



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

29 November 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the November edition of our school newsletter. We have had a great month since returning from the half term break, with some highlights including celebrating a wide range of our students at the Pride of Coleford awards, success with our Year 10 ESFA cup team, some successful visits from staff at other schools, interaction with authors through our Book Clubs, celebration of students who entered the Biocraft competition, a focus on disability awareness and so much more, including excellent lessons and our brilliant Character Education offer.

During the month of December we are looking forward to supporting the Forest Foodbank appeal, please consider what you may be able to do by donating items mentioned on our social media posts, or supporting the Christmas Jumper Day (festive ties and socks are welcome too) on December 18 when all students will be invited to bring a donation. There are also a number of opportunities for our students to perform at events such as Carol concerts and the Berry Hill Over 75s Christmas lunch.

All of the wonderful celebrations and activities that are provided alongside the world-class education on offer at Five Acres High School come through the dedication and hard work of our excellent staff. Unfortunately, over the last few weeks we have seen an increase in behaviours towards staff that are not in keeping with our value of respect. I would ask that all communication with

the school is based on this value and with the intention of looking to overcome the issues and barriers that present themselves.

During the school year so far, we have placed an extra emphasis on attendance because we know that students who attend well achieve well. As we enter the final three weeks of this term, I would like to encourage all families to prioritise attendance right through to and including the last day of term (Friday 20 December), as each day presents wonderful learning opportunities and celebratory events that we want every child to experience and benefit from. From the moment that students walk on to site and have access to the free breakfast on offer, to the morning greetings where students are supported to be ready for the day and then on into lessons and activities that give them an opportunity to flourish, we believe that together we are creating an exciting and vibrant place to learn.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those parents and carers who ensure that their children attend as often as possible, ready to learn and meeting the basic expectations that we have of all students. We know that when students come prepared to learn and are fully equipped and able to focus just on learning they are happier and feel a greater sense of belonging.

We want this to extend into the local community, more recently we have sadly had incidents



where behaviours on the way from school have not reflected the best version of Five Acres students. Please could you support us with ensuring the safety of all students by reminding your child of the need to be considerate of other passengers and car drivers on their way home, especially now that conditions for driving are more challenging.

In this edition of the newsletter, we are pleased to promote the exploits of Year 8 student Willow who has recently achieved success with her Ballroom dancing. We are delighted to hear stories where students excel and would welcome any information you would like to send in regarding your own child's achievements.

This week it has been a pleasure to celebrate numerous students in our Year group assemblies. Seeing students aim high, work hard and being kind to each other makes me very proud of the school and its students. Thank you for your contribution in encouraging your child to be ambitious, confident, creative, determined and respectful.

KEY DATES

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

Monday 16 December

GLT Christmas Concert

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

STAR STUDENTS

Congratulations to Jensen and Riley (7VWS) for obtaining the first of the gold Character Education badges within 7VWS.

Jensen for entering the Royal Society of Biology Biocraft competition and Riley for achieving 100% in Part A of the 23rd National Cipher Challenge

Mrs Watts

Olly (7AFS) is our football captain, has received several postcards and Character Education badges, and all to consistently high standards. Olly is kind, polite, on time and has a positive attitude towards school.

You are a star!

Ms Flinders

BALLROOM DANCING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Year 8 student Willow, who recently qualified in Reading for the NATD Grand National Finals to be held in Blackpool in July next year. She will be competing in individual and couples events with her dance partner Henry, whom she has danced with for the last two years.

Willow has shown fantastic dedication to her dancing, training for six hours through the week, plus workshops on Saturdays. She started Ballroom and Latin dancing when she was just five years old and has always competed in local, regional and national competitions at a high level.



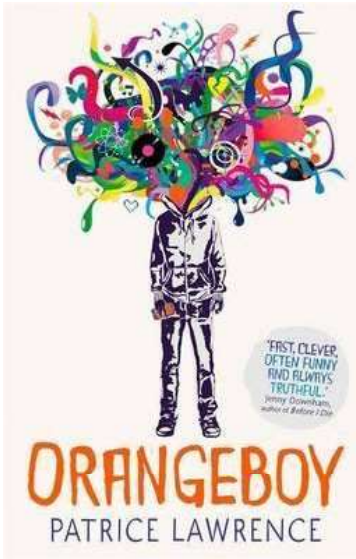
ENTERPRISE SOCIETY CHRISTMAS FETES



**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>

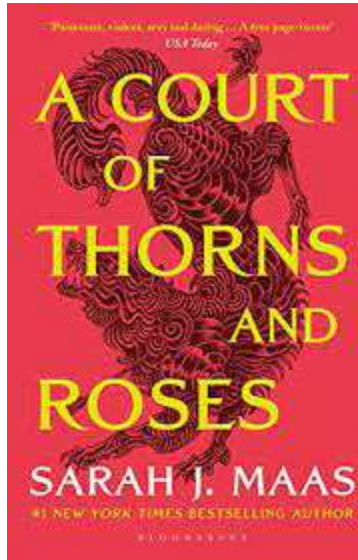


Orange Boy
by Patrice Lawrence

Not cool enough, not clever enough, not street enough for anyone to notice me. I was the kid people looked straight through.

NOT ANY MORE. NOT SINCE MR ORANGE.

Sixteen-year-old Marlon has made his mum a promise - he'll never follow his big brother, Andre, down the wrong path. So far, it's been easy, but when a date ends in tragedy, Marlon finds himself hunted. They're after the mysterious Mr Orange, and they're going to use Marlon to get to him. Marlon's out of choices - can he become the person he never wanted to be, to protect everyone he loves?



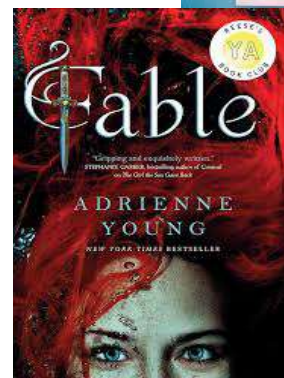
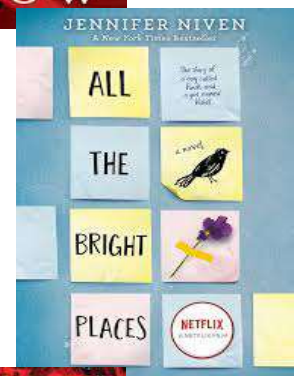
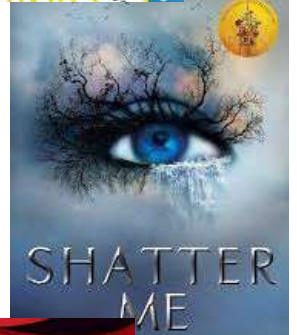
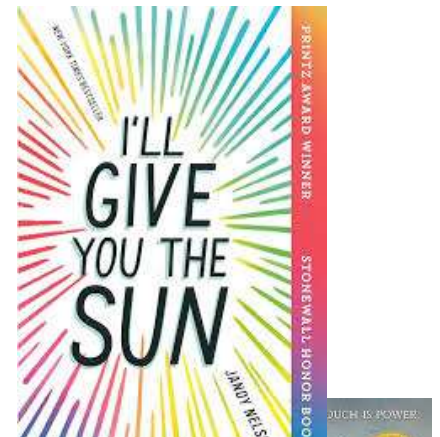
A Court of Thorns and Roses
by Sara J Maas

Feyre is a huntress. And when she sees a deer in the forest being pursued by a wolf, she kills the predator and takes its prey to feed herself and her family. But the wolf was not what it seemed, and Feyre cannot predict the high price she will have to pay for its death...

Dragged away from her family for the murder of a faerie, Feyre discovers that her captor, his face obscured by a jewelled mask, is hiding even more than his piercing green eyes suggest. As Feyre's feelings for Tamlin turn from hostility to passion, she learns that the faerie lands are a far more dangerous place than she realized. And Feyre must fight to break an ancient curse, or she will lose him forever.

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 continue to lead the way in terms of attendance to date although Year 8 seem to be closing the gap so we need to keep our excellent record rolling by being in school every possible day. 7VWS are top of the attendance charts for the year to date with 97% but 7THD are hot on their heels with 96%. We currently have an Attendance Premier League for tutor groups and 'In it to Win it' vouchers for individual rewards.

The message is to be in school to benefit from everything that is on offer here. In terms of Character Education it is 7CSN that are blazing the trail with a whopping 87 badges awarded in line with our core values of Ambition, Confidence, Creativity, Determination and Respect this week.

With regards to awards overall - Year 7 are flying high in filling their Positive Praise cards, receiving Postcards of Recognition and Kindness Postcards or tokens. The three students with the highest positive points scores are: Aalish 7AFS 370, Finley 7THD 254 and Imogen 7CSN 244 - well done! A special shout out to Kyran 7CSN who is in the top 10 for most positive points but also has the most Kindness awards. Great work Kyran - you are modelling our 'Be Kind' ethos.

Keep up the good work Y7 - aim high, work hard, be kind.

MR ROBBINS - HEAD OF YEAR 8



As we enter the second half of this first term, I'm thrilled to reflect on the fantastic achievements and highlights we've seen so far in Year 8. Our students have not only excelled in academics but also demonstrated incredible spirit and dedication in their extracurricular activities, such as an impressive performance in a recent fixture below:

Year 8 boys showing great determination and ambition in the rugby triangular fixtures against Dene Magna and Wyedean, albeit not the result we wanted but valiant, nonetheless. 20 – 20 against Dene Magna and a loss against Wyedean 20 – 25.

In addition to these successes outside the classroom, I'm proud to share some truly outstanding academic/personal development accomplishments that showcase our students' hard work and commitment to excellence. As someone who enjoys diving into the numbers, I'd like to share a few key statistics with you below:

We have given out 64 Bronze badges, 44 Silver badges, 27 gold badges and the biggest and best of all, 9 shields. The 9 students collecting the shields are Oliver A, Tom D, Thomas E, Ashley E, Dominic H, Isla M, Chloe S, Jenson W, Charlie-Mae W. A truly impressive achievement.

Looking ahead, let's keep up our momentum. With the Christmas season approaching, it's easy for excitement to rise and energy to wane, but I encourage everyone to stay focused and continue reaching for their best. Let's maintain our high standards and push our aspirations even further as we move closer to Christmas.

Attendance, as always, is a vital part of our journey, and I'm pleased to share some encouraging figures for Year 8. We currently sit on 94.2% attendance average; second place in the school. Together, I'm confident we can keep up the enthusiasm, dedication, and resilience that have already made this term so memorable. For parents, you can never underestimate the crucial success and overall well-being. By staying engaged with your child's school life and reinforcing the importance of regular attendance, you're not only helping them keep up with their studies but also instilling lifelong habits that set them up for future success. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment!



MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEAR 10

Firstly I'd like to start this newsletter slot with a hug congratulations to our Y10 boys who have now progressed through to Round 5 in the ESFA Cup. We had a great 4-0 win over a strong St Peters team. Our boys dominated the game and could've won by more. We are now down to the last 64 team in a competition that was entered by around 640 schools - a great achievement and something we are really proud of- we wish them well in the next round.

We are nearly at the end of Term 1 in Y10, once we get to Christmas we will be 15 weeks into a 39 week school year- so not far off half way! This has been my message to Y10 - Y10 and Y11 will fly by and they will soon be on their way to their chosen Post 16 destination. In order for their next transition to be successful they need to maximise their time here and secure a good reference with good grades so all doors are open to them. They must make use of every opportunity in Y10.

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. These students are Freya L, Lillie W, Tio Tanner, Elsie O, Ben S, Casey L, Chloe R, Joshua P, Amelia M, Eirin B, Ellie W, Ashton M, Amelia H, Amelie B, Daniel L, Amelia H, Grace K, Ebony P, Samiah J and Daisy J.



MISS TRUMM - HEAD OF YEAR 11

Reflecting on Year 11s accomplishments since the last newsletter is an absolute joy. They have shown great resilience throughout their three week of PPEs and it is wonderful to see so many students using the 'Champions do Extra' cards to log their revision and claiming their mystery prizes. Celebration assemblies have also been a wealth of positives. So many different students are being celebrated by different subjects and teachers. Looking ahead we are looking forward to some festive fun - from advent calendars to Miss Trumm's 'Naughty or Nice' list and a potential invite to a festive quiz. Some students are eager to nominate who Santa might be but this visit depends on a year group effort. Remember Year 11, Christmas is a time of magic and miracles so let's work together to bring Santa to us all!

CHARACTER EDUCATION SHIELD PRESENTATIONS

A huge well done to all of the students pictured below who were recently presented with their Character Education shields. From left to right are Tom D (Year 8), Shannon D (Year 11), Isla M (Year 8), Thomas EE (Year 8) Oliver A (Year 8) and Dominic H (Year 8).



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 Y9 & 10 Girls Rugby</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 Y7 & 8Enterprise 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 & 8 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>



DOWNHILL MOUNTAIN BIKE SUCCESS



Well done to Year 7 student Jack (7CSN) who recently completed his second downhill mountain bike race and came an impressive fifth place. Congratulations Jack, a fantastic achievement!

AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

BIOCRAFT COMPETITION

Students recently had the chance to see the fantastic models constructed by fellow students who had entered The Royal Society of Biology annual Biocraft competition.

We had craft models of hearts, eyes and bacteria constructed from recycled materials. Students were required to submit photos of their models with explanatory notes and labelling directly to the Royal Society.

We're still waiting to see if any have taken the top prizes but, in the meantime, all students who have submitted entries have received their Talent Gold Character Education badge plus 30 points for their houses. It was such a brilliant display showing the talent we have here at Five Acres High School. Hopefully, many more students will feel inspired to enter next year's competition so start planning now!



PRIDE OF COLEFORD AWARDS

On Saturday 23 November, the ambition and determination of a number of our students and staff were recognised at the Pride of Coleford awards. Thank you to all those staff who nominated our students for their involvement in raising funds for charity through the Enterprise Society, fundraising for the Sri Lanka expedition and recognising the great work that our students do outside of school to support our wider community. Well done to our Catering Manger, Lisa, who was recognised for her dedication and support of Girl Guiding in the local area.

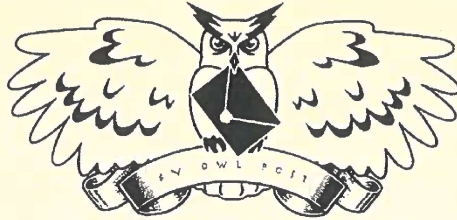
Thank you to Head Students Anastasia and Imogen who were on hand to support Mayor Nick Penny during the presentations.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

LETTER FROM JK ROWLING

Recently Year 7 student Kyran wrote to author JK Rowling, explaining how much he was a fan of Harry Potter and asking whether the Cursed Child would ever be made into a film. Kyran was delighted to receive the response below.



Dear Kyran,

Thank you very much for your letter. I'm sorry to say that I now receive so much mail that I cannot answer everyone individually, much as I would like to. However, I love hearing feedback from readers and I read as many as I can.

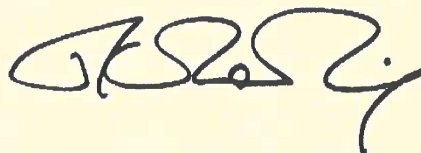
I still love the world of "Harry Potter." *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, on which I collaborated, is now showing in many countries around the world and was one of the most enjoyable projects I've ever worked on.

I have recently written two new children's books, "The Ickabog," and "The Christmas Pig" both of which, have now been published. The royalties I receive from "The Ickabog" are going to my Charitable Trust, "Volant".

Please visit www.jkrowlingstories.com, where you will find a new interactive section for younger readers, which brings together the three very different fictional worlds of "The Christmas Pig," "The Ickabog" and "Harry Potter."

There really aren't many spare hours in the day at the moment. Even so, the fact that people take the time and trouble to write means a great deal to me, so thank you once again for your letter and for being such a fan of Harry's.

With very best wishes,



J.K. Rowling

J.K. ROWLING

www.jkrowling.com
www.wizardingworld.com
www.jkrowlingstories.com

CROSS-COUNTRY

A big well done to all of the students who took part in the Forest of Dean District Cross-Country event at Newent School. It was quite a cold day on a difficult course and our students performed exceptionally well. Out of the six Forest schools who entered we placed second, so a great overall result. We also had some standout results from teams and individuals, our Inter Girls finished first and our Inter Boys second (Y10 & Y11). In terms of individuals, we had a number of students in the top 10 who then qualified to run for the Forest of Dean District, which is a great honour, a big congratulations to these students. The students who finished in the top 10 for their respective races were- Grace R, Bea M, Ella P, Esme T, Oli P, Charlie B, Max B, Ava R (finished 2nd), Charlie S, Charlie W, Kacey K, Oli P, Lucas R and Jack P. We wish them well in their next step of representing the Forest of Dean.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS

To show our support to members of the community who may need a little bit of extra help at this time of year, we will be collecting donations for The Forest Foodbank as part of our festive activities. Below is a reverse advent calendar with suggested donations through the month of December. On Wednesday 18 December we will be holding our Christmas Jumper Day, where students are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper, tie, socks or accessories in exchange for a donation to the food bank.

Throughout the last week of term, the canteen will be offering a festive-themed menu with a traditional Christmas lunch available on Wednesday 18 December.



SUMMER 2024 LEAVERS - GCSE EXAM CERTIFICATE COLLECTION

If you have family or friends who left Five Acres High School in the Summer, please share with them that they will be able to collect their GCSE certificates on Thursday 12 December from 3:30-6pm.

**SUMMER 2024 GCSE
CERTIFICATE COLLECTION**

Calling all former students who sat their
GCSEs with us in Summer 2024!
We invite you to
collect your certificates

Date: Thursday 12 December 2024
Time: 3:30pm to 6:00pm
Where: Library

Please access the school from the external floor by the library.

AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

YEAR 10 FOOTBALL - ESFA CUP UPDATE

This week our Year 10 boys played in a fourth round English Schools FA cup match against a very good St. Peters team. The game started at a fast pace with limited chances for either side. We were unlucky not to lead at half time after hitting the bar and the St Peter's keeper making a great save.

In the second half we continued to push for the opening goal. AJ put us in the lead and soon followed this up with his 2nd of the game. Two late goals by Max and Aiden sealed a great 4-0 win.

A really great team effort by all involved. The team are now down to the last 64 (out of 640) of the national cup - a huge well done, we are so proud of you all. Joint players of the match: Aiden and Josh



FORMER STUDENT ART ACADEMY PLACE

From Art Leadership to the Royal Academy of the Arts - our former student Chloe has been offered a prestigious place at the Royal Academy of Arts attRAct programme! We are extremely proud of her and hope that she flourishes in this wonderful opportunity.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT