



# FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

21 July 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the final edition of our school newsletter for this academic year - what a year it has been! We started the year thinking about how we can ensure that all students can feel a sense of purpose, meaning and belonging, and whilst not every aspect of school will be positive for everybody this has been a record-breaking year.

Last autumn we started this celebrating the academic success of our Year 11 students but we have worked tirelessly through the year to ensure that the right mix of personal success is celebrated too. Throughout the rest of this edition there is an excellent mix of stories celebrating students in all year groups who have excelled in and out of school. Their success has covered a hugely impressive range of activities. One of our key indicators of success this year was to ensure that students engaged in the wider life of school; it is rewarding to see so many show their enthusiasm in this area.

Our second indicator of success was to hear the voice of students. We were pleased to receive almost 100% coverage through the completion of our student survey. The information from this survey is currently being used to inform plans for next year. We are also excited to be furthering this aim next year by launching a student council that will involve representatives from all year groups and tutor groups. We will give more details of this exciting development and how it fits into having a voice within the Greenshaw Learning Trust in the coming months.

I am also very grateful for the huge number of students who have been part of focus groups and have given us valuable feedback, which has led to a wider variety of academies and societies, a bigger range of rewards and a further sharpening of our culture.



Our third indicator of success has been to maximise lesson time. We have particularly focused this indicator on day to day attendance. Thank you for the part that you have played in ensuring a much approved attendance picture over the last 12 months. We know that when students attend they experience a greater sense of well being and the habits they develop set them up for excellence in the future.

As we start the summer holidays, I want to wish you well and hope that you all find time for rest and enjoyment with your family. We look forward in September to welcoming new members of the Five Acres High School family, including our new Year 7 cohort and new teachers in Science, Maths and Religious Education. I look forward to welcoming all of our staff and students back to school in September (3 September for all students), and listening to the stories of the adventures they have experienced over the summer time.

## JUNIOR KANGAROO MATHS CHALLENGE

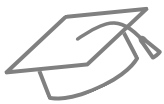
Congratulations to Idris in Year 7 and Thomas in Year 8 who recently earned their Junior Kangaroo Maths challenge certificates. The competition is a 60-minute, 25 multiple choice challenge. These are the first ones the school has awarded in a few years, so a great achievement for both students.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

# CELEBRATING SEAFOOD!

Huge congratulations to Food Tech teacher Mrs Watts, whose work to encourage students to eat fish and make fish dishes was recognised at the #FishHeroes awards in June, alongside Headteacher Mr Phelps. The judges commented: "Their flair, courage, and leadership turned a Key Stage 3 cookery lesson into an award-winning seafood showcase!"



## BRILLIANT CLUB GRADUATION

Be Brilliant students enjoyed the sights of Magdalen College, University of Oxford, before their graduation ceremony. All students showed great ambition and determination, well done!



## FOREST FOODBANK APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who donated items to our Forest Foodbank appeal. The team are really grateful as this will provide valuable support to families in need as we go into the summer holidays.



## BRITISH TRIALS SUCCESS

Congratulations to Year 8 student Zac on his most recent success in the British Trials Championship, Zac has scored points at every round and sits in 11th position overall. In July, Zac travels to Ireland for rounds 5 & 6. Well done Zac!



# KEY DATES

- Monday 1 September**  
INSET Day
- Tuesday 2 September**  
INSET Day
- Wednesday 3 September**  
All students return to school for the new academic year
- Tuesday 16 September**  
Year 7 and 11 school photos (individual and year group)
- Tuesday 23 September**  
Open Evening
- Wednesday 24 September - Friday 26 September**  
School in Action Morning Tours
- Friday 26-Saturday 27 September**  
Year 7 Residential - Group 1
- Tuesday 30 September**  
Governors Meeting
- Thursday 9 October**  
Year 11 Parents' Information Evening
- Friday 10-Saturday 11 October**  
Year 7 Residential Group 2
- Friday 17-Saturday 18 October**  
Year 7 Residential Group 3
- Week commencing 20 October**  
Year 11 PPEs Week 1
- Tuesday 21 October**  
Careers Fair
- Thursday 23 October**  
Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Monday 27 October - Friday 31 October**  
Half Term
- Monday 3 November**  
INSET Day
- Tuesday 4 November - Friday 7 November**  
Year 11 PPEs Week 2
- Week commencing 10 November**  
Year 11 PPEs Week 3
- Wednesday 3 December**  
Governors Meeting
- Thursday 4 and Friday 5 December**  
Nasal Flu Vaccinations (whole school)
- Thursday 11 December**  
Year 11 Parents' Evening
- Monday 22 December - Friday 2 January 2026**  
Christmas Holiday
- Monday 5 January**  
INSET Day
- Tuesday 6 January - Friday 9 January**  
Year 7 - 10 Assessments
- Thursday 22 January**  
Options Evening
- Tuesday 27 January**  
Governors Meeting
- Thursday 5 February**  
Year 9 Parents' Evening

# CHARACTER EDUCATION SHIELDS

Well done to all of the students who have earned their Character Education shields and certificates this term.



# UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

## MR ROBBINS - HEAD OF YEAR 8

Year 8 have shown real determination and focus during their recent assessments, and I've been genuinely impressed by their attitude and effort throughout. I encourage all students to use the feedback from these assessments to identify any areas for development and to start building their own revision routines going forward – it's a great habit to get into! This summer term has also been a real highlight, with excellent participation in our after-school academies and societies. It's been brilliant to see so many of you getting involved and making the most of these opportunities, well done! Wishing you all a fantastic summer break. I can't wait to hear all about it when you return in September.



## MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEAR 10

And that's Year 10 finished already! There will be more information to come out soon about what Y11 looks like in terms of the 'Y11 Model' which refers to Period 6 and Champions Hour as well as many other opportunities. Student participation in the 'Y11 Model' is linked to the 'End Of Year Celebrations'.

As I have said before Y10 are currently building their references with their day-to-day performances. It will be around Christmas time this year that Year 10 students will start applying for their next path in life. References for college, sixth-forms and apprenticeships will be sent on request from the organisations around this time. I always remind Y10 in assembly, line up and through these newsletters that- it has never been more important for them to have a good attendance, have a good behaviour file and be working towards a good set of grades which does them proud.

As always I would like to give a shout out to our current high flyers (top 20) for Y10 in terms of the total amount of positive praise points for this year so far. Well done to Freya L, Casey L, Tio T, Amelia H, Lillie W, Ben S, Joshua P, Samiah J, Amelia M, Heidi J, Misha Faith C, Charlotte J, Mckenzie-Paige A, Chloe R, Elsie O, Grace K and Daisy J. I'd like to wish Y10 a restful and exciting summer and I hope they enjoy their break. We will see you in Year 11!!!



## CADETS PRESENTATION

Well done to Year 8 student Natalie and Year 9 student Steven, who through cadets presented speeches to members of Coleford Town Council and a panel from Coleford Citizen Climate Change. Natalie presented a three-minute speech on deforestation and Steven talked about hydro technology. Both students did an excellent job, well done!



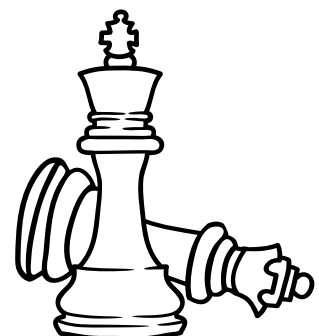
## YEAR 10 MOCK INTERVIEWS

Our Year 10 students were incredible during the recent mock interviews. They impressed 30 visiting employers with their confidence, communication and ambition. It was a brilliant opportunity for them to gain real-world experience and start thinking about their future pathways.



## CHESS SUCCESS

Congratulations to Maximus and Cole who were awarded their 2025 Chess Tournament certificates, for showcasing outstanding skill and strategy!



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## BRILLIANT BALLROOM

Congratulations to Year 8 student Willow who continues to wow with her impressive dancing skills. She recently competed in Blackpool's Winter Garden. Across the weekend of events, Willow earned Bronze in Waltz and Quickstep, Tango and Quickstep, Cha Cha and Jive and Samba and Jive. She reached the semi-finals in the individual Cha Cha Cha and alongside her dance partner Henry saw sixth in couples Paso and second in couples jive. She finished off her amazing weekend of performing by reaching the semi finals in the individual Waltz and sixth with Henry in the Couple Tango. These are amazing achievements, so well done Willow!



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## FOCUS ON ART

We had the pleasure of former student Chloe carrying out work experience in the Art department with us recently. As a former GCSE student and Art Leader she passed on her fabulous knowledge of life drawing to our Art Leaders in a small after-school workshop. Since leaving Five Acres High School, Chloe has created some beautiful work at Hereford Sixth Form as well as being part of the AtRAcct programme in London and being featured in an exhibition in Wales. Thank you Chloe and we are excited to see all your future artistic endeavours.

The fun didn't stop there for our Art Leadership Team, who in the last week of term enjoyed an absolutely amazing arty day in London. They raise money through their art sales and invest it in trips like this to feed their cultural capital. The Tate Britain and the National Gallery enriched our artistic souls with creativity!



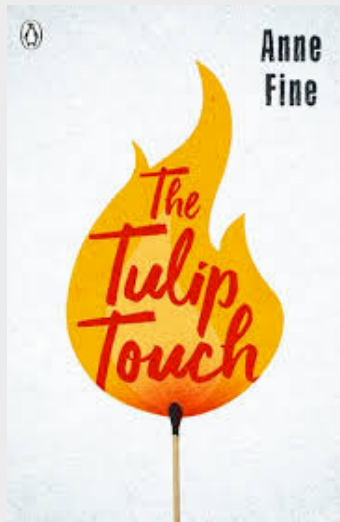
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AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

# READING RECOMMENDATIONS

English Teacher, Miss Phelps shares her picks for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

## KEY STAGE 3



### 'The Tulip Touch' by Anne Fine

Nobody wants Tulip in their gang.

She skives off school, cheeks the teachers and makes herself unpopular with her classmates by telling awful lies.

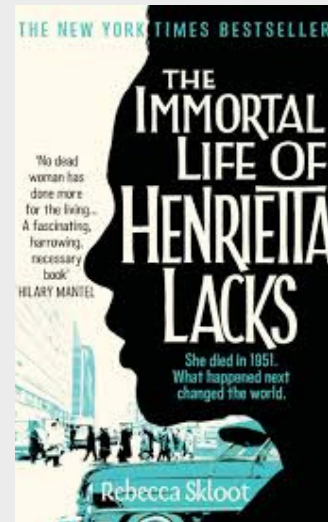
None of this matters to Natalie who finds Tulip exciting.

At first she doesn't care that other people are upset and unnerved by Tulip's bizarre games, but as the games become increasingly sinister and dangerous, Natalie realises that Tulip is going too far.

Much too far. Racing, in fact, to the novel's shocking ending.

BOTH AVAILABLE IN THE  
SCHOOL LIBRARY

## KEY STAGE 4



### 'The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks' by Rebeccas Skloot

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. Born a poor black tobacco farmer, her cancer cells – taken without her knowledge – became a multimillion-dollar industry and one of the most important tools in medicine. Yet Henrietta's family did not learn of her 'immortality' until more than twenty years after her death, with devastating consequences...

Rebecca Skloot's fascinating account is the story of the life, and afterlife, of one woman who changed the medical world forever. Balancing the beauty and drama of scientific discovery with dark questions about who owns the stuff our bodies are made of, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* is an extraordinary journey in search of the soul and story of a real woman, whose cells live on today in all four corners of the world.

A great read for anyone interested in: biology, medicine law, ethics

## READING THE FOREST

Our English department has been collaborating with The Forest of Dean Writers Collection and on Tuesday 15 July five Year 7 students had the opportunity to visit The Dean Heritage Centre and work with Dr Jason Griffiths to record poems by local poets, including one written in Forest dialect. Students also had the chance to see original paintings and notebooks by some of the poets, which are held in the archives at the Dean Heritage Centre. It was a great opportunity for the students to learn more about the poets behind the words they were performing. We are looking forward to sharing the final film in the new academic year.



## YEAR 10 HISTORY TRIPS TO CHEPSTOW CASTLE

On 10 and 11 July over 80 students visited Chepstow Castle as part of their GCSE course. The trip provides valuable experience with historical interpreter Neil Eddiford bringing aspects of the castle to life.



## HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Congratulations to all of the students and staff involved in putting on our amazing production of Disney's High School Musical. Go Wildcats!



## SRI LANKA EXPEDITION

The dedication and fundraising efforts of Year 10 and 11 students Lillie, Chelsea, Charlie and Christopher and trip lead Mrs Selwyn are paying off as, at the time of writing, they are fully embracing all of the opportunities on offer on their Sri Lanka expedition. So far, they have headed out on a 30km bike ride, enjoyed beaches and safaris featuring close encounters with elephants. They will also be supporting local community projects while they are there.



*Beachside hotel!*



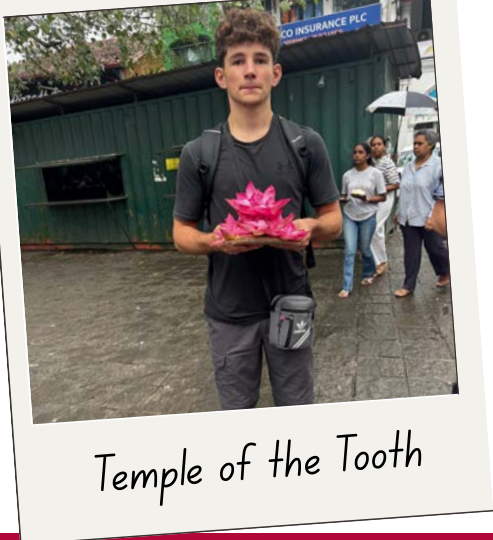
*On safari*



*Preparing to pedal*



*Local wildlife*



*Temple of the Tooth*



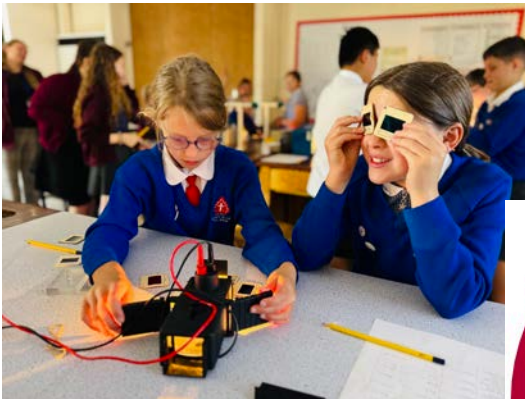
*Botanical Gardens*

# FUTURE FIVE ACRES STUDENTS

We have recently had the pleasure of meeting our new Year 7 cohort who will be joining us in September. Students were able to have a taste of lessons - they all excelled in the Science lab using the chromatography process to make a troll - got to experience the great food on offer in our canteen, meet our staff and start to build friendships with their soon-to-be classmates. We can't wait to see how they settle in with us and embrace life at Five Acres High School.



We also welcomed 380 Year 5 students from 20 local primary schools over 4 days of engaging learning around the theme of light. Both the Year 6 Welcome week and Year 5 Super Learning Days were fantastic opportunities for staff and students to get to know future and potential students. A big thank you to our Year 8 student ambassadors who did a great job of showing our visitors around and welcoming them to our school.



## SPORTING SUCCESS

We have had some amazing sports results this final term, culminating in two days of our own school sports days on Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 July. Well done to all the students who took part, the staff who run after-school academies and societies and families for supporting our students to shine.

### **Year 9 Girls Rounders - Greenshaw Learning Trust Rounders winners**

The team won all of their games throughout the afternoon, winning their group. They then went on to win the final, scoring a very impressive 17.5 rounders to their competitors.



### **Year 8 Girls Rounders - Greenshaw Learning Trust Rounders Second Place**

The year 8s won all of their matches in the group stage making it to the final. Sadly they missed out on the win on this occasion but still finished a very credible second place.



### **Year 7 Girls Rounders District Champions**

Our Year 7s beat all of the opposing schools in the Forest of Dean during their tournament and were crowned district winners.



### **Forest of Dean District Athletics**

Year 7 girls team were winners of their age category with our our 50 student strong team finishing in second place at the district event.



### **GLT Athletics Success**

17 Greenshaw Schools from London, Bristol, Oxford, Gloucester, Cheltenham came together at Bath University to compete in the first Trust Wide games.

A special well done to those listed below:

N.Hancock 1st U13 girls Shot Put

A.Becroft 1st U13 boys Discus

C.Woodley 3rd U13 girls 1500m

T.Karma 3rd U13 boys Shot Put

F.Jones 3rd U15 girls Shot Put

B.Manning 3rd U15 girls 1500m

M.Blaby 3rd U15 boys 800m



### **District Football**

U16 girls winners of the district football, beating all other Forest of Dean Schools in both the 7-a-side and 11 a-side events. U12 Girls Football were 9-a-side champions. Our Year 9 boys became the District Champions beating all the other Forest schools.



# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

## BELL'S FOUNDATION GRANTS



### FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS - 2025 APPLICATIONS OPEN!

The Bells Foundation awards grants to students aged 16-30 for those studying in Higher Education, to help cover study materials (eg books, tools and tech)

You are eligible to apply for a Bell's Foundation grant if:  
- you are an ex-pupil of Lakers School / Five Acres High School  
- you are under 31 years old at the time of applying  
- you are going into Higher Education (or are already there)

Applications are considered by the trustees every autumn, and applications you can apply now, below.  
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/9xKkkEDdFq>

- ✓ Former Lakers/Five Acres High School Student
- ✓ Aged 16-30 and studying or planning to study in Higher Education

## JULY SHOPPING LIST



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR DONATIONS

- Tinned Potatoes
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Jam
- Microwave Rice
- UHT Milk
- UHT Fruit Juice
- Tinned Cold Meat
- Snack Bars
- Washing Up Liquid

# PLAYERS WANTED!

## PLAYERS WANTED FOR OUR UNDER 14'S TEAM



FIRST 4 TRAINING SESSIONS - ABSOLUTELY FREE!

## ELLWOOD YOUTH U14's

- ✓ Training Kit & Match Kit Provided
- ✓ Regular Social Events for Players

SCHOOL  
YEAR 8 & 9

GREAT FACILITIES  
AND EQUIPMENT

TRAINING  
WEDNESDAYS  
5:30 - 7:00

MATCHES  
SATURDAY AM

For more information, please email:  
[admin@ellwoodyouthfc.co.uk](mailto:admin@ellwoodyouthfc.co.uk) or Call Lee: 07817 968 146