



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

1 October 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for this academic year. We are starting this term incredibly strong following the success of our outgoing Year 11 students' impressive examination results released in the summer. We wish all of those students well with their next steps. The results of this cohort continue to build on the fantastic record of the school over the last eight years, and firmly put us amongst the top performing schools in the county and country. Twice as many students are now able to access Level 3 qualifications (A-Level and equivalent) compared to pre-Greenshaw Learning Trust involvement. This is a testament to the outstanding work of our exceptional teaching and support staff, and also the commitment to learning and effort shown by our incredible students.

We will continue to work hard at building on this success and have once again committed to maximising lesson time, hearing the voice of students and supporting students to engage in the wider life of school. It is evident from these results that attendance plays a huge part in the overall success of students, and I am delighted with how this term has started with yet further improvements in our attendance data. Thank you for the support that you provide in ensuring that your child attends and fully equipped for the day and in full school uniform so that they can get the most out of their lessons and be in front of subject expert teachers.

Our plans for a school council are ongoing, and I hope to share more news with you soon on that. In the meantime, regular student forums provide me with an opportunity to meet with small groups of students and hear directly from them.



Throughout this newsletter you will see how our students are engaging in the wider life of school, from earning Character Education badges by raising money for charity, taking part in one of the many Academies and Societies that we have on offer this term and so much more.

As we look forward to what promises to be another excellent year, please can I encourage you to look ahead at the key dates that affect your child as we know that parent involvement, where possible, has a huge impact on students feeling like they belong, they can find meaning and have a purpose within education.

Finally, I would like to welcome into our school community our wonderful new Year 7 students, some of whom have already had a fantastic time at their residential. I look forward to sharing their journey and continuing to support our Year 8-11 students in being the best that they can be.

YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL

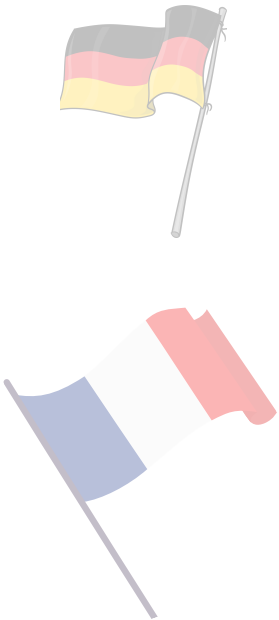
Last Friday Group 1 rose to the challenge of the Year 7 Residential at Viney Hill. They displayed their determination as they were pushed out of their comfort zones in a number of exhilarating activities. These students have now earned their first Character Education badge - Bronze Adventure in Ambition. We look forward to Y7 students in Group 2 and 3 rising to the challenge with confidence in the coming weeks!



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday 25 September we celebrated European Day of Languages, including a special themed menu in our canteen. The main meals included bratwurst, paella, croque monsieur and frites.



BIKE RIDES TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY

Students continued to work hard over the Summer holidays to gain their Character Education badges. Year 9 students Thomas, James and Max supported Macmillan Cancer by cycling 522km over the summer. A fantastic effort, well done boys!



KEY DATES

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

Thursday 23 October & Friday

24 October

Chelsea's Choice presentations

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 26 November

Year 10 Careers Fayre

Wednesday 3 December

Governors Meeting

Thursday 4 and Friday 5

December

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

(whole school)

Friday 5 December

Year 10 Woman in Black theatre trip

Tuesday 9 December

Key Stage 3 Pantomime trip - Bristol Hippodrome

Thursday 11 December

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Friday 19 December

Y11 A Christmas Carol theatre visit

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

Thursday 12 February

Celebrations Evening

Monday 16 February -

Friday 20 February

Half Term

GLOUCESTER RUGBY COACHING PARTNERSHIP

It has been amazing to watch the successful journey of the Women's Rugby World Cup squad, with the Red Roses lifting the trophy. We have had a fantastic opportunity to welcome Gloucester community rugby coaches on Mondays this term. The coaches are currently working with some of our girls classes in Years 7-9 who are taking part in 'Project Rugby', supported by Premiership Rugby. During these sessions the girls are developing their ball handling and movement skills with the hope to join the end of season tournament at Kingsholm Stadium.



FAKE AWAYS AT FIVE!

Students are loving our 'fake away' dishes with Bang Bang Cauliflower being a huge hit! Should you like the recipe, please see Mrs Watts.



UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

MR ROBBINS - HEAD OF YEAR 9

The Year 9 students have made an excellent start to the new academic year, settling quickly into routines and showing determination as they prepare for the important stage of making their options choices later this year. Attendance has begun strongly, positioned just behind the Year 7 cohort at the beginning, who once again appear to be our new main rivals for the attendance golden crown, as a team, we are ambitious to retain the best year group average. To support this, it is vital that students arrive punctually for an 8:30am start each day, dressed in full and correctly worn uniform, ready to learn! These high standards reflect our shared commitment to the year motto: we are all part of a disciplined team, where we take responsibility for our own journey and each others thriving journeys.



MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEAR 11

The countdown is now officially on for Year 11. They have 216 days until their first external exams start (as of writing). The last exam at Five Acres High School is 16 June, however students do need to be available until 26 June 2026 for exam contingencies. The Prom is booked for 3 July at The Speech House Hotel. All of this will come around very quickly and we ask that Year 11 take all of their opportunities between now and then in order to be successful come exam time. In terms of taking opportunities, Y11 attendance has started strongly and attendance to Period 6, Champions Hour and Working Lunches have also been strong. We have another round of PPEs towards the end of October and we urge students to use these to their advantage. Students will need to revise and prepare thoroughly as these will again help them prepare for the real deal.



HIGH FLYING EXPERIENCE

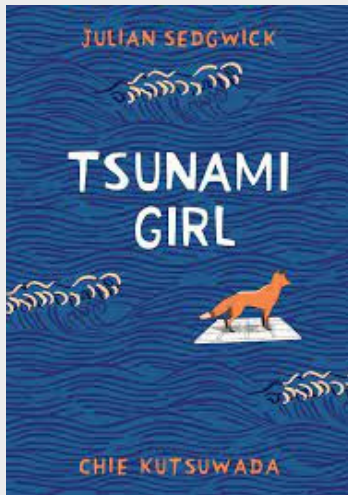
Recently Year 9 student Kimberley was given the opportunity to go flying with 614 Lydney Sqn RAF Air Cadets, in an RAF Grob Tutor training aircraft. Kimberley says: "While getting kitted up in flying gear I was uncertain and nervous. However, during the flight, doing loops and stall turns, I was extremely excited. This is one of the many opportunities the RAF Air Cadets has to offer."



READING RECOMMENDATIONS

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

KEY STAGE 3



Tsunami Girl by Julian Sedgwick

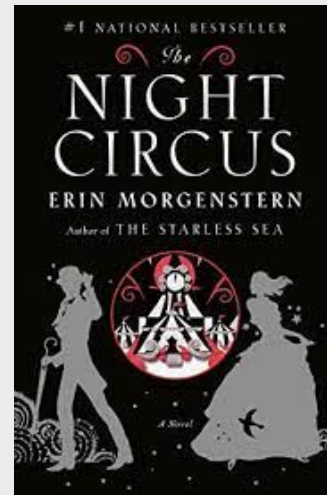
Fifteen-year-old Yuki is struggling at school with her confidence, and goes to Japan to stay with her grandfather, a well-known manga artist and to whom she is very close. But during her visit, a calamitous event occurs - the March 2011 East Coast Earthquake and Tsunami - and her beloved Grandpa is lost.

Yuki and her friend Taka must make sense of the terrible situation and come to terms with the loss of their life as they knew it - and see that through renewal and with resilience, they can emerge from this tragedy with optimism for the future. Interwoven with Japanese folk tales, modern-day ghost stories, and the creation of her very own vibrant manga hero, Yuki finds the courage to overcome extraordinary odds, and take her first steps into the world that lies beyond catastrophe.

Told through both prose and manga, this story for young adults will touch the heart of any reader.

**BOTH AVAILABLE IN THE
SCHOOL LIBRARY**

KEY STAGE 4



'The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

"Two star crossed magicians engage in a deadly game of cunning in the spellbinding novel that captured the world's imagination. - Part love story, part fable ... defies both genres and expectations." *The Boston Globe*

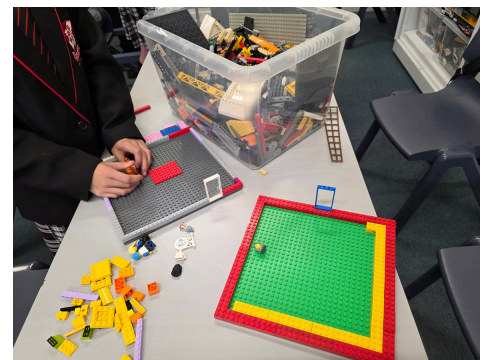
The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called *Le Cirque des Rêves*, and it is only open at night.

But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway: a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them both, this is a game in which only one can be left standing. Despite the high stakes, Celia and Marco soon tumble headfirst into love, setting off a domino effect of dangerous consequences, and leaving the lives of everyone, from the performers to the patrons, hanging in the balance.

TERM 1 ACADEMIES & SOCIETIES

Day	Lunch Time	After School 3-4pm
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Academy on the Redgra Y7 1pm Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y8 1pm Enterprise Society (Y7 & Y8 in Room 27) Eco Society (Week A. All years. Room 21, 1pm) 	
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Academy on the Redgra Y9 1pm Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y7 1pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography Academy (Y10, Room 1) Boys Rugby (all years) Girls Football (Y7 & 8) Dance Academy (All years in 10 Block)
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Academy on the Redgra Y8 1pm Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y10 1pm Y11 GCSE PE Table Tennis 1pm 10 block 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pottery Society- (week A All years Room 5) Boys Football (all years) Girls Netball (Y9 &10) Rock Band (Week B Y7-9)
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Academy on the Redgra Y10 1pm Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y9 Quiz society (week B, all years room 31, 1pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls Netball (Y7 &8)
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Academy on the Redgra Y11 1pm Bible Study Club Society (All years. Library, 1pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board games/card games Society (All years, room 16) Lego Society and Craft Society- (All years, room 16). Darts Academy (All years, 10 block). Shakespeare Performance (Y7-10, room 48/Hall)

Our Academies & Societies programme is in full swing, from sporting fixtures to crafting and lego club and more. If your child would like to sign up for an academy or society, please ask them to speak to the member of staff hosting their choice.



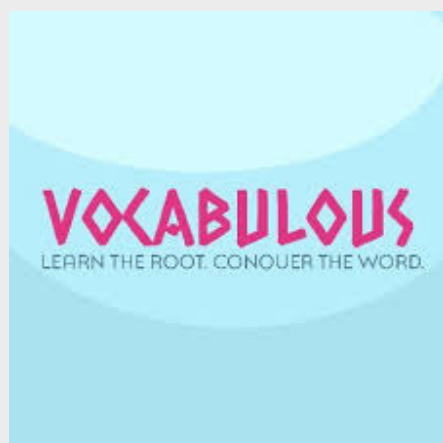
ROMAN BATHS TRIP

To celebrate the end of The Olympus Challenge at the end of the last academic year, we took 60 Year 8 students to the Roman Baths, in July of this year. Students were able to experience a unique insight into Roman engineering, architecture, and daily life. During the visit, students explored the original Roman remains, saw ancient artifacts, and learnt how the Romans used the baths as a social and religious centre.



VOCABULOUS RECOGNITION

We were thrilled to discover that Five Acres High School has been featured in September's edition of the Vocabulous newsletter. We appear in the Spotlight on a School section where they share news, ideas and top tips from their 2025/2026 Ambassador schools.



SHORT CUT TO CHARITY FUNDRAISING

A huge well done to Year 9 student Casper, who after years of growing his hair made the decision to have the chop to donate to The Little Princess trust, a charity that makes and provides wigs to children undergoing treatment for cancer. Casper wasn't alone in his trip to the hairdressers, with dad Dan stepping in to support and donating his own hair to the amazing cause. As well as their hair donations, the pair raised an extremely impressive £1800 for the charity too.



CHARITY MARTIAL ARTS FUNDRAISING

Congratulations to Year 9 student Jacob who completed a 24-hour Urban Martial Arts charity fundraiser and raised over £2000 for children's mental health charity Talk Well. Jacob has been awarded a Gold Service badge for his hard work. A great achievement, well done!

URBAN
MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOLS
Presents

24 HOUR SPARRING FUNDRAISER

12th July 3pm Start

How You Can Help

- Donate ✓
- Become a Sponsor ✓
- Urban Members Get Involved ✓

talkwell

JOIN US

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Teens
13-18

YOUNG CRAFTERS

Sewing, needle felting, embroidery, crochet, knitting, spinning, etc...

Bring along your current crafting project and meet like-minded young people in a relaxed environment

 **Mondays**
18.00-19.30

THE MAIN PLACE
COLEFORD
GL16 8RH

For more info message:
youngcraftersfod@gmail.com
or jodie@fvaf.org.uk



PRESENTING
coleford
YOUTH HUB
POP UP
for
YR's 7-11
STARTING IN
OCTOBER
EVERY THURSDAY
THE MAIN PLACE, COLEFORD
5:00PM-8:00PM
FREE OF CHARGE

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Katy - 07799 572801 | katy@fvaf.org.uk



Scouts



Do you know a child who would like to make new friends, have amazing adventures and learn new skills?

There are spaces at 1st Royal Forest Scouts. (10-14 years of age)

We meet on a Wednesday evening at Beaver Lodge in Parkend 7-9pm

Why not get in contact and come along for a free taster week.

To find out more check out
www.1stroyalforest.org.uk

Or email gsl@1stroyalforest.org.uk



If you are aged
10-14 you can join
Scouts ...

Venue – Beaver
Lodge, Parkend
Each Wednesday
7-9pm