Acres High School. Evie was unable to attend the event as she was fundraising!

Well done to last year's Enterprise Society members, who were all nominated for their fundraising achievements for local and national charities and received the Group Hero Award.

A special mention for our headteacher, Simon, who was awarded the Inspiration in Education award, recognising his passion to remove barriers for our students, ensuring they have the best chance of success both personally and academically, and overseeing the progress the school has made in terms of results and its position in the community.



UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

MR ROBBINS - HEAD OF YEAR 8



As we approach the festive season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic progress Year 8 has made so far. It's been truly inspiring to see the hard work, dedication, and positive energy that students have brought to their learning. I'm excited to see what the next two terms will bring!

Looking ahead, after Christmas, our focus will shift toward assessments and examinations – an important opportunity to showcase all the hard work put in during the first term. I encourage both students and parents to keep an eye on revision over the holiday while also ensuring there's plenty of time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the festive break.

On the attendance front, we had an impressive run, tying with Year 7 for first place at one point this term. While we just missed holding the top spot in the final two weeks, finishing second overall is still a fantastic achievement – well done, Year 8!

A stand out achievement for my Year 8 team this term was reaching the final of the GLT rugby tournament and only narrowly missing out on taking all the glory. It was still a brilliant achievement nonetheless, we'll have top spot next year I'm sure!

I'm also thrilled to announce this term's Golden Ticket winner: Ben M. His outstanding profile includes zero negatives and numerous positives, but it's his character that truly sets him apart. Ben's positive attitude, infectious energy, and ability to brighten up any room make him a joy to have around school. He consistently spreads kindness, humor and warmth – a well-deserved recognition. Congratulations, Ben!

Wishing everyone a joyful, restful, and safe Christmas holiday. Thank you all for your continued effort and support. I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the new year. Have a Happy Christmas and New Year everyone!

MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEAR 10



We are now through the first term of Y10. I said in the last newsletter that this would put us 15 weeks into a 39-week school year - so not far off half way. These next two years will fly by and will be full of new experiences, and as such Y10 have their next milestone after Christmas where they will undertake their first GCSE mock exams, otherwise known as PPEs. These first PPEs will be a real indicator as to how they are currently performing on their new GCSE course. Students have assessment manifests and all the resources they need to be successful. What they now need to do is to prepare thoroughly independently.

I would like to give a shout out to our current high flyers (top 20) for Y10 in terms of total of positive praise points for this first term. These students are Freya L, Lillie W, Chloe R, Tio T, Ben S, Elsie O, Casey L, Joshua P, Amelia M, Maisy F, Ellie W, Daniel L, Eirin B, Amelia H, Daisy J, Grace K, Amelia H, Ashton M, Amelie B and Ebony P.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our Y10s and their families a happy Christmas and New Year.

MISS TRUMM - HEAD OF YEAR 11



As it is the time of year to reflect and celebrate, I want to share with you some highlights of this year so far. Year 11 have completed their first round of PPEs (some have blown us away with their brilliant results), had two external speakers from different colleges and sixth forms, received 11407 praise points as well as having around a 95% attendance to period six.

Overall, we started the year really strong in terms of our attendance but currently our attendance is below where we should be in terms of making every second count and ensuring content is learnt. My plea is that we attend where possible and use Miss Harris, Miss Brooke and myself to communicate any struggles before morning greeting or during the day - we are here to support you, provide tissues and to be your cheerleaders. I am still in need of those pom poms to dazzle

HEADS OF YEAR UPDATES

you all with on these dull winter mornings! As a year group there is a lot to celebrate and I am so grateful to be your Head of Year. Looking ahead, the prom committee has been working hard to kick off our fundraising efforts and I would like to ask students, parents/carers and your wider network to think about anything they could offer for our biggest fundraising effort 'The Prom Com Raffel 2025'. Please contact me if you can offer support or donate any prizes (date of raffel to be confirmed). One more thing for your calendars, there will be another information evening in January in which there will be subject specific information given to ensure you can build this into your revision to ensure another great result in your next PPEs. All that is left to say is, have a wonderful festive period and I am looking forward to continuing to work hard on your child's behalf.

FUNDRAISING FOR SRI LANKA EXPEDITION

Mrs Selwyn and her team of students who will be taking part in the expedition to Sri Lanka next year continue to be committed to their fundraising, including holding a chocolate tombola at the recent Coleford Town Christmas Lights switch on, as well as the numerous bake sales held in school. Well done team!



CHILDREN IN NEED - SPARE CHANGE DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated loose change for our Children In Need fundraising. We covered the huge Pudsey Bear cutout and have raised approximately £120.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

100% ATTENDANCE PRIZE WINNERS

All of the students who have achieved 100% attendance this full term were entered into a prize draw to receive a chocolate hamper. Our winners selected at random were Zachary S - Year 7, Dexter M - Year 8, Sam M - Year 9, Ellie W - Year 10 and Emily H - Year 11. Well done everyone!



GOLDEN TICKET WINNERS

Congratulations to the students who were nominated by members of the senior leadership team and Heads of Year to receive a Golden Ticket to have afternoon tea with Mr Phelps. Students were recognised for their hard work this term and their dedication to represent our five core values.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

SPORT AT FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

It has been another incredible term for sport at Five Acres High School. We have loved seeing so many students attending our extra-curricular activities (almost 150 per week, on average) and so many taking up the opportunities to compete competitively, representing the school and beyond. A few highlights of the term include:

- Under 16 girls football team becoming District Champions and booking a place at the County finals
- Our Year 10 boys football team making it to the last 64 (out of 640 schools Nationally) in the ESFA cup
- The Year 10/11 girls cross-country team winning the District event and the boys in second place (with our whole school team finishing in second place overall)
- 10 of our students qualified for the County Cross-Country event, therefore having the opportunity to represent the Forest of Dean and our school
- Year 8 boys rugby team finishing in second place at the Greenshaw Rugby Festival

We look forward to continuing to work with so many ambitious and determined students on our return in January. There will be a slight change to our academies and societies on offer, so please keep an eye out for the update.



THE FOREST FOODBANK DONATIONS

Thank you again to everyone who provided donations for The Forest Foodbank in our Reverse Advent Calendar appeal. The Forest Foodbank team really appreciated your efforts when they collected the donations. They said: "Well, what is there to say about this donation which has been received from Five Acres High School in Berry Hill - amazing. A very big thank you to Headteacher Simon, the staff and pupils - your donation will make a difference to so many people throughout the Forest. We thank you all and wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year".

