



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

28 October 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the October edition of our school newsletter. This half term has been a busy one for all year groups, seeing 171 Year 7 students settle into life at Five Acres, to our Year 11s completing the first week of their PPEs.

As a school, we encourage our students to share their feedback and some of that is done via my fortnightly student focus sessions. This term students have enjoyed a range of subjects including PE, Maths and Music, and Fun Friday activities such as bingo and scavenger hunts have proved to be popular. Students also commented on the excellent food here and I would particularly like to thank Mrs Tootell and the catering team for the variety on offer and the themed menus such as food celebrating Black History Month and pizza day.

As a school we also want to consider where we can make improvements, and the student feedback highlighted how the focus on kindness is showing in students being nice to each other and displaying kindness in their friendship groups. Students have appreciated the introduction of positive praise cards and points, and the changes to our house system, which you can read more about on page 7.

The change to our Head of Year structure has been recognised, and students reported that they know who to speak to when they have concerns, and while there are high expectations, students are encouraged and supported to meet them.

Whole year group assemblies are important events where we can share motivational messages and

provide students with additional context. This month we have focused on celebrations, Black History Month, Art Leadership and a revision curriculum. The Art Leadership assembly was a huge success with over 50 applications for the six leadership slots available. The revision curriculum assemblies will run three times throughout the year and will support students with revision techniques so that they are ready for assessments and PPEs. Year 11s began their latest round of PPEs, and I have been delighted with their effort, focus and attendance.

Attendance continues to be a major focus and I am pleased to report that year-on-year attendance is up by 1.5%, with especially pleasing attendance in Years 7, 8 and 9. It is vital that we see students in school everyday (except when physically unable to be here) because we know that attendance supports both academic success and personal success. Please read more about attendance later in this edition.

This month it has been a pleasure to receive visitors to the school including local MP Matt Bishop. He was incredibly impressed by the school and has committed to supporting our drive for first-class education opportunities across the Forest of Dean, at all ages. I have also had the pleasure of developing greater links with some of our local primary schools, the onsite gymnastics centre and the Berry Hill Christmas Lights committee. As we develop a greater outreach program from the school I look forward to showing more people in our community our wonderful students



and telling more of the story of what makes our school a special place to be. I am particularly excited to reveal that 11 of our students have been nominated to receive a Pride of Coleford certificate and three have been recognised to receive an award.

October would normally be the month in which the Government would release information on school results, we know that this information is especially useful to parents of Year 6 students but may also be of interest to others. This year due to system delays that information will be available nearer to Christmas, however I am confident that our results have been even better than the excellent results we have received over the last five years. If you would like to view data on any school's results, please follow the QR code and search for the relevant school.



As we start the half term holiday, I want to wish you a very good break and look forward to seeing your child on Tuesday 5 November.

KEY DATES

Week commencing

Monday 28 October

Half Term

Monday 4 November

INSET Day

Tuesday 5 November-

Friday 8 November

Year 11 PPEs Week 2

Wednesday 6 November

Bristol Old Vic Theatre visit -

Never Let Me Go

Week Commencing

Monday 11 November

Year 11 PPEs Week 3

Saturday 16 November

TenTors Fitness test,

Blaise High School

Week Commencing

Monday 25 November

NGRT tests

Thursday 28 &

Friday 29 November

All year groups nasal

flu vaccinations

Week Commencing 2 December

NGRT Tests

Tuesday 10 & Wednesday 11

December (lunchtimes)

Enterprise Christmas Fetes

Wednesday 11 December

Key Stage 3 Pantomime trip -
Goldilocks at Bristol Hippodrome

Thursday 12 December

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Saturday 14 December

TenTors Navigation Training Day

Thursday 19 December

Carol Service

Friday 20 December

Year 11 A Christmas Carol

Theatre visit,

The Theatre Royal, Bath

Monday 23 December - Friday 3

January 2025

Christmas Holiday

Monday 6 January 2025

INSET Day

Week commencing 7 Jan 2025

Years 7-10 assessments

REPRESENTING DISTRICT RUGBY

Congratulations to Ellis, Connor, Ben and Joe who represented the Forest of Dean District at U16s level for rugby. They spent the day at Cheltenham Tigers and played against the Districts of Stroud, Gloucester and Cheltenham. All of the boys put on a great display and represented Five Acres High School and the Forest of Dean to a high standard. The highlight of the day was destroying the District of Cheltenham who had students for prestigious schools such as Pate's Grammar School.



PRIDE OF COLEFORD AWARDS

Well done to all of the students who were nominated and received recognition from the Pride of Coleford awards. Eleven students have been nominated to receive a certificate - Year 7 student Olivia, Year 8 students Charlie-Mae, Daisy, Chloe, Casper, Alfie, Thomas and Harry, and Year 9 students Veronica, Gracie and Isla. Three of our students have been nominated to receive an award - Lucas in Year 9, Lillie in Year 10 and Charlie in Year 11.

The presentations will be held on Saturday 23 November at the Main Place in Coleford. To receive this recognition from the community is fantastic and is well deserved. We look forward to sharing an update in the next newsletter following the event.



**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>



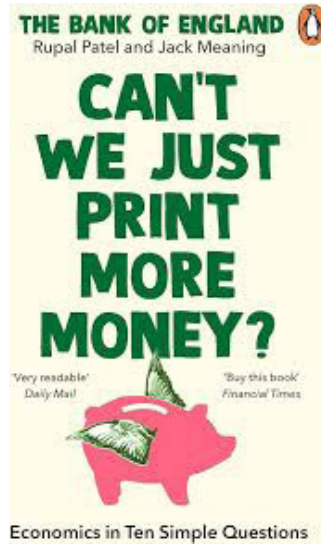
All That It Ever Meant
by Blessing Musariri

"I'm going to tell you exactly how everything happened. Baba always says, Mati mwana'ngu, I love a good story but I don't have time for a long one, so make it short."

When Mati and her two siblings travel from London to Zimbabwe with their father, they are forced to confront the knotty family dynamics caused by the loss of their mother. Along for the trip is Meticaï, a fabulously attired gender-neutral spirit - or ghost? or imaginary friend? - who only Mati can see and talk to.

Guided by Meticaï's enigmatic advice and wisdom, Mati must come to terms with her grief and with the difficulty of a life lived between two cultures, while her

family learn to forge their way in a world without their monumental mother.



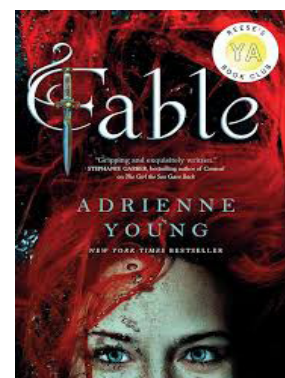
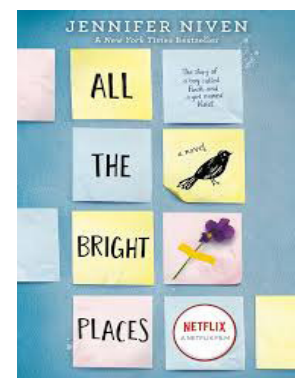
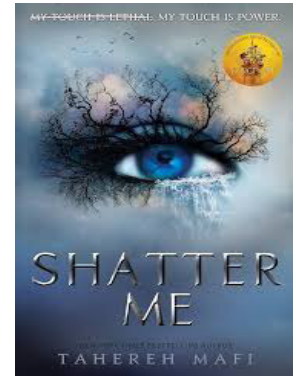
Can't We Just Print More Money? Economics in Ten Simple Questions
by Rupal Patel and Jack Meaning

Join Britain's most venerable financial institution for a rip-roaring crash-course on economics. From financial crises to Freddo prices, it will help you make sense of your job, your life and maybe your world.

Rupal Patel and Jack Meaning are economists at the Bank of England. Rupal specialises in trying to prevent economic crises, which means you know who to blame when everything goes wrong. Jack is focused on protecting the pound in your pocket, which means he goes to lots of long meetings about interest rates...

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 ROBBINS - HEAD OF YEAR 8



What an amazing start we've had to the new academic year! Our Character Education achievements are already rolling in, with students showing real commitment and making fantastic progress. It's so great to see everyone taking pride in earning their badges and striving for personal growth.

Attendance has been steady and is picking up momentum. The last two weeks have shown a real boost, which is a testament to the dedication and spirit within our team. Let's keep this going strong.

Speaking of team spirit, we can really feel our culture coming to life. Identity, responsibility, and growth are at the heart of everything we do, and it's exciting to see everyone embracing these values. Our motto says it best: We are part of a disciplined team, where you take responsibility for your own and others' thriving journey. This is who we are, and together, we're building something truly special.

Big shout outs for Theo Y, Thomas E-E, Jack B, Tristen L and Albert W for being our top five points achievers. A big well done for these students!

So let's keep up the hard work. There's so much more to achieve, and I can't wait to see what's next.

MR BURKE - HEAD OF YEAR 9



Well done to all of Year 9, we are coming to the end of a long eight-week term. It is great to see our attendance at 94.5% as a year group. Well done to 9SHN who are currently at 97% as a tutor group. We have been having a real push on being in school every day and getting to lessons on time.

There are some real high flyers who are setting the pace in Year 9. Well done to Freya Y, Will B, Harry P, Lucy Q, Jake H, Amelie P, Sophie H, Noah G, Ruby T and Phoebe W. It is great to see so many students getting involved in so many academies and societies across the school. Enjoy your break and see you after the half term.

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."

MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEAR 10



We have now completed our 1st full term of Y10, we have a celebrations assembly in the first week back and we have much to celebrate. So many of our Y10s have started their Key Stage 4 journey strongly.

We've got some 'high flyers' from Term 1- our top 20 are Freya L, Lillie W, Eirin B, Casey L, Ben S, Chloe R, Maisy F, Joshua P, Amelie B, Beatrice M, Josh J, Amelia H, Daniel L, Daisy J, Tio T, Amelia M, Amelia H, Elsie O, Dorothy W J, and Ebony P.

As always we are pushing attendance and the current attendance for Y10 is lower than our target but is however higher than this time last year. Some of our Y10s are now receiving careers appointments so will learn the value of a reference- attendance is generally the first thing potential employers and colleges/sixth-forms look for.

Special shout out goes to our Y10 Football team who are due to play Downend School from Bristol in Round 3 of the FA Cup, the boys performed well in their Round 1 and 2 games - good luck in Round 3!

MISS TRUMM - HEAD OF YEAR 11



So many facts to celebrate! Over 20 students regularly staying on for Geography champions hour, on average 3 positive postcards being read out every day, over 12 students in week one completing their first champions do extra card (revision), lots of students wanting to form better habits and organising sessions to create homework and revision timetables, as well as our launch of the mystery prize and scratch cards (no millionaires being made but extra incentives up for grabs) as extra things for students to receive for all the great work that they demonstrate!

CHARACTER EDUCATION SHIELD PRESENTATIONS

Well done to those students who have already earned Character Education shields this half term. Students continue to work on achieving these awards. A full Character Education subject menu for this year has been shared with students to help more get involved and see success. A special mention to Head Student Anastasia who has now achieved all 45 badges and five shields. She is now working towards her Platinum award.



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>



FIVE ACRES TRIUMPHS AT GLT MATHS CHALLENGE

On Thursday, October 17, Five Acres High School students showcased their mathematical prowess at the GLT Maths Challenge held at Yate Academy. Seven teams from four different schools participated, competing in four engaging challenges, including math problems and cross numbers drawn from the 2016 regional Maths challenge. After an intense relay round, the results were in: one of our teams emerged victorious! This event was a fantastic opportunity for students to demonstrate the exceptional Math skills that have been learnt in lessons. Congratulations to our winners and all participants for their hard work and dedication!

Words by Lillie W (Year 10)



CELEBRATING THE RELAUNCH OF OUR HOUSE SYSTEM!

We are excited to announce the relaunch of our house system, designed to foster a greater sense of community and school spirit! With siblings now in the same house, we're encouraging stronger connections among students.

As part of this relaunch, every achievement contributes to your house's total points, including praise points, postcards, Character Education badges, and participation and wins from Fun Friday activities. As we reach the halfway point of the term, the competition is heating up, with points remaining incredibly close.

Remember, at the end of the full term, the winning house will enjoy a special group treat, so every point counts! Let's rally together and aim for as many points as possible in the next half term. Get involved, support your house, and be part of the excitement.

House Points



Peregrines: 12108



Hawks: 12327



Owls: 12275



Kestrels: 12157



ENTERPRISE SOCIETY

The Year 7 and 8 Enterprise Society is in full swing and has already given out £200 to sole and team businesses following successful business plan applications. Any student who has successfully entered a business application will be awarded their Ambition Bronze Enterprise badge. With the dates set for our in-school Christmas fetes in December, where many of the businesses will share their creative talents, we look forward to seeing how well our students do to raise money for their chosen charities.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

NEW STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Congratulations to our new Year 8 Student Ambassadors. Each went through a challenging application process with a written application and an interview to be successful. These students will be developing their leadership skills this academic year by conducting tours of the school, supporting the assembly programme through the planning and delivery of some assemblies, developing some aspects of our Character Education programme and being an excellent role model for other students. We are really proud of the work that all these students have done so far.



UPDATES FROM FUN FRIDAY

This term, our Fun Friday activities have been a tremendous success, bringing together students for a range of engaging events. From scavenger hunts to quizzes, bingo, and the lively canopy disco, participation has been outstanding, with 235 sets of participation points being awarded this term, reflecting the enthusiasm of our students.

These activities not only foster school spirit but also encourage teamwork and creativity among students. We've loved seeing everyone getting involved and having fun together!

As we look ahead to next term, we're eager to increase participation even further. Let's aim for even more points and even more exciting activities. Stay tuned for upcoming events and continue to be part of the Fun Friday experience!

Half Term Challenge

Pumpkin Carving Contest

Where?

Your kitchen

When?

Half Term

What?

Next week is Halloween so

send in a photo of you with your carved pumpkin to enter the competition. You must be in the photo with your Pumpkin. 5 points for everyone who participates and 10 points for the best carving skills!!

Email your photos to

iwalters@5acreshighschool.co.uk



MONKHOUSE SCHOOLWEAR IN-STORE DISCOUNT

Our uniform supplier, Monkhouse Schoolwear is offering a 20% discount off in-store purchases from 19 October until 2 November 2024.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Excellent attendance is essential for children to get the most out of their school experience. When our students are in school, it gives them the best opportunity to progress and achieve their full potential; it keeps students safe; and by being here, they get to enjoy the social aspects of school: academies and societies, Fun Friday, sporting fixtures and our Character Education programme.

We have been delighted that overall, more students are attending school more regularly than they were this time last year. A huge congratulations goes to our Year 7 students who have attended school for 95% of this time since they started in September. Year 8 also deserves a mention - on Tuesday 22 October, 98% of Year 8 students were in school, which is the highest attending year group of the year so far - well done Year 8! Year 11 have also stepped it up - PPEs have been well attended and when not in exams, students have been making the most of being in lessons with subject experts.

Over the coming weeks we will be launching a range of competitions to ensure good attendance is rewarded and we look forward to celebrating tutor groups, year groups and individuals who do their best to be in school every day. We know that there will be times where a child is just too ill to come into school or extenuating circumstances prevent them from attending. If you ever need help, support or guidance, please contact our attendance team via Reception.



Every Day Missed = Lost Learning

Five Acres High School

STAR STUDENTS

Well done to Lily (7LTY) who has achieved her brown belt in karate. Lily loves taking part in martial arts and has now achieved her Character Education badges for: Creativity - Talent Gold: Showcasing her talent regionally Determination – Sports Gold for representing herself at a competitive sport in the country.

Ms Smith

Neveah (8APZ) is a PE superstar. Always helping with demonstrations and giving 110% effort.

Miss Griffin

Xara (9SHN) is always performing to the best of her ability in PE. She is punctual, ambitious and determined to succeed.

Miss Griffin

Aalish (7AFS) had a tremendous start term at Five Acres. She is always fully equipped, is on track with all of her homework and is a very polite and respectful girl. Regular attendance to academies and societies on top of that as well as being on the Netball team for a fixture. It makes me very proud to be your tutor.

Ms Flinders

Bobby (7THD) represents our school values superbly. He is always one of, if not the first to be settled and ready in tutor (both TTRP and DEAR). I have been so impressed with his mature approach to his learning, earning multiple praise points for early homework completion. An all-round fabulous individual!

Mrs Hayward

DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITIONS

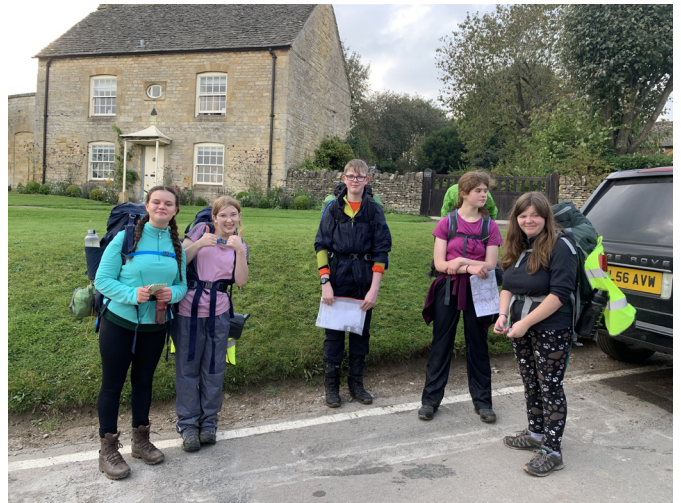
This term 23 Bronze DofE participants and 5 Silver DofE participants took part in their Final Expedition in the Cotswolds. The weather was not kind but they all displayed great determination and resilience to complete their walking routes in the driving rain and wind.

They camped for 1 and 2 nights respectively and did an excellent job of putting up tents and making a hearty meal on the outdoor stoves, for some, as it was getting dark. They also showed great respect both for the environment and for their fellow campers. They were all excellent ambassadors for Five Acres.

All were very tired and some quite emotional at the end of the wet weekend but all felt a great sense of achievement and camaraderie after completing this epic challenge of both mind and body!

Thank you parents for your support of the students involved and for coming to pick up your amazing children during a heavy downpour on our return to school so that they could get home for a well deserved rest!

Here's to the next Bronze and Silver Cohorts which are bigger than ever, showing that last year's participants were also brilliant role models for the new participants to aspire to and to follow in the footsteps of.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

BERRY HILL CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE LANTERN WORKSHOP

LANTERN WORKSHOP



How about making your own large Christmas lantern to join Berry Hill's light parade on Friday 29th November?

We will be holding a workshop on **Saturday 9th November** at **Berry Hill Hut 11am-1pm**, the cost will be £5 per family to cover materials, this will include a drink and biscuit.

Spaces are limited; if you would like to attend please BACS transfer to;

Berry Hill Community Orchard (BH lights are under the community umbrella)

Lloyds Bank Sort code: 30-96-26 Account: 31732560

Please use your name as reference

The committee is also supporting the Forest Foodbank at the lights switch-on event on 29 November, so if you are going along simply "bring a can to the van" to share your donations. The van will be parked at The Globe from 4:30pm onwards.

Donations required include: Tinned Spaghetti hoops, tinned potatoes, tinned custard, tinned rice pudding.

Jam, UHT Milk, UHT fruit juice, Smash, pasta sauce, jelly, Angel Delight, sponge pudding

Washing up liquid, Shampoo, Shower Gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes. All donations will be gratefully received.

STAR STUDENTS

Well done to Olivia (7CSN) who completed a sponsored walk for Alopecia awareness. Olivia managed to raise £137.00 and received her Silver Respect Character Education badge.

Mrs Selwyn

Anastasia (11GMM) always makes great contributions to PE, even if it's from the sideline as an umpire!

Miss Griffin

Sophie (9DJS) always makes great contributions in school and outside of lessons.

Mrs Jones

Jack (7CSN) always makes an excellent effort in Maths.

Mrs Jones

Lilly (7CSN) continues to work really hard in Maths.

Mrs Jones

Thomas (8SPE) is an excellent problem solver. Thomas has also used the Character Education menu to secure the following badges this half term

Appreciation Silver badge: The Cultural and Historical Relevance of Guernica by Picasso

Diversity Gold badge: Cultural Diversity Poster

Gold Appreciation badge:

The Historical and Cultural Significance of Romanticism

Silver Culture badge:

The similarities and differences between African and Islamic patterns

Mrs Jones & Ms Smith

Chloe (10MKT) makes excellent contributions in Maths.

Mrs Jones



Join us

In turning the lights on

Berry Hill's Christmas Tree

Friday 29th November

**5.45pm Children's Lantern parade,
travelling from Christchurch church,
lights service and festive carols**

starting at 6pm at

The Globe.

**Berry Hill Band, carols and cheer and
maybe even Father Christmas on the Fire
Truck!**

Join us in celebrating the start of the festivities!