



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

30 March 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the end of term edition of our school newsletter. As we reach the Easter holidays, I have been encouraging all of our students in assembly to consider the ideas of purpose, meaning and belonging and how these words can inspire us to aim high, work hard and be kind. Over the last 18 months we have been working incredibly hard to ensure that all students understand that education has a purpose for them, that they can find meaning through understanding the world around them and the impact that they can have on those around them. We continue to develop our inclusivity by ensuring that every child has an opportunity to belong through the wider activities that we provide via our Character Education programme and Academies & Societies. I am incredibly proud of all of our students and the commitment that they show everyday by turning up to their lessons and activities with a positive mindset and the understanding that "the actions that they show on a daily basis indicate the people that they want to be in the future".

This month we have been pleased to receive a wide variety of applications for leadership opportunities within the school, and look forward to interviewing the students and appointing Character Education Deputies and Head Students in the new term. Leadership is an important part of the growth of young people and whether students receive a position, show leadership through class discussion, supporting friends or leading sports teams, knowing how to lead yourself and understanding the effect that you can have on others is a crucial part of development. In this edition of our newsletter you will see how some of our young people have shown their leadership and commitment to wider activities such as Thea who did so well at the national Crufts show, students who represented us at the International Womens' Day session, students who took part in the Shakespeare Schools Festival and students who performed at the school music and dance show, amongst other things.

Later in this newsletter you will also see details of how you can share your voice in our parent survey.

As a school we really value your input into our school, and on the basis of previous feedback we have freshened up our website to include a Report A Concern button, introduced a greater variety of healthy and nutritious food in our



canteen, ensured that our communication is clearer around our expectations and have worked extremely hard to ensure that all students, including our most disadvantaged, get access to the equipment they need and are able to get involved in a wider variety of events and activities. The results of these changes have not only included even greater academic success but have led to a continued improvement in standards across the school and even better attendance, which means that we are now one of only 90 schools in the country to be designated as a RISE Hub school for attendance and behaviour.

Collaboration is one of the key ambitions for the Greenshaw Learning Trust, we continue to do this through our work with other local schools, working with schools in Bristol on attendance and by supporting regional and national conferences on themes such as belonging, Character Education and school improvement. The collaboration that we have with you as parents, and with our students through the student council and student forums and survey, alongside the parent survey enriches our school and ensures that we are truly community-led school. We are proud to serve you and look forward to continuing to offer the best education in the local area so that your children have the best chance of personal and academic success.

I wish you a fantastic Easter break and look forward to seeing all students return on Monday 13 April. Further details of what your children will be covering in the summer term will be sent prior to their restart.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

We were proud to celebrate International Women's Day by welcoming a group of inspiring women from across the Forest of Dean to speak with our Excellence Pathway students. Their stories, advice and experiences sparked thoughtful conversations and encouraged our students to think ambitiously about their futures.

A huge thank you to our brilliant speakers for giving their time and inspiring the next generation.



SPEAKING OUT FOR EQUALITY



Well done to Year 7 student Mollie who recently earned her Confidence, Oracy bronze Character Education badge for speaking to her tutor group about the Equality Act 2012.

GOALKEEPING SUCCESS



Well done to Year 7 student Milly who was a mascot for Cheltenham Town Women's Football Club this month, walking out with the club's goalkeeper Poppy Irvine. Milly is the goalkeeper for Lydney Town Youth U12 Lionesses and is doing really well, the team winning 9 of their last 11 games.

GROWS RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

GROWS is offering an amazing opportunity for Year 9 students to have a taste of university life. The Residential is due to take place from Wednesday 29 to Thursday 30 July (staying overnight on Wednesday 29 July) at Hartpury University. Students can take on new challenges and get stuck into extra-curricular experiences that can go on their CV or college application! Apply online by Friday 17 April 2026 by visiting www.grows.ac.uk/residential



KEY DATES

**Monday 30 March -
Friday 10 April**

Easter Holidays to include Year 11
Champions School revision
sessions

Wednesday 15 April

Year 11 PE GCSE Moderation

Friday 17 April

Youth Parliament Session

Thursday 23 April

Year 11 Parents' Information
Evening - Subject Specific

Friday 24 April -

Sunday 26 April

TenTors

Tuesday 5 May

Governors Meeting

Monday 18 May

Y7-10 Girls Rugby Festival

Friday 22 May -

Tuesday 26 May

Multisport trip to Belgium

Thursday 4 June

Year 10 Parents'

Information Evening

Thursday 11 June

Year 9 DTP/MenACWY
vaccination session

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 10 Work Experience Week

Week Commencing 29 June

Year 6 Welcome Days

Tuesday 30 June

New Year 7 Parents'

Welcome Evening

Friday 3 July

Year 11 Prom -

Speech House Hotel

Week commencing 6 July

Year 5 Super Learning Days

Week commencing 6 July

School Musical

Thursday 9 July

Greenshaw Learning Trust

Sports Day

Monday 13 July

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 15 &

Thursday 16 July

Sports Days

Thursday 16 July

Celebration Evening

Monday 20 July

INSET Day

Tuesday 21 July-Monday 31

August

Summer Holidays

CRUFTS STARS

Congratulations to Year 9 student Thea and her dog Meep on their success at the recent Crufts competition. Thea says: "Meep is two years old, she came from America a few months ago. I have been showing dogs since I was five years old and this time at Crufts was my second time of showing Meep. She earned fourth place out of a class of 13, which was the largest class on the day. She is also an American champion dog".



ART LEADERSHIP TEAM COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Art Leadership Team has created some beautiful work inspired by the theme 'centenary' for a community event. Some decided to look at what other significant things turn 100 this year and others enjoyed experimenting with techniques and materials. Their work has been on display at Lydbrook Memorial Hall as part of its Centenary celebration.



UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

MR JONES - HEAD OF YEAR 7

We are still number 1 for attendance; we are still number 1 for behaviour; we are still number 1 for Character Education. Attendance is 95.3% for the year to date but we have not had any cookies for being over 96% since half-term! We need to be in every day. The tutor sash competition is close each week but 7SWS are still the tutor group to catch with 96.8%.

Our positive behaviour points per pupil is now at a staggering 293.05 - over 80 more than our nearest rivals in Year 8. A massive well done to Nika, Neha and Mia-Mae who are having a huge impact on that average by all having over 800 positive points individually. Mia-Mae joined Mylo for the Golden Ticket Afternoon tea with Mr Ogden, after both being nominated for their positive contribution to school life.

We now have a number of students who have earned over 10 Character Education badges, including Max P and Paige I, which is very impressive as students showcase their extra-curricular engagement. One more term to go; many more opportunities to shine!



MRS PHELPS - HEAD OF YEAR 8

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all our students for leading the way with their excellent attendance this term. Their commitment, resilience, and positive attitude have set a fantastic example, and it has been wonderful to see such dedication to learning across the school. As we reach the end of this busy and successful term, the Easter holidays provide a valuable opportunity to rest, recharge, and reprioritise. Taking this time to relax and reflect will help ensure that everyone returns refreshed, motivated, and ready to continue their learning journey next term. We are incredibly proud of all that you have achieved – well done!

A few special mentions this month - congratulations to Beth H, our school Poet Laureate, as one of only 120 successful shortlisted entries to the Young Poet Laureate Programme by the National Literacy Trust and supported by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage. You can read her poem on page 10 of this newsletter. Well done to George R who took part in an inspiring display of dedication and pride being part of the Back Badge Parade. What an honour it must have been to take part in such an event and lead the cadets from their starting place at Westgate Street, Gloucester, through the town. Well done, George!

Finally, a special mention to 12 students who still have 100% attendance, 0 negatives and a growing number of positives. Well done to Edith B, Bobby D, Lily H, Lily-Rose H, Jayden H, Jessica N, Emelia P, Evie P, Josh S, Aalish T, Sophia W, Eve W. All students have received individual recognition for their determination to their studies. From this group of students, Josh S was nominated as the Golden Ticket Winner for making it on to this list despite a significant injury that would justify a compromise to his excellent attendance. Well done, all!

Please keep informing me of all aspects of student life inside and out. It is always a pleasure to celebrate the dedication and commitment the students are making to school, their community and beyond. Please send information to kpelps@5acreshighschool.co.uk. Enjoy the Easter break!



MR ROBBINS - HEAD OF YEAR 9

Year 9 have made a fantastic start to March, and I have been really pleased with how positively the year group has continued to perform. Attendance at the start of the month was phenomenal, reaching around 97-98%, and has remained strong throughout the March term. This is a real credit to our students and families, and it reflects the positive attitude that so many of our students are showing. It has been wonderful to see students continuing to build positive points through acts of kindness, helping others around the school, completing extra homework, submitting homework early, and taking part in extra-curricular activities. The recent ski trip was a huge success, with many Year 9 students having a brilliant time; for some, it was their first experience skiing abroad, and for others, their first opportunity to travel abroad, making it a particularly memorable experience. We were also pleased to see the first Headteacher Student Voice meeting take place this month, where a select group of Year 9 students had the opportunity to speak directly with Mr Phelps about their views and opinions on school life. In addition, Year 9 options have now been completed, and communication regarding students' choices will be sent out shortly as we begin preparing for the transition into Year 10. I look forward to another successful month ahead, with Year 9 continuing their strong upward trend in attendance, positive points, enthusiasm for learning and determination to be the best version of themselves.



UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

MR BURKE - HEAD OF YEAR 10

As we approach the Easter break, I want to congratulate Year 10 on a fantastic Term 4. This term is often where the "jump" to KS4 truly settles in, and we have seen a remarkable shift in maturity and focus across the year group. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or through our Character Education program, our students continue to embody what it means to #BeMoreFive.



Recently Year 10 has been the best performing Maths year group in the trust. This is a great achievement and shows how committed the cohort are to committed to getting it right, so a big well done to the whole year group. If you haven't secured your work experience placement yet, use the Easter break to reach out to local businesses. Remember, our Careers Adviser, Mrs. Dobson, is available for guidance.

To all our students, parents, and carers: Have a very happy, healthy, and chocolate-filled Easter break!

MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEAR 11

Welcome to your very last term of Year 11! Take a moment to let that sink in. You have spent years walking these corridors, learning, growing, and preparing for exactly this moment. The finish line is finally in sight. We know that right now, the air feels thick with expectations. It is completely normal to feel a bit overwhelmed or pressured as exam season approaches, but we also want you to know that this is an incredibly exciting time. You are standing on the edge of your next big adventure, and how you tackle these next few weeks will help set the stage for it.



The upcoming exams are a big deal, and feeling pressured is a natural response. That pressure just means you care about your future. However, these exams do not define your worth; they are simply a chance to show what you have learned.

The goal isn't necessarily perfection. The goal is to walk out of your final exam knowing, without a shadow of a doubt, that you gave it everything you had. If you try your absolute best, you will be able to look back on this intense period with immense pride. Leave nothing on the table, and you will have no regrets.

It might be tempting to think you can study better at home, or that missing one day won't hurt, but attendance right now is more crucial than ever. Access to Experts - your teachers are your best revision tools. Being in lessons means you get their final tips, tricks, and answers to your specific questions. Every lesson counts - show up, be present, and make the most of the support surrounding you.

When the fatigue sets in and you are struggling to find the motivation to open another revision guide, close your eyes and picture the longest summer break of your life. Once that final exam is over, you have months of absolute freedom stretching out ahead of you. No homework, no revision guilt, no early alarms. Just time to sleep in, hang out with your friends, celebrate your hard work, and get excited about whatever comes next - whether that is sixth form, college, or an apprenticeship. You are just a few weeks of hard work away from that incredible feeling of freedom. Earn that break!

GOLDEN TICKET CELEBRATION

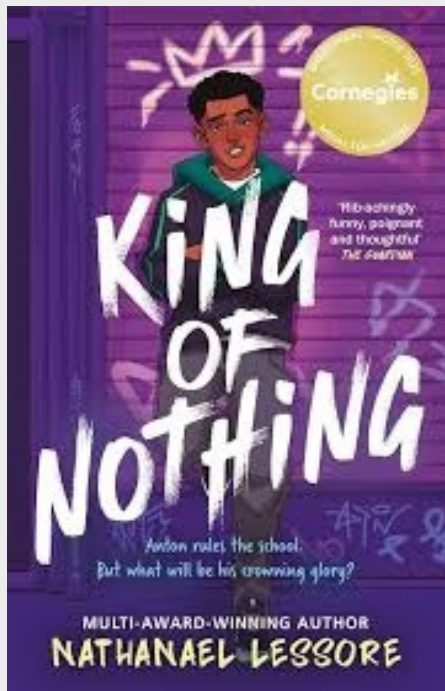
Congratulations to the students who were nominated by the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Year to join Deputy Headteacher Mr Ogden for an afternoon tea in the last week of term. Nominations ranged from achieving excellent attendance, having a fantastic start since joining us as an in-year admission, receiving 0 negative points and moving up teaching groups following the last round of assessments. Well done everyone!



READING RECOMMENDATIONS

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

KEY STAGE 3

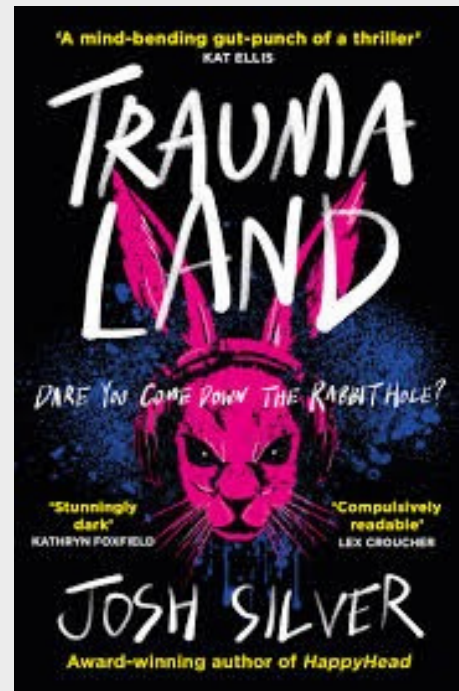


King of Nothing by Nathanael Lesore

Anton and his friends are the kings of Year 9! They're used to ruling the school and Anton wears the crown. The other kids run away when he's about but that's the way he wants it - he's got a reputation to live up to after all. So, when he gets into serious trouble at school, he doesn't really care, but his mum most definitely does. She decides it's time for Anton to make some new friends and join the Happy Campers, a local activity group. Anton would quite literally rather do anything else, especially when he finds out Matthew, the biggest loser in school, is also a member.

After Matthew unexpectedly saves Anton's life, Anton figures maybe this kid is worth a shot. Teaching him some game is the least Anton can do to repay the debt. As the boys strike up an unlikely friendship, Anton finds himself questioning everything he thought was important. Does he want ruling the school to be his crowning glory or should he set his sights on better things?

KEY STAGE 4



TraumaLand by Josh Silver

Welcome to TraumaLand. You are now Jack. Your story will start in 3... 2... 1...

Eli has been in a near-fatal accident, which has left him with no memory and no emotions. According to his therapist, he suffers from an Overwhelming Emptiness.

Desperate to feel something again, Eli winds up at TraumaLand, an underground club where crowds of emotionally numb party-goers seek a new thrill. Through hyper-real virtual reality simulations, they can experience nightmarish events happening to other people. But when Eli immerses himself in Jack's story, he starts to suspect there may be a darker - more dangerous - truth to the club.

**BOTH AVAILABLE
IN THE
SCHOOL LIBRARY**

SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

Students recently took part in the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Riverfront theatre in Newport. This was a fantastic event where they were able to perform on a professional stage with a professional stage management team. This is a national event which takes place every year and is entered by over 200 schools each year. This year was the 25th anniversary of the festival. The final performance was one to be extremely proud of and showcased some of the best talent we have in our school. Matt Bishop MP attended the performance and extended his congratulations to all of those involved.

"THE REST IS SILENCE"

Hamlet
by Five Acres High School
at The Riverfront, 4th March 2026
appraised by Tom Barker

It is an absolute delight, in our 25th anniversary year, to be celebrating with Five Acres High School and to be marking this milestone with their wonderful production of Hamlet as part of Shakespeare Schools Theatre Festival's Spring season. Here are some of my highlights from the performance at The Riverfront.

Having been told this piece was inspired by the theme of mental health I was intrigued to see what this company had created and I was very impressed. So many theatrical devices deployed brilliantly to give us, the audience, an look into the unsettled and unsettling mind of Hamlet. From the open movement piece giving us an idea of the chaos within, to their literally being two performers taking on the role of Hamlet, giving us the duality of the character on stage, a good Hamlet and Chaotic Hamlet, all at once.

I really enjoyed the moments of physical theatre within this production. The opening choreography as well as the play within the play, which were both engaging and visually striking. Even as characters died on stage, there was a clear sense of theatricality in these moments, which added to the overall atmosphere and helped create a powerful feeling in the room. These thoughtful choices gave the production a cohesive and memorable style.

I was particularly impressed with the voices throughout this production, that carried effortlessly across the space. Clear, strong voices delivering lines of Shakespeare with such ownership and understanding, that showcased the talent of this group.

I was very impressed with the maturity and teamwork of this company. So much death and tragedy within the story handled really well and to get all that choreography delivered to that level shows the teamwork that was involved.

Performances like this show us that Shakespeare can live on, in the hands of young people, in fresh, exciting and reimagined ways. We hope to welcome you back to Shakespeare Schools Theatre Festival for another 25 years - and beyond!

A BOLD, INTRIGUING HAMLET FROM A MATURE, CREATIVE COMPANY.



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Parent voice is an important development tool for our school and we would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the parent survey found at the link: <https://forms.gle/Z5UztMX6XTUvbpjHA> or scan the QR code below.

We really value your honest feedback and would once again like to give you the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas with us. This survey is completely anonymous and will close on Wednesday 15 April.



Have Your Say!

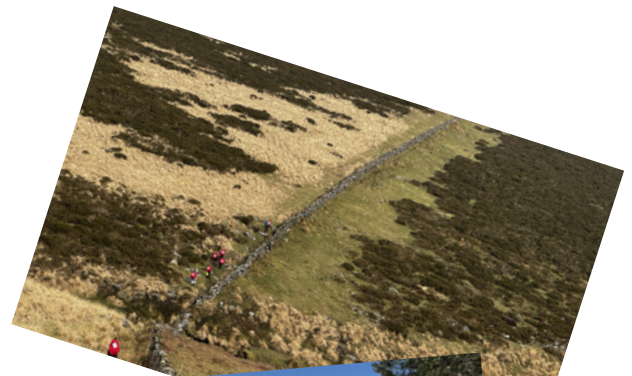
Please complete our Parent Survey by Wednesday 15th April

Please click on the link below or check your emails.



TENTORS TRAINING EVENT - DARTMOOR

Another brilliant weekend of TenTors training over the weekend of 20-22 March. Well done to all our students who took on the route in preparation for the final event coming up in May. A fantastic effort everyone!



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

MUSIC & DANCE SHOW

On Thursday 26 March students from Year 7 up to Year 11 performed in the Music and Dance show headed up by Miss Griffin and Mr Clement. There were some incredible performances, from large dance numbers, to solo musicians. Some highlights of the night were Sophie H in Year 10's tap dance to 'Beat it', Orglagh M and Olivia B (Year 7) created their own dance routine, showcasing some of the amazing up and coming talent we have in the school. A final shout out to four Year 11 boys who go by, 'The Undecided'. They have performed at every music event the school has done since they joined in Year 7 and it was amazing to see how far they have come. They regularly play gigs out of school and we would highly recommend seeing them perform. It was an incredible evening of talent!



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.



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

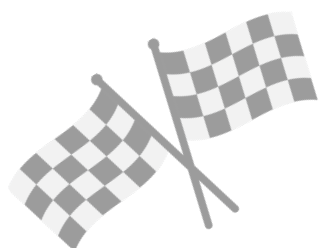
A whopping 532 students hit their attendance target for this term, which means 532 students have either maintained their 96%+ attendance from last term or moved into the next attendance band above. This is huge - thank you for all you do every day to support your child to be in school. Our attendance team were on hand to offer students a small prize from our lucky dip.



POETRY IN POLE POSITION

As mentioned in Mrs Phelps' Head of Year update, huge congratulations to Beth in Year 8 on her recognition in the Young Poet Laureate Programme. Her poem 'Within These Racing Lines', was inspired by her love for Formula 1 racing and her ambition to one day work in that field. She has been invited to take part in a regional poetry masterclass, and will have her poem published in an anthology.

Within these racing lines



A silver arrow, sleek and bold and bright,
Awakens to the sun, a fiery gleam.
A rumbling heart, preparing for the fight,
A waking giant, living out a dream.

The track awaits, a ribbon gray and long,
Where rubber sings and engines start to roar.
A symphony of power, fierce and strong,
A battle waged on asphalt, to explore.

Each corner sharp, a test of skill and nerve,
A dance of speed, a calculated grace.
Where victory waits, for those who will observe,
And push the limits of this thrilling race.

The crowd erupts, a wave of sound and light,
As drivers push, with all their strength and might.
Flags are raised, as tension cuts the air,
Each breath is held in hope, belief, and prayer.

The checkered flag, a welcome, final sign,
A moment captured, etched in history's hold.
A victor crowned, beneath the sun's decline,
A story whispered, brave and true and bold.

But more than speed, and engines' mighty call,
Is teamwork forged, and spirits intertwined.
A brotherhood that rises, should one fall,
A shared ambition, for all humankind.

The pit stop crew, a flurry in the shade,
Each movement quick, a ballet to be seen.
Where precious seconds, carefully are made,
To keep the dream, eternally serene.

The spray of champagne, laughter fills the air,
A celebration of a victory rare.


The echoes fade, the circuit now is still,
But memories linger, of the day's display.
A passion burns, upon the lonely hill,
Anticipating when they come to play.

The sun descends, a gentle, golden hue,
Painting the sky with colours soft and deep.
A promise whispers, of adventures new,
While engines slumber, and the world's asleep.

And in the quiet, one truth brightly shines,
The spirit lives, within these racing lines.



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026

Recognising the region's budding young chefs

Young cooks, aged 11-16, are invited to send us their recipe for a main course dish for two, using principally locally-produced ingredients, as their entry for South West Junior Chef of the Year 2026


Our judges will invite selected entrants to prepare their dish, in 90 minutes, at a county final, initially, and the winners in each county will meet at the grand final in the Autumn to compete for the overall title.

All county winners will be supported by one of our judges, who will act as their mentor, helping them to enhance their dish and providing a fantastic opportunity to develop their skills and experience life in a working kitchen.


Gloucestershire County Final

Thursday 25th June 3.15pm
Bath College

Judges
Chris Cleghorn
Executive Chef, The Olive Tree, Queensberry Hotel, Bath
Martin Blake
Head Chef, The Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath
Stephen Wesley
Chef Lecturer, Bath College
Laura Nutten
Chef Lecturer, Bath College



South West and Devon Junior Chef of the Year 2026, Jessica Klapala, and head judge, Michael Caines MBE




Jessica's winning dish, courgette cod fillet with dashi/beurre blanc and oyster

Entry closing date: Tuesday 26th May 2026


The South West Junior Chef final will be held at Exeter College, Devon, on Saturday 10th October 2026. Competitors must be aged 11-16 and still at school in year 11 or below on the date of the South West final.

South West Junior Chef of the Year is sponsored by



Thanks to our partnership with Springboard FutureChef, our South West finalists will be invited to take part in the FutureChef regional final to compete for a place in their national final in 2027.

For more information and to submit your entry, visit: www.southwestchef.co.uk
Email: info@southwestchef.co.uk Tel: 07970 518756
@ swchefcomp f southwestchef

Lead sponsor: 



Berry Hill Community Orchard

Join us at the Orchard to celebrate our 10th Anniversary Year!

Saturday 4th April

Berry Hill Band will be opening the celebrations with a selection of tunes.


10.00am – 11am – Fun at the orchard with stalls, games, crafts and Easter activities.

11am -11.30 - Organised walk and Scavenger Hunt within the local area, starting at the orchard.

11.30am onwards- BYO Picnic to be enjoyed at the Orchard.



Bream Community Library



Studying over Easter?
We are offering a quiet place to study in the library

Wednesday 1 and 8 April
10:30-18:30
Friday 10 April
10:30-17:00

Free wifi, computer access and loads of books.

Bream Community Library is run by volunteers on behalf of the residents of the West Dean Parish and the wider community



JUNIOR WEEK 2026



AGES 10-18 • 3RD-7TH AUGUST
SAILING - GAMES - TEAMWORK - CAMPING
BOOK NOW!

<https://forms.gle/8NhGkRkziVyje4hc8>