



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

28 February 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. February marks the midway point in the academic calendar, so is a good time to share with you an update on our Key Performance Indicators. In order to give all students the best chance of success, this year we have committed to maximising lesson time, hearing the voice of students and encouraging engagement in the wider life of school. I am extremely pleased to report that attendance at school continues to improve, meaning that we remain number one in our cluster for attendance. I am also pleased to see a reduction in the number of students sanctioned for disrupting learning. This indicates that students are fully engaged in our world-class curriculum and committed to their studies. Earlier in February Years 7-10 students will have received their reports indicating their progress in a broad range of subjects. I am delighted with their attitudes to the assessments they sat and was pleased to celebrate their success by giving out over 100 trophies and certificates in our recent Celebrations Evening.

We continue to develop our new student council, and the senior leadership team has been pleased to act on some of the ideas that students have put forward about attendance rewards. This term students are not only working to win rewards for their year groups but also aiming to improve their own attendance so that they can be in with a chance to win a lucky dip prize. In the next few weeks we will be sending out our parental and student surveys and look forward to receiving further feedback that will help us to continue our improvement journey. We will also be launching this year's application process for Head Students and Character Education Deputies.

Applying for positions of responsibility is a great way for students to be engaged in the wider life of school. Some of the other ways in which they can be involved include being part of our academies and societies programme, by representing their year group or houses in team and sporting events/ fixtures and by taking part in some of the excellent

trips and visits that we have on offer. This weekend 40 students set off on our bi-annual ski visit to Italy. I look forward to sharing with you stories and photos of their adventures via our social media platforms.

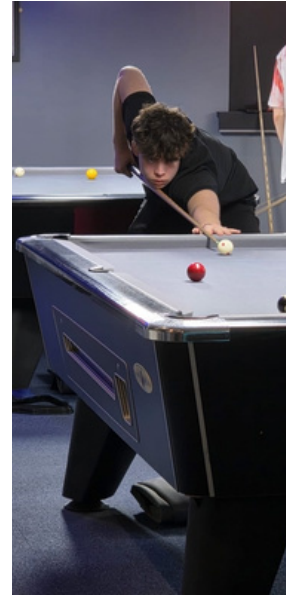


We often talk about students' successes within our newsletters and we recognise that the success comes not only from the support they receive here at school but also from the support that they receive from parents and carers. As a famous quote once mentioned it takes a whole community to raise a child. At Five Acres High School we believe that support from school, family and the local community is crucial in ensuring that our students have brilliant opportunities and can flourish through their early teenage years. It is therefore a good reflection on the whole community when the school is referenced in Government speeches, as has happened this week at the launch of the Government Schools White Paper. At the beginning of her speech, The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP said that Five Acres High School in the Forest of Dean is "a school which works wonders for children..." This is a tremendous accolade for the whole community and I want to thank you for the part you play every day in ensuring that this is, and will continue to be, a fantastic school.

Keeping on the parliamentary theme we are pleased to share with you photos of our students working with others from across the Forest on issues through a mock parliament setup. It is always good to see students debating with others, putting their points of view across and learning to cooperate on issues that matter to them.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition where you will see stories about our students' community spirit (Enterprise Society fundraising), exploits on the national stage and personal achievements through our Character Education programme.

POOL - ENGLAND TRIALS



Congratulations to Year 11 student Owen who has recently trialed for England for Pool. Owen has been representing Gloucestershire this year and has been performing well. He came in the top eight players in the region for the U18s, earning himself a place at the England trials.

Owen didn't make the final selection but says: "I played my best pool I could and all in all I'm very proud of what I achieved and that I managed to get there in just a year. I'm going to aim to try and make it next year and succeed in ultimate pool".

Well done Owen, we are proud of your achievements and wish you all the best for next year!

CELEBRATIONS EVENING FEBRUARY 2026

Thank you to all the students and their families who attended our Celebrations Evening, following completion of the first round of assessments for our students. It was great to see so many of you supporting and sharing in their success. Photos are available to download from the school website - <https://www.5acreshighschool.co.uk/parents/photo-albums/celebrations-evening-feb-26>



KEY DATES

Saturday 28 February - Saturday 7 March
Ski Trip, Aprica Italy
Week commencing 2 March
Year 11 PPEs
Thursday 5 March
Year 8 Parents' Evening
Friday 6 March
Youth Parliament Session 3
Wednesday 11 March
Governors Meeting
Friday 20 March - Sunday 22 March
TenTors
Monday 23 March
Youth Parliament Session 4
Wednesday 25 March
Year 11 Parents' Information Evening - Subject Specific Workshops
Thursday 26 March
Music & Dance Showcase
Friday 27 March
Year 11 Macbeth theatre trip
Monday 30 March - Friday 10 April
Easter Holidays to include Year 11 Champions School revision sessions
Friday 24 April
Year 11 Parents' Information Evening - Subject Specific
Friday 24 April - Sunday 26 April
TenTors
Tuesday 5 May
Governors Meeting
Friday 22 May - Tuesday 26 May
Multisport trip to Belgium
Thursday 4 June
Year 10 Parents' Information Evening
Week commencing 15 June
Year 7-10 Assessments
Week commencing 22 June
Year 7-10 Assessments
Tuesday 23 & Wednesday 24 June
Great Western Heartstarters
Wednesday 24 June
Governors Meeting
Week Commencing 29 June
Year 6 Welcome Days
Tuesday 30 June
New Year 7 Parents' Welcome Evening
Friday 3 July
Year 11 Prom
Week commencing 6 July
Year 5 Super Learning Days
Week commencing 6 July
School production
Monday 13 July
Year 10 Parents' Evening

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

We were pleased to host Matt Bishop MP and students and staff from Newent Community School, The Dean Academy and Dene Magna Sixth Form for the first Youth Parliament session. Students learned how to take part in a debate and had the opportunity to ask the Labour Chief Whip Jonathan Reynolds question via an online link. The second session was held this week at The Dean Academy, with students working towards the final debate to be held in the Forest of Dean District Council Chambers in April.



UNIFORM DONATIONS

If you are updating your child's uniform we would be grateful of any donations to help support more families through our Nearly New Uniform shop. Donations can be left at Reception, Monday - Friday, from 8am - 4pm.

UNIFORM DONATIONS

If your child has left Five Acres High School or you are considering purchasing new uniform, we would be grateful of donations of school uniform and PE kit to support our Nearly New Uniform Shop



Drop-off Location - Reception
8am-4pm

ACADEMIES & SOCIETIES - TERM 2



Overall Academies and Societies List for Term 2

Day	Lunch Time	After School 3-4pm
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Tennis in 10 Block (bring own bat) 1pm • Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y8 1pm 	
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Tennis in 10 Block (bring own bat) 1pm • Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y7 1pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photography Academy (Y10, Room 1) • Girls Football (Y7 & 8) • Dance Academy (All years in 10 Block) • Musical Rehearsal
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Tennis in 10 Block (bring own bat) 1pm • Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y10 1pm • Y11 GCSE PE Table Tennis 1pm 10 block • Book Club in Library 1:15pm (Y7 & Y8) 	<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) • Musical Rehearsal
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Tennis in 10 Block (bring own bat) 1pm • Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y9 • Book Club in Library 1:15pm (Y9 & Y10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls Netball (Y7 &8) • Y10 GCSE PE Badminton in Blue Gym • Table Tennis in 10 Block (Y8 & 9)
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Tennis in 10 Block (bring own bat) 1pm • Bible Study Club Society (All years. Rm 20, 1:10pm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board games/card games Society (All years, room 21) • Lego Society and Craft Society- (All years, room 21). • Darts Academy (All years, 10 block). • Musical Rehearsal

UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

MR ROBBINS - HEAD OF YEAR 9

As we reflect on a fantastic term for our Year 9 cohort, it's been brilliant to see the positive momentum across so many areas. Our Year 9 Options Evening was a real success, with over 80% of students attending, and students have now submitted their option choices; we will be in touch in due course with the next steps and confirmations. Attendance also finished the term on an upward trend over the final two weeks, and I want to celebrate that progress while encouraging everyone to keep it going as we move into this term. Most importantly, the day-to-day conduct and effort of Year 9 continues to stand out, shown by an excellent 7:1 ratio of positive points to negative points – clear evidence that the vast majority of our students are making great choices, contributing positively, and representing the year group with pride.



MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEAR 11

As we find ourselves right in the middle of your final set of PPEs, I want to take a moment to step back and say a massive well done. The focus, maturity, and sheer hard work you are displaying in the exam halls is incredibly impressive. You are tackling these mock exams with the exact mindset needed for the real thing.

I am also thrilled to report that Year 11 attendance has been absolutely excellent. Showing up every day, ready to learn is half the battle, and you are currently winning it. Your daily efforts – every flashcard written, every past paper completed, and every morning you walk through the school gates – are stacking up to create your future success.

The 'common timetabled' exams officially kick off in May. While that might feel like it's approaching quickly, the brilliant news is that based on your current trajectory, you are well on your way to being ready. It has been incredibly inspiring to hear the buzz in the corridors about your life after Year 11. Interviews and offers for colleges, sixth-forms, and apprenticeships are flying in! It is fantastic to see you readying yourselves to take those exciting next steps into young adulthood. You are putting in the work right now, and you are creating your own incredible opportunities as a result.

While I am incredibly proud of your current progress, now is not the time to take your foot off the gas. To ensure you cross the finish line in the summer with the grades you deserve, I need you to stay fiercely focused on three things:

- **Consistent Revision:** Once these PPEs are over, use them as a diagnostic tool. Don't just file away the papers – look at where you dropped marks and focus your future revision on those exact gaps (use your QLAs). Little and often is the secret to retaining knowledge.
- **Outstanding Attendance:** Every single lesson between now and May is crucial. Missing even a handful of days means missing key exam techniques and core knowledge. Keep this excellent attendance streak going right to the very end.
- **Personal Accountability:** Ultimately, your results belong to you. Take ownership of your learning. If you don't understand something, ask your teachers. The intervention sessions that are offered, attend them. Hold yourself accountable for your study schedule at home.



SPARX READER

The inter-tutor competition continues so make sure that you keep up the fantastic engagement with SPARX Reader to be in with a chance of winning prizes!



Tutor Group Leagues are the focus this term.

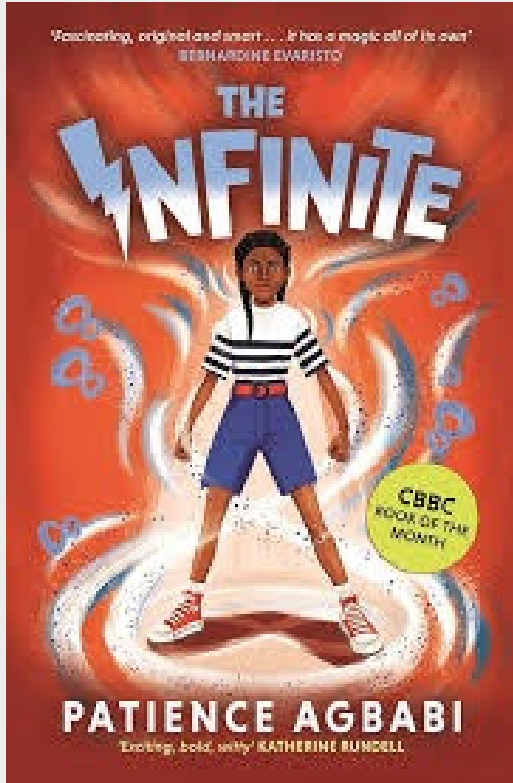
Prizes available for the leading tutor groups in each year!



READING RECOMMENDATIONS

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

KEY STAGE 3



The Infinite by Patience Agbabi

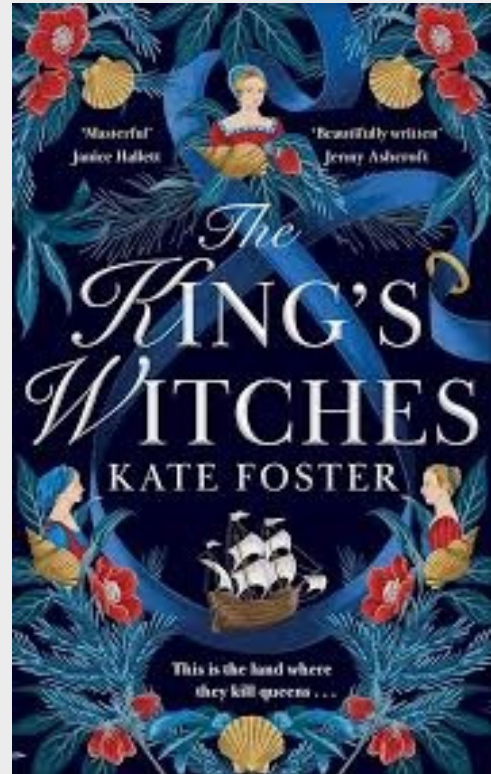
Leaplings, children born on the 29th of February, are very rare. Rarer still are Leaplings with The Gift – the ability to leap through time. Elle Bibi-Imbelé Ifiè has The Gift, but she's never used it. Until now.

On her 12th birthday, Elle and her best friend Big Ben travel to the Time Squad Centre in 2048. Elle has received a mysterious warning from the future. Other Leaplings are disappearing in time – and not everyone at the centre can be trusted.

Soon Elle's adventure becomes more than a race through time. It's a race against time. She must fight to save the world as she knows it – before it ceases to exist...

**BOTH AVAILABLE IN THE
SCHOOL LIBRARY**

KEY STAGE 4



The King's Witches by Kate Foster

Edinburgh, 1589. Princess Anna of Denmark is to wed King James VI of Scotland. First, she must pass the trial period: one year of marriage to prove herself worthy. Under the watchful eye of her loyal lady-in-waiting, Kirsten, Anna resolves to be the perfect royal bride. Until she meets Lord Henry...

Meanwhile, young housemaid Jura has recently fled to the capital, seeking protection and anonymity. But her newfound safety is soon threatened when she is caught up in the witchcraft mania that has gripped the country – and its new queen.

Recommended specifically for Year 11 students who want additional contextual understanding for their Macbeth English GCSE or Elizabethan Era knowledge for their History GCSE!

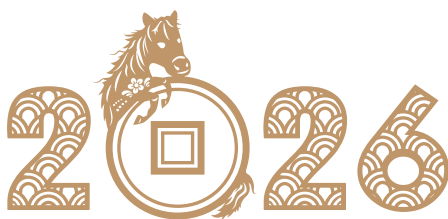
ENTERPRISE SOCIETY FUNDRAISING PRESENTATION

We were recently able to invite representatives from local charities to receive the profits raised by our Enterprise Society students, and share in the success of those who chose national charities to receive their donations. Thank you to Forest of Dean Dog Rescue and Louise Cossey, manager of Coleford Cancer Research shop who met students and found out all about the creative and craft-based ways they raised money. In total the students raised over £700 which was shared across five chosen charities.



CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR

Once again, our canteen team put on an excellent menu to celebrate Chinese New Year, marking the start of the Year of the Fire Horse.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

PRIDE OF COLEFORD AWARDS

Congratulations to all of our students who were nominated and received a Pride of Coleford award at the ceremony held at the Main Place, Coleford on Saturday 31 January. Thank you also to our Head and Deputy Head students for supporting on the day. Students are pictured below with Mayor of Coleford Nick Penny at the event.



Year 8 student Riley and his family were recognised for their amazing Christmas lights display outside their home. The display was made up of more than 6000 lights and was synced to music. Their creative and festive efforts raised over £400 for Coleford Army Cadets.



Thomas, Max and James have raised over £1200 for Macmillan Cancer Support, including completing a 600km bike ride, cycling 36 laps over six days around the Forest's cycle tracks.



Archie in Year 11 worked hard to revamp an unused room in his local church, transforming it into a youth room equipped with a pool table and darts board.



Year 8 student Aofie received her award for the hardwork and dedication she shows to gymnastics, including volunteering weekly at the Forest of Dean Gymnastics and Fitness Centre and supporting at competitions. She has also achieved her British Gymnastics Helper qualification.

CHARACTER EDUCATION SHIELD PRESENTATION

Well done to the students who were presented with their Character Education shields this week.



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

HEAD STUDENT & CHARACTER EDUCATION DEPUTIES FOR 2026-2027

We are about to open the process for current Year 10 students to apply for Head Students and Character Education Lead student and for current Year 8 students to apply for Character Education Deputy Lead roles. The closing date for applications for all for the Head Student / Character Education Lead Student roles will be Monday 23 March and for the Character Education Deputy Lead roles, applications will close on Monday 16 March. Please keep checking your school email addresses for further details on how to apply.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

**HEAD STUDENTS & CHARACTER EDUCATION LEAD (CURRENT Y10)
CHARACTER EDUCATION DEPUTIES (CURRENT Y8)**

Please check your school email for details

THEATRE APPRECIATION

Congratulations to Year 7 student Mylo who has gained his bronze, silver and gold Appreciation badges for attending a variety of venues to appreciate art, drama and culture. Well done!



VALENTINES DISCO

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Year 7 and Year 8 Valentines Disco to raise money for the Morocco expedition.

