



# FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

30 October 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the October edition of our school newsletter. As Term 1 draws to a close I hope you are enjoying a restful half term break. As the autumn period gets into full swing we want to ensure that students stay safe at all times. With clocks going back last weekend, the darker evenings will be with us. Please can you take the time to remind your child of the importance of road safety whether they are walking, cycling or using a scooter to travel to and from school. We have had some recent near misses reported that could be entirely avoided if students kept to the pathways and designated walkways or cycled inline with the Highway Code.

Following the holiday we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 4 November. The next term promises to be packed full with great opportunities including the launch of our new school council. Ms Flinders will be launching this through assemblies during the first few weeks back. This is another great way for students to gain leadership skills and have their voice heard. Hearing the voice of the child continues to be a key performance indicator for us, as does engagement in the wider life of school and maximising lesson time. I am delighted to report that we continue to make good progress in these areas, especially attendance which has been tracking upwards compared to the same point last year. Until the last week of this half term, Year 7 attendance has been sensational and we have seen good improvements across all year groups and especially with Girls and students with SEN. Thank you for your continued efforts in this area; we hope the Year 7s have enjoyed their treats - the challenge is for all year groups to match them

next term. We know that when students are in school, social bonds are formed and strengthened, students gain opportunities through our personal development programme and they are exposed to expert teaching - these all directly impact their feelings of happiness and success.



Over the last few weeks you may have noted a change to some of our social media posts. With the deadline for Year 6 students to make their choices for secondary school next year, if you are aware of families that have yet to submit their forms, please encourage them to consider Five Acres High School. One recent post gave a link to a post which referenced the school being directly named by the Secretary of State for Education (Bridget Phillipson) in a conference speech. She was giving praise to Five Acres High School as a school that 'gets it' and is a place recognised for giving students the best chance of success. You can see the video at this link:

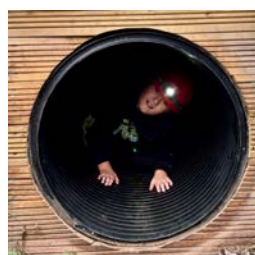
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYzrK8gG6FM>

This praise is only possible because of the tireless efforts and skill of staff, the commitment to learning of students and the support we receive from carers and parents. Thank you for that continued support and for helping to put us on the map at a national level.

Please enjoy the rest of this edition, I look forward to seeing all of our students in the new term.

### YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL

Thank you to everyone who supported our Year 7 Residential over three sessions. All the students had fantastic experiences and have developed strong bonds with their peers by taking part.



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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As part of our recognition and celebration of Black History Month, the canteen offered a themed menu for students to enjoy alongside the regular brilliant choices.



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## PUBLISHED AUTHOR

A huge congratulations to Year 10 student Amelie for becoming a published author, and gaining her Character Education Creativity Gold talent badge as well. Amelie shares an insight into her published novel, *The Cursed Grandma*: "I first wrote a draft for *The Cursed Grandma* about three years ago and I thought it was just going to end at that. It was really just because my family had suggested the idea to me in a joking way that I should write a book about it and I couldn't stop thinking about it. So while the events of that week were still fresh in my mind I wrote a draft and then didn't do anything with it.

"Then the Bri Books Summer Book Writing Festival came up and I saw it as a great opportunity for me to get the book published in its final form for the world to see, so I entered and published it and at one point it made it into the top 10 for most copies sold. I got a certificate for that and here we are. The book is about how when my parents went to Iceland my Grandma came to stay and everything that you could ever imagine could go wrong in a week went wrong, however because I wanted it to be a book that small children would enjoy, I put a spin on it and made it so that a curse was controlling her and was making all these things go wrong."

Copies are available in the school library to borrow.



# KEY DATES

**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

**Friday 14 November**  
Spare change collection for  
Children in Need

**Wednesday 26 November**  
Year 10 Careers Fayre

**Wednesday 3 December**  
Governors Meeting

**Thursday 4 December**  
SEND event

**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**  
Year 11 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

**Sunday 28 February - Sunday 7  
March**  
Ski Trip, Aprica Italy

**Thursday 5 March**  
Year 8 Parents' Evening

**Wednesday 11 March**  
Governors Meeting

**Wednesday 25 March**  
Year 11 Parents' Information  
Evening - Subject Specific  
Workshops

**Monday 30 March -  
Friday 10 April**  
Easter Holidays

# SPORTING SUCCESSES

Well done to our Under 16 girls football team who have stormed into the second round of the School FA Cup after a convincing 4-1 win against Denmark Road. Goals from Millie, Bea (2) and Nicole sealed the victory in style. We look forward to cheering you on in round 2!



Year 8 boys travelled to Dene Magna for their first rugby fixtures of the year. The boys played some excellent rugby in all three games. A great start to the Rugby season for Year 8.



Well done to our Year 7 girls football team who put in a great performance against Churchdown in round 1 of the Schools FA Cup. Despite conceding early in the game, the girls remained composed and determined throughout. A great first match for the team.



A great performance in the last week of term from our Year 8 boys football team against Wydean. The team dominated in possession, hit the woodwork twice and saw multiple attempts at goal superbly saved by the Wydean keeper! The boys were excellent and despite not having any subs due to injuries, consistently pressed well in search for the winning goal. The game finished in a 1-1 draw. A great team effort - well done.

# UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

## MR JONES - HEAD OF YEAR 7

Year 7 have made an incredible start to their secondary education at Five Acres High School. Attendance: 97.5% Wowsers! We are on a roll of having a reward of cookies for the whole year group for having over 96% every week. This is astonishing! All the Y7 tutor groups are above our school target of 96% with 7SWS (98.6%) leading the way from 7LTM by just 0.4%. The tutor group sash is being keenly contested but the whole school crown is clearly sticking in Year 7.



It is a joy to see that Year 7s want to be in every single day to make the most of the incredible offer here, both academic and extra-curricular. In terms of the academic side of things, Year 7s are smashing it in their lessons with particularly glowing praise in postcards for Mrs Carter and Miss Harvey's Maths classes and Mrs Rontree-Jones and Miss Anderson's English classes. The Year 7s have also settled in really well with their new homework expectations and we have fewer Year 7s in detention for homework or behaviour than any other year group. We are currently in second place for positive events but as soon as we start registering more Character Education badges, I'm sure our points will fly the highest.

Some Year 7s have now acquired their first Character Education badge after the Year 7 Residential. The Viney Hill Residential has been an awesome opportunity for staff and students to get to know each other on a deeper level outside the classroom and their comfort zones. All students partaking have showcased ambition to overcome obstacles and thoroughly deserve their Bronze Adventure badge. Year 7s are also flourishing in their chosen Academies and Societies - some have already represented the school in fixtures. A huge shoutout to Neha S, Morgan S and Mia F-H who have the most positive points in Year 7, all above 100 already! It has been an awesome start for all of Y7!

## MR ROBBINS - HEAD OF YEAR 9

I'm delighted to share that Year 9 continues to perform exceptionally well. In our previous newsletter, three mentions of our students received extracurricular shout-outs for demonstrating outstanding character and commitment — achievements that will soon earn them well-deserved Character Education badges, please see our last newsletter for reference. Our year group currently sits in third place for attendance, only just behind second, so it's vital that we keep our momentum strong right through to Christmas. Every day counts. We have won the crown two years on the trot, I'm hoping to make it a third year!



As we move further into the term, we know endurance will be tested, but our focus remains clear: getting the small things right to take care of the bigger ones. That means arriving every morning fully equipped, in full school uniform, worn with pride and consistency.

## MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEAR 11

As I write this Year 11 students have started their second round of PPEs. Y11 attendance is 97% and they are working hard. Hopefully a lot of students will see improvements in this round of data which will give them confidence moving forward - so many of our Y11s see the link between attendance, hard work, revision and attainment. Our overall attendance has remained strong and attendance to Period 6, Champions Hour and Working Lunches have also been strong - everything is pointing in the right direction! During the last week of term we have had a post-16 evening which was well attended and we also had a successful Y11 Information Evening which again was well attended. I would like to thank parents and carers for taking time out to contribute to this success. Linked in with this, many students have now applied for their post-16 options with many references already being sent off. If your student has yet to apply, please encourage them to do this as a priority. Prom is 253 days away and will come round quickly! I hope our parents, carers and students are enjoying a great half term break.



# READING RECOMMENDATIONS

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

## KEY STAGE 3



**Black Star by Kwame Alexander**

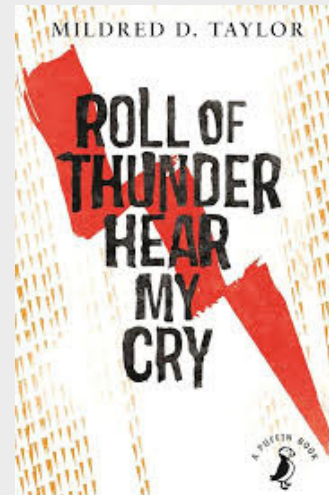
Set during the turbulent segregation era, Kwame Alexander weaves a spellbinding story of struggle, determination and the unflappable faith of an American family.

Twelve-year-old Charley is set on becoming the first female pitcher to play professional baseball, even if that's a lofty dream for a black girl in the American South in the 1920s. Even so, her grandfather Kofi's thrilling stories about courageous ancestors and epic journeys make it impossible not to dream big. She knows he has so much more to tell, but according to her parents, she isn't old enough to know about certain things, like what happened to Booker Preston that one night in Great Bridge, and why she can never play on the brand-new baseball field on the other side of town.

When Charley challenges a neighbourhood bully to a game at the church picnic, she knows she can win, even with her ragtag team. Then a dispute on the field leads to Charley making a fateful decision, one that will bring consequences she never could have imagined.

Black Star is the second in The Door of No Return series.

## KEY STAGE 4



**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D Taylor**

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is the classic story of a girl growing up in the deep South. Set in Mississippi at the height of the American Depression, this is the story of a family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride and independence against the forces of a cruelly racist society.

"We have no choice of what colour we're born or who our parents are or whether we're rich or poor. What we do have is some choice over what we make of our lives once we're here."

The Mississippi of the 1930s was a hard place for a black child to grow up in, but still Cassie didn't understand why farming his own land meant so much to her father. During that year, though, when the night riders were carrying hatred and destruction among her people, she learned about the great differences that divided them, and when it was worth fighting for a principle even if it brought terrible hardships.

**BOTH AVAILABLE IN THE  
SCHOOL LIBRARY**

## TERM 1 ACADEMIES & SOCIETIES

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

## REACHING FOR THE SKIES

Year 9 student Albert recently had the opportunity to take to the skies for his flight training with the RAF Air Cadets. He had a brilliant day and really enjoyed it.



# SEND SUPPORT EVENT - 4 DECEMBER 2025, FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL



relationships  
matter



Support for Families with SEND - Gloucestershire's Local Offer for Parent Carers

**Beezee**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
EMPLOYMENT  
AND SKILLS **HUB**

Gloucestershire  
**Parent  
Carer  
Forum**

**It is never too early to start thinking about Preparation for Adulthood for your young person.**

*Pop into our SEND parents information drop-in coffee morning, have your chance to talk to SEND professionals for a 1:1 chat between the hours of 10.00am till 12pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 at Five Acres*

Gain valuable insights into healthy lifestyles with promotion from **BeeZee**, explore what's available in your local area through the **Local Offer**, connect with your local **Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum** to share experiences, access support, and help shape services for children and young people with SEND. Learn about **Post-16 education and employment opportunities** for your child from **The Employment and Skills Hub**, and receive expert guidance from the **Preparation for Adulthood Support Team** to help your young person become as independent as possible.

## What Does PfA Mean?

Preparation for Adulthood

5 key messages

4 Pathways

Preparation for Adulthood



Personalise your approach

Employment



Develop a shared vision

Independent Living



Improve post-16 options and support

Community Inclusion



Raise aspirations

Health



Plan services together

For more information, please contact Saran and Iim:

[Preparationforadulthood@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Preparationforadulthood@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



**HARROW HILL FC  
YOUTH  
NEW U12 MIXED  
TEAM!**

**TRAINING: SATURDAY AM  
HARROW HILL FC, GL17 9JP**

**BOYS & GIRLS IN SCHOOL YEAR 7  
U12S THIS SEASON**



**PLAN: TRAIN AND PLAY FRIENDLIES READY  
TO JOIN THE SEVERN VALLEY YOUTH LEAGUE  
AS U13S NEXT YEAR (2026/27)**

**SEAN.THOMAS1623@GMAIL.COM**

- CHILD'S NAME
- DATE OF BIRTH
- A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THEM
- PARENT NAME
- PARENT CONTACT NUMBER

**WHEN THERE ARE ENOUGH PLAYERS, SEAN  
WILL MAKE CONTACT REGARDING THE 1<sup>ST</sup>  
TRAINING SESSION**

**COME AND BE PART OF THE HARROW  
HILL FC FAMILY  
NO EXPERIENCE IN FOOTBALL NECESSARY  
~ALL WELCOME~**

**Preparation for Adulthood Events**  
November 2025

*Supporting Young People and Their Families on the Journey to Adulthood*

Are you a young person thinking about your future? Or a parent or carer supporting someone on their journey to adulthood? Join us at events across Gloucestershire this November to explore the support available as you plan for what's next.

**Who will Attend?**

- Young people aged 14-25
- Parents and carers
- Professionals

**supporting transitions  
to adulthood**

**What to Expect**

- Meet professionals from education, health, and community services
- Access resources and guidance tailored to support your journey
- Connect with local organisations and services

**Event Dates & Locations**

Location	Date	Time	Venue
<b>Forest of Dean</b>	5th November	5:00-7:00pm	Gloucestershire College, Cinderford Campus
<b>Cheltenham</b>	13th November	4:00-6:00pm	Gloucestershire College, Cheltenham Campus
<b>Stroud</b>	19th November	5:30-7:30pm	Brimscombe Mill, GL5 2QN, Stroud
<b>Cirencester</b>	27th November	5:30-7:30pm	The Old Department Store, GL7 2NX, Cirencester

No need to book – just come along!  
For more info, contact: [Preparationforadulthood@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Preparationforadulthood@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

**RUGBY BUILDS WARRIORS. WE JUST HAPPEN TO WEAR PONYTAILS.**

**Come and give it a go with Cinderford U18 Girls**



**We don't play like girls. We play as girls.**

We are a friendly fun club. Everyone is welcome.  
Training Monday nights at 6.30 - 8pm  
Contact Paul Lydiard 07871 577 270