



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

31 May 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter. I would like to start by congratulating our Year 11 students on the way that they have approached the first half of their written exam series. Their determination to succeed along with the effort that they are showing in their revision and lessons has meant that they have been well prepared for the exams and have come out of the majority of them happy with the questions and knowing that they have given a good account of themselves. They have been working incredibly hard on initiatives such as 'gain a grade' and I am pleased to say that as a result of their efforts we will be contributing to their Prom fund as their reward. I appreciate that energy and effort is also required at home to support students through this challenging time, and I would like to thank all parents and carers and wider family members who support students at this time.

Whilst exams and other assessments can often dominate educational talk, I am proud that as a school we are equally invested in helping students towards personal success. This term we have been interviewing for leadership positions in Character Education and for the Head Student Team. I look forward to being able to share with you a full list of those who have been appointed in the June edition of our newsletter.

Students in Year 10 have also been working hard to secure their work experience placements. This is another important aspect of their personal development and once again I would like to thank family, friends and other contacts who have been called upon to provide an outstanding range of opportunities, that will stretch and challenge our students.

The coming months bring a number of other opportunities for students in all year groups. We will be welcoming students from local primary schools to the school and ensuring that all Year 7, 8 and 9 students have the opportunity to attend a visit during the final week of June. There is also plenty to look forward to on the sporting front, with

our annual sports days, GLT Athletics Championships and an impressive range of fixtures in summer sports.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated team within PE who provide a vast array of sporting opportunities throughout the year, including overseas visits such as the Belgium football and netball tour that has taken place during half term. It has also been a pleasure to see our students excel on their TenTors expedition, once again showing confidence as they navigated their way through Dartmoor.

As we continue to develop and grow as a school, we are constantly thinking of ways in which we can improve the experience of our students. Recently we have invested heavily in renewing our Design Technology machinery, have opened up new spaces as part of our lunchtime offer, updated our internet and are in the process of renewing chromebooks for students to access and relocated our Drama room to a more suitably sized space.

Investing in our students' future is important to us as a school and the Greenshaw Learning Trust. Our CEO Will Smith, recently recognised with the award of an OBE, is committed to ensuring that all students benefit from a brilliant learning environment and ensuring that we collaborate with a wide range of schools and partners so that our students get the very best offer. Being part of a progressive trust has led to some huge improvements at this school over the last nine years, and we continue to look forward to where their support can take us into the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of our newsletter - I look forward to continuing to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our staff and students with you.



HAY ON WYE LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Student librarians enjoyed a day in the sunshine at the Hay-on-Wye Literature Festival on Friday 22 May. They went to talks by Five Acres High School canon author Manjeet Mann and recent book club read Nathanael Lessore.



TEN TORS CHALLENGE

Huge congratulations to our 2026 TenTors team - Maximus, Thomas, Daisy, Chloe, Charlie-Mae and Phoebe - who successfully completed their 35-mile challenge earlier this month. They all showed fantastic ambition and amazing determination as they navigated their way across Dartmoor!



AMBITION - CONFIDENCE - CREATIVITY - DETERMINATION - RESPECT

KEY DATES

Thursday 4 June

Year 10 Parents' Information Evening

Thursday 11 June

Year 9 DTP/MenACWY vaccination session

Friday 12 June

GLT Rounders tournament (Years 7-10)

Week commencing 15 June

Year 7-10 Assessments

Week commencing 22 June

Year 7-10 Assessments

Monday 22 June

Maths Challenge

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

Monday 29 June

Year 9 Caerleon visit (A side)

Tuesday 30 June

New Year 7 Parents' Welcome Evening

Thursday 2 July

Year 8 Caerleon visit (B side)

Thursday 2 July

Monkhouse Schoolwear sizing event (2:30-6pm)

Friday 3 July

Year 7 Stratford Upon Avon trip

Friday 3 July

Year 11 Prom -

Speech House Hotel

Week commencing 6 July

Year 5 Super

Learning Days

Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 July

School of Rock performances

Thursday 9 July

Greenshaw Learning Trust

Sports Day

Monday 13 July

Golden Ticket Celebration

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

Tuesday 1 September &

Wednesday 2 September

INSET Days

STUDENT COUNCIL

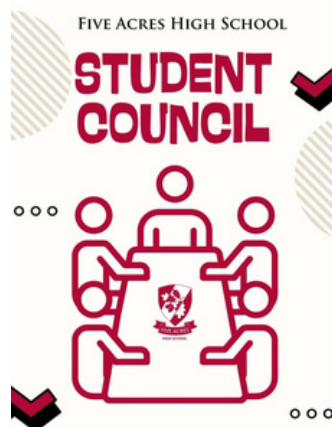
Our Student Council has now completed four rounds of discussions and has already achieved some fantastic outcomes. Students have spoken really positively about our new approach to student voice, and our tutor representatives have done an excellent job gathering such a wide range of views and opinions.

The variety of responses shared shows that everyone involved in the council - including our Year Group Chairs and Vice Chairs - has played an important role in making the process a success.

We're already seeing the impact of student feedback. For example, "In It to Win It" vouchers are now being distributed more fairly, and the canteen has introduced new grab-and-go subs at lunchtime. Other ideas will take a little longer to implement, such as the development of our brilliant Tutor Time Reading Programme so that texts link more closely to learning across the curriculum.

Our Chairs and Vice Chairs have also led a week of assemblies, confidently sharing the outcomes of Student Council discussions with the wider school community - and they have made me incredibly proud.

We have achieved so much already in less than a year, and it's exciting to think about what we can continue to accomplish together in the future.



UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

MR JONES - HEAD OF YEAR 7

May seems to have flown by but it marks a turning point in the academic year as I began my primary visits for our next Year 7 cohort whilst our Year 11s began their GCSEs. Our current Year 7s have all been aiming high and working hard in as they look ahead to their end of year assessments.

This term Year 7s have averaged an impressive 74 positive points per pupil! Well done to all of those who have earned house points, postcards and Character Education badges and thank you for your continued support as parents/carers.

A particular well done to our Year 7 Student Council representatives who have been working hard with Mrs Flinders for the entire academic year. In the last week of term, Nika and Neha played a pivotal part in delivering assemblies about the Student Council and how it offers a voice for all students to all year groups. Excellent work!

The final term promises to be a fantastic one as we look forward to a whole year group trip to the birthplace of Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon, Sports Days, the school production of School of Rock and much much more.



MRS PHELPS - HEAD OF YEAR 8

As we enter the final stretch of the academic year, I want to begin by thanking you for your continued support and celebrating some huge wins for Year 8. Last term, our cohort's attendance figures were great, reflecting the dedication and resilience of our students. Showing up every day is the single most important foundation for academic success, and it has been wonderful to see the Year 8 classrooms consistently buzzing with energy. Let's keep this brilliant momentum going right up until the summer holidays!

Looking ahead, June brings a shift in focus as we prepare for our end-of-year assessments. This can be a challenging period for 12- and 13-year-olds, so we are placing a heavy emphasis on managing this stress through preparation, mutual respect, and kindness among peers. Alongside academic focus, we are also renewing our commitment to impeccable punctuality. We expect students to be on time not just for their lessons, but for our morning "meet and greet" sessions, which set a positive, structured tone for the entire day. Thank you for ensuring your child arrives ready to learn, and let's work together to make this a successful and harmonious end to Year 8.

Well done to Connie J for her commended entry to the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year 2026 with her 'Vatican City' piece! We also need to congratulate Kyran H, Fred H, Evie P and Guinny H who enjoyed a trip to the Hay Literature Festival on the last day of term to celebrate their commitment and determination to reading at Five Acres High School, whether that be through offering library services or participating in our weekly book clubs.

Leaderboard toppers also need a mention! For Sparx Reader, highest Sparx Reader Points to date, well done to: Aalish T, Kya P, Leila M, Lily H and Evie P. You guys are nailing it!

Well done to Mrs Selwyn's tutor group for the highest rating of Sparx Maths completion to date. You guys are leading the way to consistency! Great job!

Bedrock Literacy Curriculum leaders, a huge well done to: Lily H, Albert B, Phoenix M, Jensen P and Mia M-F.



MR MR ROBBINS - HEAD OF YEAR 9

Year 9 has continued their excellent year in truly positive fashion, and it has been fantastic to see so many students working hard, getting involved and representing the year group so well. Across the board, students have been showing real commitment to their learning, with positive points continuing to rise, strong homework completion, and a clear focus in lessons as many are now beginning their revision in preparation for the upcoming assessments. It is brilliant to see so many students taking this seriously and showing such maturity in the way they are preparing. We have also had some fantastic successes beyond the classroom, with our girls' rounders team and boys'



UPDATES FROM HEADS OF YEAR

athletics team competing against other schools and performing exceptionally well, which is a real credit to their effort, determination and teamwork. On top of this, Year 9 also won the whole-school attendance prize by hitting our target of 94.5%, which meant cookie treats for two weeks in a row — a well-earned reward and a reflection of the brilliant commitment our students are showing each day. With so much to celebrate already, I am very much looking forward to seeing this positive momentum continue over the rest of the year.

A special mention to Maximus B, Chloe SC, Charlie-Mae W, Thomas EE, Daisy K, & Phoebe W for all completing their 35-mile Ten Tors challenge. What a fantastic achievement!

MR HAYWARD - HEAD OF YEAR 11

First things first: congratulations on a fantastic start to the exam season. Walking into that exam hall for the first time is no small feat. The focus, maturity, and determination you have shown over these first few days have been nothing short of brilliant. You didn't just show up; you stepped up.

As we clear the first hurdle and look at the weeks ahead, we want to share the same three words that we regularly talk to Year 11 about - Growth, Opportunity, and Success.



Growth: Think back to how you felt about these exams six months ago, or even last week. The nerves were real. But look at you now, you are actively doing the thing you were worried about.

Every hour of revision, every flashcard, and every exam paper you complete is reshaping what you are capable of. This period isn't just about testing your memory; it's about building resilience, time management, and focus. You are growing into the person who can handle big pressure. That is a skill that will serve you for the rest of your life.

Opportunity: It's easy to look at an exam paper as a barrier, but we want you to flip that perspective. Every exam is an opportunity. It is your stage to say, "Here is what I know. Here is what I can do." These papers are the keys that will open the doors to your next choices—whether that's A-Levels, college, apprenticeships, or future careers. Don't fear the paper; look at it as your chance to unlock what comes next.

Success: Yes, we want you to get the absolute best grades you can, but true success during these exams is defined by your effort, not just your final grade.

If you walk out of that hall knowing you gave it everything you had, left no question blank, and stayed focused until the final second—that is a success. You are already proving you have the work ethic to succeed in the real world. Keep striving for that feeling of personal pride. We were asked as staff to send a message to Y11 students at the start of the exams, my message was directly linked to this thought around success. 'If you put in 100% effort, you'll earn the pride of your family and yourself-and that's what matters most'.

BRITISH SANDWICH WEEK

In recognition of British Sandwich Week, our canteen team celebrated in style on Thursday 21 May with hot pork baguettes, fish finger sandwiches, bacon rolls and all the trimmings.





Overall Academies and Societies List for Term 3

Day	Lunch Time	After School 3-4pm
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redgra/Field Football Y7 Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y8 1pm Platinum Character Education project (Y9/10/11 in Rm 27) 	
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redgra/Field Football Y8 Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y7 1pm Design & Technology Society 1:10pm in RM 7 (Y10 only) (Week A only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photography Academy (Y10, Room 1) Dance Academy (Production Dance) (All years in Hall) Musical Rehearsal Design & Technology Society in Rm 7 (Y10 only) (Week B only) Cricket Nets (all years) Senior Rock Band (week B)
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redgra/Field Football Y9 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) Musical Rehearsal Rounders (all years) Softball (all years)
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redgra/Field Football Y10 Dodgeball Academy in Blue Gym Y9 Book Club in Library 1:15pm (Y9 & Y10) Choir (Music Room all years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics (all years)- 1 selected event each week.
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redgra/Field Football Y11 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). Musical Rehearsal

READING RECOMMENDATIONS

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

KEY STAGE 3



Spark by Mitch Johnson

Ash has always lived in Last Village, lonely since his father left and never came back.

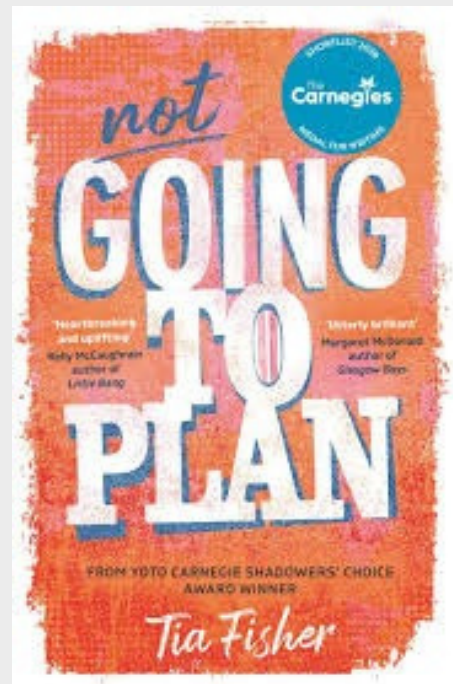
The world is unbearably hot, water is drying up, and life is hard. After a vicious thunderstorm, Ash wakes to find that the village's water has completely run out, and all the other villagers have mysteriously disappeared.

Accompanied by the outcast Bronwyn, Ash sets off in search of water, for answers about what happened to the villagers, with hope they might find 'The Kingdom' - a rumoured land to the north where life still flourishes.

Ash and Bronwyn have to survive a journey across an arid landscape, discovering that other people out there are even more dangerous than the lightning strikes that follow them. Then they reach The Wall - beyond it, something impossible.

Lying in wait are the answers Ash is searching for, and maybe even the truth about what happened to his father. If only he could get past The Wall... Sometimes all it takes is just one spark.

KEY STAGE 4



Not Going To Plan by Tia Fisher

Marnie's really messed up this time. Expelled and forced to change schools, the only empty seat in Marnie's new school is next to Zed, a nerd with zero tolerance for mistakes. Marnie (skilled at art and Spanish, struggles with numbers) can't wait to lose her virginity. Zed (brilliant at maths and physics, loathes languages) is a loner who can't stand being touched. They couldn't be less alike, but they both need good grades in the subjects they hate.

What starts as a trade in tuition turns into an unlikely friendship - and after Marnie has sex with a boy who lies about using a condom, she needs Zed's help to make the hardest decision of her life.

**BOTH AVAILABLE IN THE
SCHOOL LIBRARY**

GYMNASTICS JUDGING

A huge well done to Year 8 student Aoife O'B for the honour she received in being asked to join the judging panel of the Primary School Gymnastics Championships recently. Aoife has dedicated 11 years to the Forest of Dean Gymnastics club and her voluntary work was recently recognised with a Pride of Coleford Award. Aoife we are so proud of you, well done!



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SCHOOL of ROCK

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MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER SCRIPT BY JULIAN FELLOWES LYRICS BY GLENN SLATER

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8th & 9th July Main Hall

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Ticket Price:
£4 UNDER 18'S
£6 18'S AND OVER

Tickets available from School Reception - www.ticketsource.com/5-acres-high-school

MEET THE TEAM

Each month we will shine a spotlight on the great staff we have across our school. Please meet our Science Department



Mrs Motterham

"I am a field biologist who can hunt out living things in pretty much any location. Away from Science I am a musician, if you see a brass band locally, I'm likely to be there!"

Miss Tyler

"Former Lakers student, turned technician, supporting the team with exciting science practicals. A horse rider, plant lover and busy mum in my spare time."



Dr Kelly



"I studied pathology and microbiology at the university of Bristol and then completed my PhD in asthma immunology at the university of Southampton where I worked in medical research before becoming a teacher. I love teaching and sharing my experience with students."

Mrs Masters

"I have taught Science for more than 20 years and I really enjoy teaching all three areas. Outside of school, I cycle, run and love the outdoors, especially the mountains."



Mr Uroko

"I moved to the UK in 2024 to further my teaching career. One of the interesting things I find is how my accent is changing which in turn affects the three local dialects I would normally speak back in my home country. It feels like a speech metamorphosis but I guess this is the science of human life."

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Parent & Carer Workshops

Supporting a child's wellbeing? **You don't have to do it alone.**

These workshops are here to support you, so you can support them.

Wednesdays

10/06/26 - 15/07/26
(there won't be a session on 24/06)

10.30am - 12.00pm
@Stroud Brewery

Wednesdays

10/06/26 - 08/07/26

19.00pm - 20.30pm
via Zoom

Find out more:
www.letstalkwell.org.uk/parents-carers/workshops

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6:30PM - 7:30PM
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www.englishbicknorafcyouth.co.uk

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HARROW HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

OPEN TRAINING

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WEDS 3RD JUNE
6PM - 7PM

WEDS 10TH JUNE
6PM - 7PM

U12'S TRAINING FOR UNDER 12'S (CURRENT YEAR 6'S GOING INTO YEAR 7) **LIAM** 07565309330

U13'S TRAINING FOR UNDER 13'S (CURRENT YEAR 7 GOING INTO YEAR 8) **SEAN** 07398889207

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Age Groups 4-11 And 11-18

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Digital entry only

Full details and Entry:
www.rotary-rfod.org.uk/photocomp
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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



In partnership with



Parent Support Group



For Parent Carers of children with Additional Needs (With or Without a Diagnosis)

A Friendly and Safe Space run by Parent Carers, for Parent Carers

Come along to:

Meet other Parent Carers, enjoy a hot drink and a friendly chat, share experiences and find support

When: The second Monday of every month

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Where: River Children and Family Centre, Naas Ln, Lydney, GL15 5AU



In partnership with



Peer Support Coffee Morning



For Parent Carers of children with Additional Needs (With or Without a Diagnosis)

A Friendly and Safe Space run by Parent Carers, for Parent Carers

Come along to:

Meet other Parent Carers, enjoy a hot drink and a friendly chat, share experiences and find support

When: The third Wednesday of every month

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: Hilltop Children and Family Centre, Latimer Road, Cinderford, GL14 2QA