



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

30 September 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the September edition, our first edition of the school newsletter for the new academic year. For parents of new Year 7 students and those in other year groups who have recently joined us, this is an opportunity to share with you some of the activities and opportunities that our students have been able to take part in over the month and celebrate their successes, both in and outside of school.

It has been a brilliant start to the school year, and I have already welcomed in visitors who have been keen to celebrate our exam success from last year. Building on recent performance these results are our best to date and will cement our place as being one of the top schools in Gloucestershire and in the top 5% of schools nationally for progress.

I am delighted with how our Year 7s have settled in and the contribution that other year groups have made to this fantastic start. I was particularly pleased to welcome many students from all year groups to support our Open Evening event on Tuesday 24 September. Parents and students who came to visit were very impressed with their knowledge of the school and the enthusiasm with which they talk about the many elements that they have involvement with. If you know of a parent/carer of a Year 6 child, please do share with them how well your child is doing here and recommend that they contact the school for a tour to see for themselves.

Since September the school has introduced a number of small changes that I hope you and your child will find useful. In the mornings, at break and lunchtimes and after school, you will notice that staff are wearing red visibility jackets. These are designed to make staff more visible so that students are aware of who is on duty and who to report incidents to if required. Thank you for your feedback in the parent survey that has led to this important change. I am also delighted with the feedback the school has received from students regarding the change from tokens to a positive praise card. Please continue to support this addition to our rewards system by regularly checking what your child may be receiving recognition for.

September has been a much wetter month than normal so I wanted to outline the provision that is in place for students at social times when it rains. During social times 10 Block is opened as an additional indoor space, alongside the canteen which has space for 200 students, and the canopy areas in the main playground and quad area. I would ask that you talk to your child about the need to make use of these dry areas to avoid students sitting in damp clothing for the rest of the day. I would encourage all students to bring a coat on days when it rains, especially for the journey to and from school. When students arrive to school following heavy downpours we will continue to do our best to provide alternative clothing where possible.



Over the last few weeks students have received assemblies on our values, our behaviour system and our rewards system, alongside reminders about societies and academies, teaching and learning and assessments. During October we will celebrate students' successes, Black History month, art leadership and provide a session around revision for all year groups. With assemblies on behaviour in mind please visit the school website to update yourselves on our behaviour, equipment and uniform expectations and policies. I ask for your continued support by reminding your child not to bring chewing gum or any other banned item to school, and to ensure that we all play our part in looking after our environment by placing litter in the bins provided.

I am very proud to continue serving this school and the community as headteacher here. Students continue to make all staff proud with their efforts and contributions. I hope that you will enjoy reading about some of their endeavours through the rest of this edition.

KEY DATES

Wednesday 2 October

Year 7 and Year 11 school photos

Friday 4 - Saturday 5 October

Year 7 Residential Group 1

Thursday 10 October

Year 11 Parents' Information Evening

Friday 11 - Saturday 12 October

Year 7 Residential Group 2

Tuesday 15 October

Careers Fair

Friday 18 - Saturday 19 October

Year 7 Residential Group 3

Week Commencing 21 October

Year 11 PPEs Week 1

Monday 21 October

TenTors Parents' Information Evening (virtual)

Thursday 24 October

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Week commencing

Monday 28 October

Half Term

Monday 4 November

INSET Day

Tuesday 5 November-

Friday 8 November

Year 11 PPEs Week 2

Week Commencing

Monday 11 November

Year 11 PPEs Week 3

Saturday 16 November

Duke of Edinburgh Fitness test

Week Commencing

Monday 25 November

NGRT tests

Thursday 28 &

Friday 29 November

All year groups flu vaccinations

Week Commencing 2 December

NGRT Tests

Thursday 12 December

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Saturday 14 December

Duke of Edinburgh Navigation

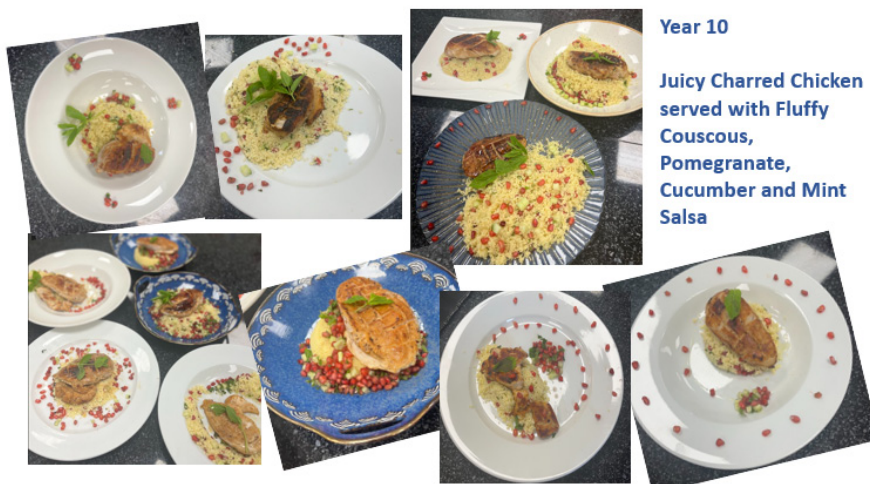
Training Day

Friday 20 December

Christmas Carol Theatre trip

CELEBRATING HOSPITALITY & CATERING

Well done to our Year 10 Hospitality & Catering students who are already performing at an impressive level. Below is their fantastic first time plating up complete meals.



Year 10

Juicy Charred Chicken served with Fluffy Couscous, Pomegranate, Cucumber and Mint Salsa

CHELSEA'S STORY

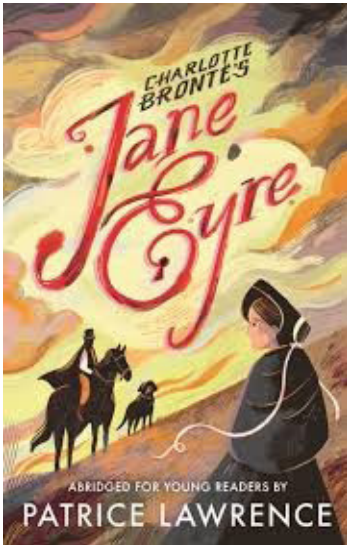
On Thursday 26 September, Year 9 students had the opportunity to watch an interactive performance highlighting issues around child sexual exploitation, Chelsea's Story. Year 9 students and their parents/carers have been emailed details of support services if they have any further questions.



READING RECOMMENDATIONS

English Teacher, Mrs Langton shares her picks for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

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

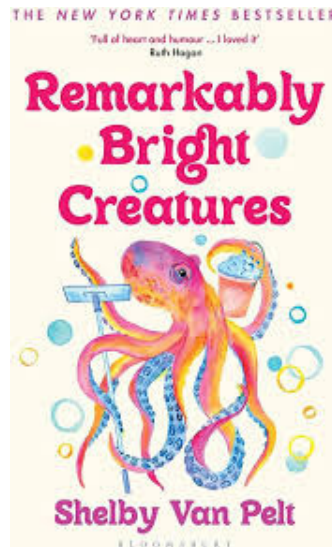


Jane Eyre
by Charlotte Bronte

As a young orphan, Jane Eyre is thrown upon the mercy of an aunt and cousins who are anything but merciful, and when they send her away to an austere boarding school for charity cases, it seems she will never be allowed to forget her humble beginnings. However, Jane has a quiet inner strength and resourcefulness, and when she takes on a role as governess at Thornfield Hall, she quickly gains both the affection and respect not only of her young pupil, but also the child's guardian, the fierce and brooding Mr Rochester.

Perhaps Jane has finally found the love for which she has always longed? But Mr Rochester has

a dark secret. A secret that will rock Thornfield Hall to its very foundations...



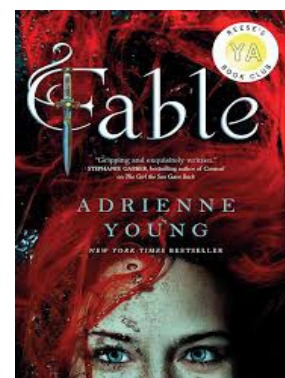
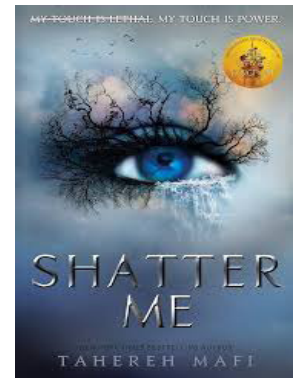
Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night cleaner shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium. Ever since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat over thirty years ago keeping busy has helped her cope. One night she meets Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium who sees everything, but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors – until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late...

Our school library is looking for donations of any young adult fiction books that you may no longer want. You can find a full

list of suggestions on our social media pages. If you take a look and find you have any good condition books that are not on the list that you would be happy to donate, they would be gratefully received also.



UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

MR JONES - HEAD OF YEAR 7



Year 7 have made a fantastic start to Five Acres High School. Attendance stands at 96.4% - the best in the school! 7VWS are leading the way on 99%. All students have made a brilliant start in their lessons and with all homework platforms. Societies and Academies are now under way with so many Year 7s signing up to pursue extra-curricular activities of interest.

The first of 3 Y7 Viney Hill Residential is this Friday - fingers crossed we have a break in the rain. Y7 positive praise cards and postcards of recognition have been piling up and a special shout-out goes to Ella C who represented Y7s at the Open Evening and spoke wonderfully about the start of her experience here at Five Acres High School!

MR ROBBINS - HEAD OF YEAR 8



We're off to an exciting start in our first big term of the school year, and Year 8 is already showing tremendous promise! Attendance is strong at 95.7% overall, with 8JWS, 8DWN, and 8SPE leading the way with an impressive 98%. This incredible effort is setting a high standard and motivating the entire year group as we build momentum together. We're even eyeing up Year 7 to take over the top spot!

This term, there's so much to look forward to. Our academies and societies are making a comeback, sports fixtures are in full swing, and there will be numerous external opportunities to earn Character Education badges. Perhaps most exciting of all is the upcoming reveal of our house system – I know everyone is eager to see which house they'll be part of.

On a special note, a huge congratulations to Olly R, who was the first to hit the top 10 on the praise point card – an amazing achievement! Since then, many more Year 8s have followed suit, showing just how determined and enthusiastic our students are to succeed. I'm excited for what's to come and confident this will be a fantastic year ahead for all of Year 8. Keep up the great work, everyone!

MR BURKE - HEAD OF YEAR 9



Year 9 has made a great start back after the holidays, with excellent attendance, nearly every student in 100% correct uniform with the right equipment and ready to learn. We are working hard in Year 9 on being accountable for our own journey and taking responsibility for our actions.

It was great to see so many of our Year 9 students involved in our Open Evening representing different subjects and leading tours, this support has extended to our School in Action morning tours too. Well done all!

All the information for new academies and societies has been given out and these are well underway. School sports fixtures have already begun, with our Year 9 boys football team seeing a great win in horrible conditions in the National Cup against Whitecross from Hereford.

MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEAR 10



We have now just completed our third full week back in school and Year 10 students are firmly in the swing of GCSEs. Students have made a great start and there are some really lovely comments coming in from the GCSE teachers.

We've got some 'high flyers' already - people who have already picked up multiple praise points. Our current top 10 'high flyers' in Y10 are Ben R, Kelcey L, Archie N, Jamie J, Elsie O, Finley S, Charlotte J, Daisy-Mae H, Jacob G, Owen W.

GCSE coursework has also started in some areas and has been started positively and strongly. I am pleased to say that the vast majority of Year 10 students have come back after the summer ready to hit Key Stage 4. There are a few concerns around attendance as the year group is currently below the school's target. This is such an important year so we need students to be resilient and be in

UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

school even when not 100% - just like we would if we were at work - ultimately that is what we are preparing ourselves for.

MISS TRUMM - HEAD OF YEAR 11



I am very excited to be supporting the Year 11s in their final year here at Five Acres High School. This is a year filled with many important milestones and I am sure together we will experience a range of emotions but I feel positive about this year group's potential. This year our motto is 'the time is now' - we want to make every second count and ensure we use our time more wisely to ensure that there is a balance to homework, revision and personal hobbies and commitments. Underpinning this are our three Rs: Respect, Responsibility and Resilience

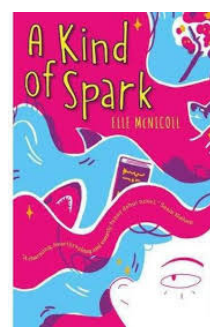
MOUNTAIN BIKING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Year 10 student Cooper who recently won the British Cycling Southern Championships and MIJ Downhill series. This is a fantastic achievement with more events under his belt including the British Cycling British series at Bala and the Pearce downhill race. The map below shows the area the Southern Championship covers.



YEAR 7 DROP EVERYTHING AND READ BOOKS

It is with great delight that we can report that Year 7s were gifted new DEAR books during the Tutor Meet and Greet evening earlier in September. When students attended our open days back in July, each child was offered one of six critically acclaimed novels that they could choose themselves. This book can now be enjoyed at DEAR time or at home and has created a real buzz about reading around the school. Happy reading Year 7s from all of us at Five Acres!



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

ACADEMIES & SOCIETIES TERM 1

Staff have been busy working on the timetable for our extensive extra-curricular academies and societies programme. We encourage students to check in regularly with the academy and society leads and the student notice boards for updates.

ACADEMIES & SOCIETIES TIMETABLE - TERM 1				
<p>Monday</p> <p>Lunch Y7 Book Club Y9 Football, Redgras Foreign Film Society Chess Academy</p> <p>After school (3-4pm) All years Dance Club Y7 & 8 Boxing</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Lunch Harry Potter Society Y9 Book Club Music Practice Drop in Y10/8 Football on the Redgra English Speaking Union Equestrian Club Enterprise Society</p> <p>After school (3-4pm) Junior Rock Band Y8/9 (Week B) Boys Rugby (all years) Girls Football (all years)</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Lunch Y8 Book Club Y7 Poetry By Heart Y7/11 Football on the Redgra Cipher Society</p> <p>After school (3-4pm) Table Tennis Winter play rehearsals Boys Football Y7 & 8 Netball Y7 & 8 Art and Craft Academy</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>Lunch German Society Music Practice Drop in Y7 Orienteering Club Y10/8 Football on the Redgra</p> <p>After school (3-4pm) Senior Rock Band Y10 Y9 & 10 Netball</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>Lunch Y10 Book Club Y7 & 11 Football on the Redgra</p> <p>After school (3-4pm) Extra winter play rehearsals (If needed) Y9 & 10 Strength and Conditioning Fitness</p>



BEDROCK LEARNING SUPERSTARS

Congratulations to the students named below who are last week's (week commencing 23 September) Bedrock Learning Superstars. Well done!

Faith M

Beau D

Ava M

Dexter M

Tommy-Lee M



SUPER
STARS

You've earned the 'Bedrock Award' and postcard from your class teacher!

Ollie R

Willow T

Mia V-D



SUPER
STARS

You've earned the 'Bedrock Award' and postcard from your class teacher!

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Last week students celebrated the European Day of Languages. They have taken part in a Languages Quiz, a competition to find out more about the languages and foreign experiences of the staff and their fellow students, and they have also tried French and Spanish food in the canteen on Thursday 26 September, including paella and churros. Delicioso!



YEAR 7 INTERNET SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

On Thursday 26 September, Year 7 students had the opportunity to hear from Richard Pomfrett, the founder and head instructor of the Stay Safe initiative. Students were invited to consider how they use the internet and provided information on they can remain safe while online. Mr Pomfrett was very impressed with the students' attitude and contributions across the two sessions, remarking that our Year 7 groups were respectful, polite, engaged and a pleasure to work with. Follow-up resources and a feedback survey will be emailed to students and their parents/carers.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BEYOND 16

Saturday October 26th
SGS Stroud Campus
Stratford Road, Stroud, GL5 4AH
10am to 2pm

.....

An opportunity for families of young people with SEND in Year 7 and above to meet with providers and support services to start planning for next steps after Year 11

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Free parking on site and refreshments available



Register your interest now:



YEAR 7 & 11 SCHOOL PHOTOS

We're excited to announce that Fizz Photography will be capturing our school's photographs on 2 October 2024. To streamline the process and ensure secure access to your child's photos, there is an easy online registration system.

You must register BEFORE school photo day, so please register NOW by following these three simple steps:

1. Visit <https://order.fizz-photography.co.uk> on your phone, tablet or computer
2. Enter code: JRDC4RSWG5
3. Enter your child's name, as it appears on the school register, and your contact details

You must register BEFORE the day of the photo shoot. Once registered, you will be notified when photos are available for viewing and ordering, directly receiving your child's photo(s) via email/SMS. You can view and order photos with ease, from anywhere. You will not be able to register on the day of the photo shoot or beyond. Parents/carers who do not register will receive a manual proof slip in due course.

BREAM GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM OPPORTUNITY



**JOIN OUR GIRLS
FOOTBALL TEAM**

We're looking for girls aged 8-12 (Under 9s to Under 13s) to join our growing football club. Whether you're an experienced player, or just looking to start out, we want YOU to be part of our team!

Who: Girls, ages 8-12
Teams: U10s - U13s
Why? Learn new skills, make friends, and enjoy fun, competitive football in a supportive environment.



**GET IN TOUCH TODAY TO
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST!**

CONTACT

Sean Thomas (Secretary)
07398 889 207

breamyouth@yahoo.com
www.breamyouthfc.co.uk