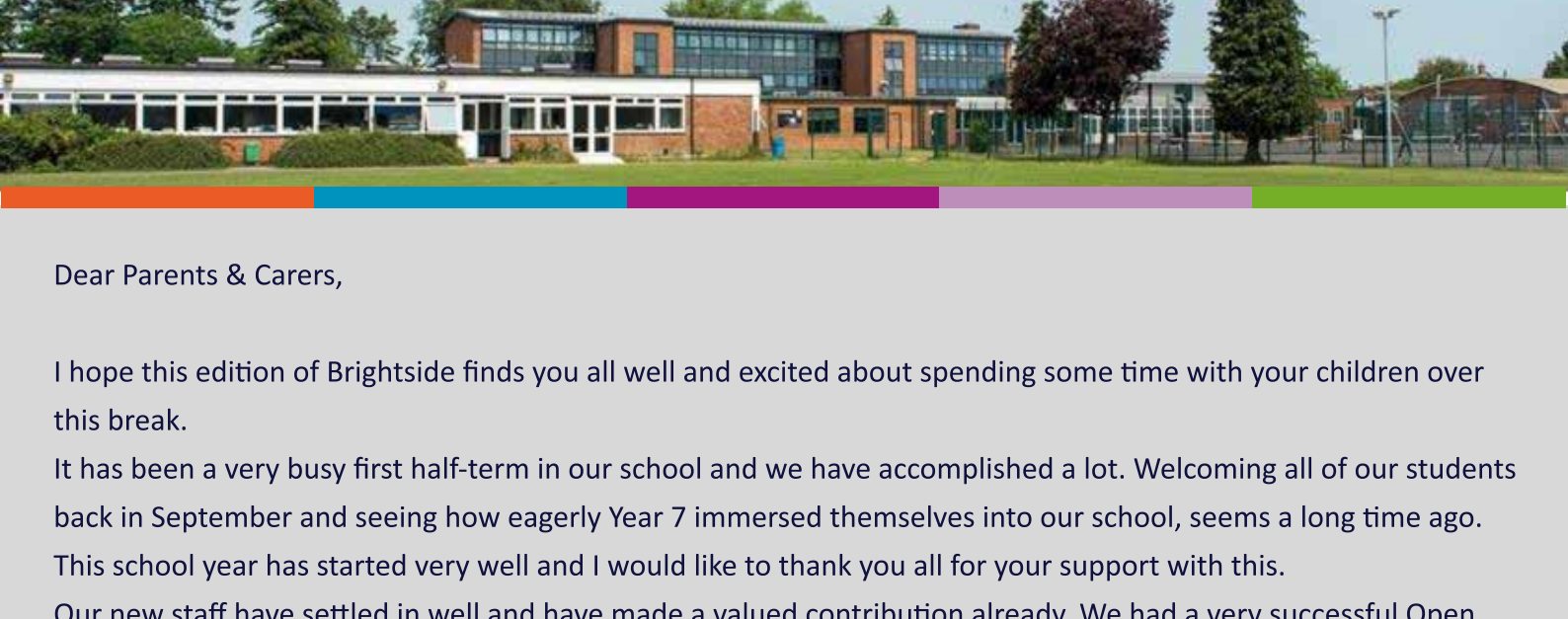


Brightside

OCTOBER 2024



Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this edition of Brightside finds you all well and excited about spending some time with your children over this break.

It has been a very busy first half-term in our school and we have accomplished a lot. Welcoming all of our students back in September and seeing how eagerly Year 7 immersed themselves into our school, seems a long time ago. This school year has started very well and I would like to thank you all for your support with this.

Our new staff have settled in well and have made a valued contribution already. We had a very successful Open Evening with over half of our school community volunteering to help; which I am very proud of. We have run different trips and competed in a variety of sports fixtures, which the students have thoroughly enjoyed. This includes our latest school trip to the USA, which you can read about in this edition.

It was also great to see a fantastic turnout of Year 11 students and parents at the Study Skills Evening this week. It allowed us to teach different ways of revising, exam techniques as well as providing free study guides for every student in every topic. Hopefully, this will help them to achieve the top grades in their upcoming Mock exams as well as their final ones in the Summer.

It has been great to see how many positive points our students have achieved so far and seeing them get presented with their rewards. I hope this continues so that the bigger prizes can then be given out. Well done to all involved. Our staff continue to work hard, challenging and supporting the students to achieve. Next term, we are going to have a focus on reviewing home learning as we are going to be introducing a new homework timetable in January; more information on this will follow. We are also introducing 'Lunchrichment' after half-term, so that all students can access at least one club per week and pursue an interest or sport.

Finally, I would like to say goodbye to Mrs Hannon who is leaving us to further her career in teaching. I thank her for her work over the years and wish her the very best.

I hope that you all have a great half-term and look forward to welcoming you back in full uniform on Monday 4th November.

Take care
Neil Pritchard

HEAD TEACHER

REWARDS - MR CLAPTON

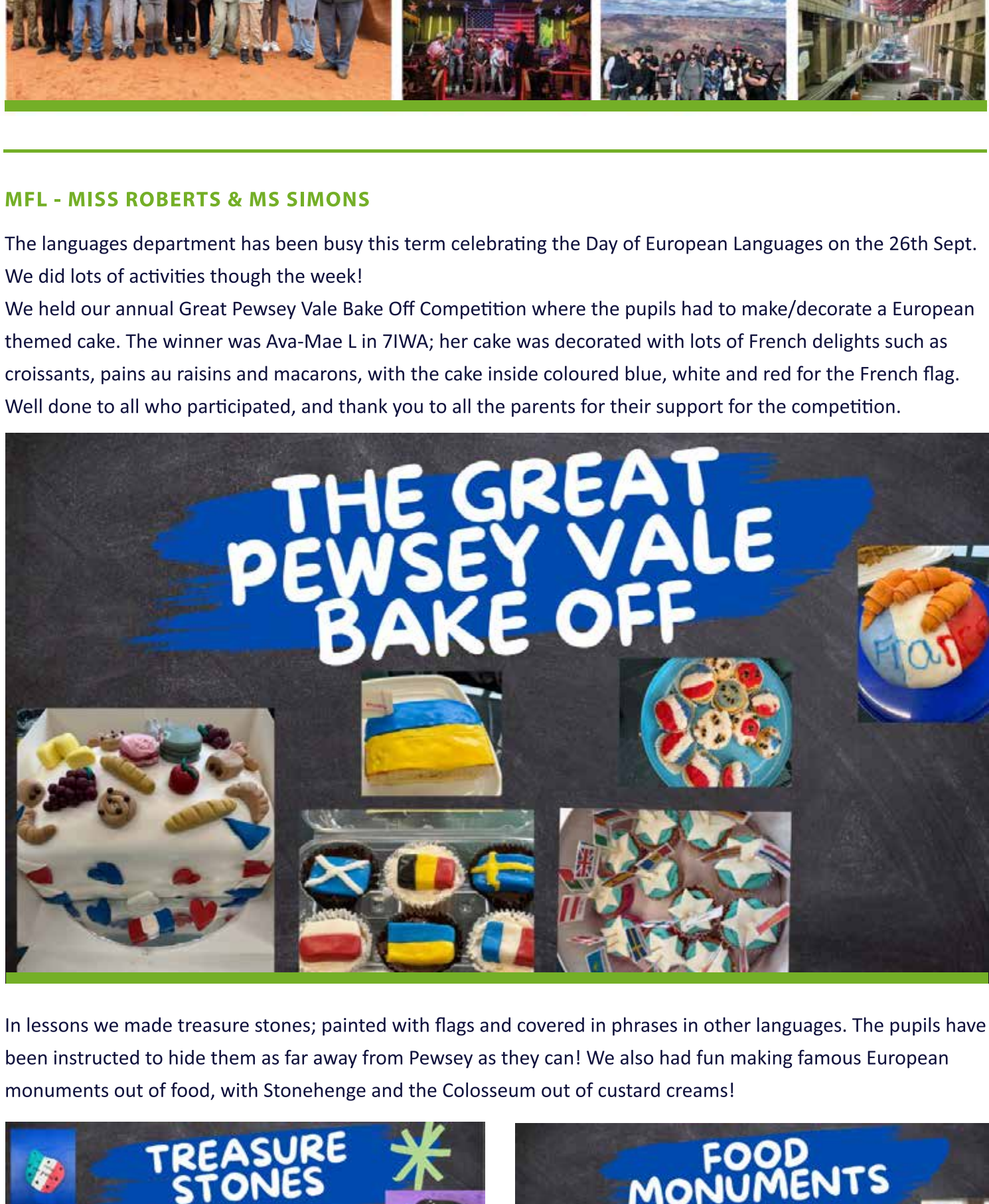
We have had a great buy-in from the students with the new rewards system that was introduced at the beginning of the academic year, with a significant amount of students accumulating 100 points, at which point they are rewarded with a bag of sweets and a certificate of achievement to take home. Some students are now well on their way to the next tier of rewards where they can pick a prize from the secret rewards pot. The students have been absolutely brilliant, wanting to gain points so that they can be rewarded for the great things they are doing in and around the school. This positive addition to school has been great for all involved and will hopefully keep picking up momentum as the year goes on, where students can continually get noticed and rewarded for the amazing things they are doing in every lesson, every day. The staff have definitely noticed the positive impact this has had on everyone, with students wanting to contribute in a positive way rather than a negative one, which is great to witness. Year 7 and 9 are leading the way with 13,781 and 13,579 respectively and a total of 52,512 points have been given out since the beginning of the year, which is testament to the hard work students have put in during this time.



GEOGRAPHY - MISS LYTHE, MRS SHAW & MR LINNEGAR

15th October: We begin our journey having the most amazing tour of Las Vegas. We have seen some amazing sites and now we are eating at Hard Rock Cafe. The children are doing really well considering it's about 3am English time! **16th October:** This morning we have explored the phenomenal Hoover Dam. We had a guided tour of the facility. The infrastructure and how it was built, has left us amazed and the students have asked some exceptional questions. Next stop is Route 66 and our lunch stop. **17th October:** Today we have explored the fabulous Grand Canyon. A once in a lifetime experience, there are simply no words big enough to describe the landscape. **18th October:** A little cooler today at 21 degrees but still very pleasant. Antelope Slot Canyon today and every day just gets better and better. Today we seen the most picturesque canyon I have ever seen, this canyon is steeped in history and we had the most fabulous tour. We finished our wonderful day with another jaw-dropping view of the incredible Horseshoe Bend. **19th October:** Today we have visited Monument Valley. We had a guided open top Jeep tour through the valley, led by a Navajo tour guide. Our guide played his Native American flute and sang to us. We learnt about the history of the Navajo people and the land. It was a very impressive. Every day we are building memories that will last a lifetime. The sights, sounds and culture we have experienced in the last week have been nothing short of phenomenal. **20th October:** Bryce Canyon. We started our trail at 6000 feet, we descended significantly by trekking, seeing some amazing sights on the way down. We then climbed back up the canyon. The students made the staff very proud today. All of them were so resilient and no-one moaned, not once, it was tough going at points and the air oxygen levels were low, but they just kept going. **21st October:** We made good time on our return to Vegas, arriving at the hotel at 1pm. This gave the children time to experience the pool, splash park and have lunch, we also had time for bowling. We then went in to town on the bus and went for dinner at Bubba Gump. During the meal we presented John, our tour guide, with a present to say thank you for going above and beyond to ensuring the best experiences for us all. We also had a collection for Melissa our coach driver, who was re-routing us daily around the weather to ensure we had the best experiences. We also presented the children with a handmade dream catcher each as a memento of their travels and to say thank you for their wonderful behaviour, resilience, and respectfulness towards everyone they met. After dinner we watched the famous fountains of the Bellagio Hotel. After the dinner, a number of students, alongside myself and Miss Lythe decided we would brave the big roller coaster that comes out of the side of the hotel New York, New York. This ride was just brilliant, we travelled at high speeds whilst twisting and going upside down though some of the most iconic structures in Las Vegas. This really was the best roller coaster I have ever been on. Tomorrow morning we plan to go into town one last time, before leaving for the airport. The students have honestly been wonderful, and it has been my absolute delight to see the looks of sheer astonishment on their faces at the experiences we have had. Miss Lythe has been instrumental from day one in organising and delivering this once in a lifetime trip. Her sheer dedication and attention to detail has ensured the trip has run smoothly and the best experiences have been had by all.

Signing off now. Mrs Shaw.



MFL - MISS ROBERTS & MS SIMONS

The languages department has been busy this term celebrating the Day of European Languages on the 26th Sept. We did lots of activities though the week!

We held our annual Great Pewsey Vale Bake Off Competition where the pupils had to make/decorate a European themed cake. The winner was Ava-Mae L in 7IWA; her cake was decorated with lots of French delights such as croissants, pains au raisins and macarons, with the cake inside coloured blue, white and red for the French flag. Well done to all who participated, and thank you to all the parents for their support for the competition.



In lessons we made treasure stones; painted with flags and covered in phrases in other languages. The pupils have been instructed to hide them as far away from Pewsey as they can! We also had fun making famous European monuments out of food, with Stonehenge and the Colosseum out of custard creams!



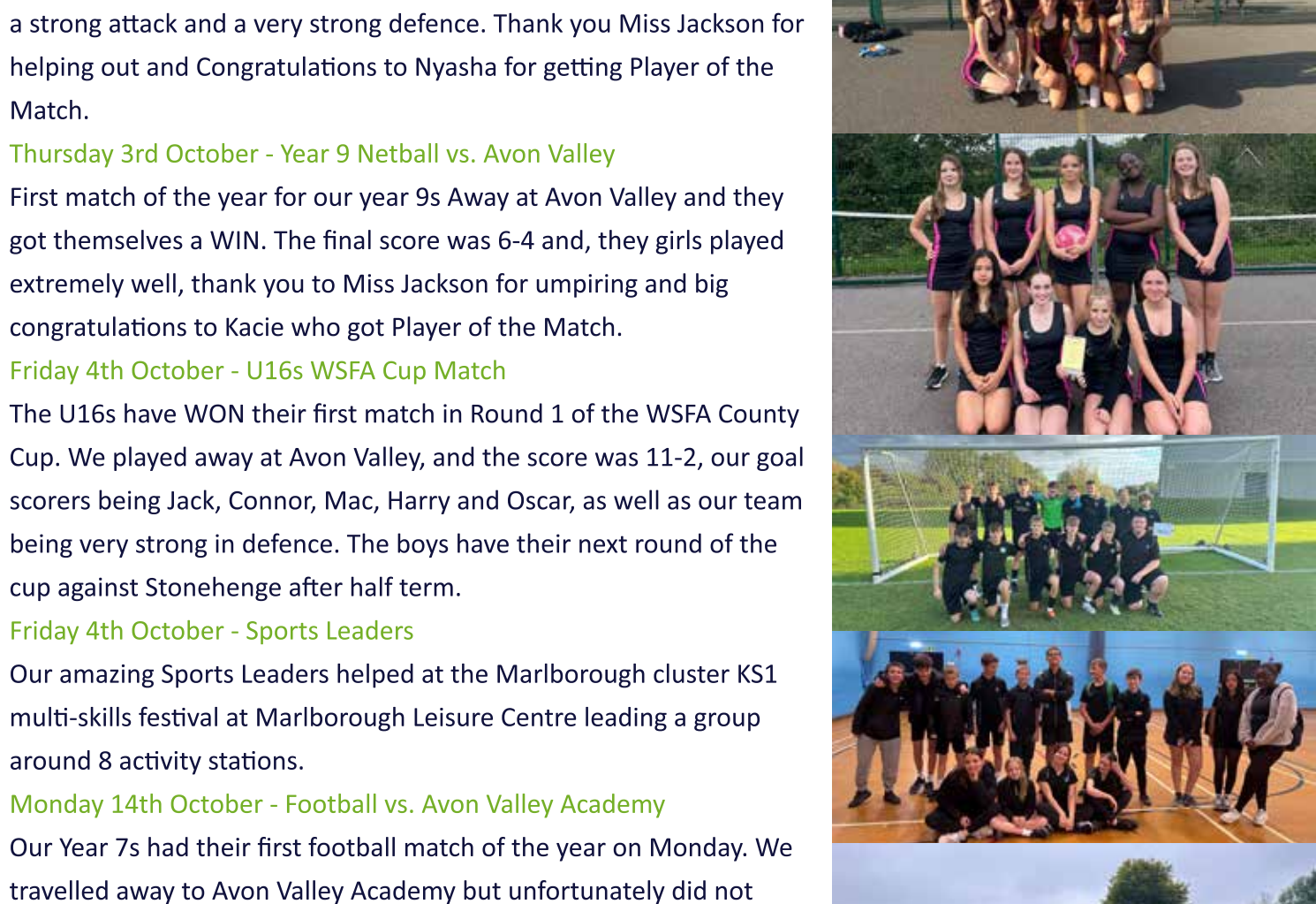
We are also very grateful to Miss Hall, our catering manager, for making delicious croissants and pain au chocolat, Kartoffelsuppe and pizza twists so that lunchtime was all about European foods too.

LIBRARY - MRS SHEPPY AND THE READING CLUB

Marlborough Litfest

On Thursday the 26th of September we went to Marlborough Litfest at St. John's. The school was much bigger than Pewsey. The author was Candy Gourlay. She is also an illustrator and a graphic novelist. Candy Gourlay wanted to be an author but couldn't be one due to the lack of publishers in the Philippines. She then married an Englishman and moved to this country. At the Litfest she explained that when she was writing about British History she kept getting rejected. Her publisher suggested that she should write about her own Filipino heritage. The experience showed us how you need to be resilient as a new author. Two of her four books are based on the World Fair in America in 1904. This initially sounded like a fun experience before we learnt the scary truth behind it. The organisers used racist stereotypes and took people from their homes abroad and put them in the World Fair and made some of them cook dogs of which they did not do in their country. We all enjoyed the experience learning about her writing and methods of it.

With thanks to the organisers of the Litfest, St John's School and also the sponsors for this event, Hamilton Trust and William Golding Ltd. <https://marlboroughnews/news/candy-gourlay-at-marlborough-litfests-big-school-read/> written by Charlotte, Lily, Rosemary and Isabelle.



PE - MISS BAWCUTT

The PE department has been very busy this term, with lots of matches and events happening. Please read on for the highlights.

Friday 18th September - Netball vs. Avon Valley

Our Year 11s had their last first match of the year. The match was against Avon Valley and the girls did brilliantly winning 12-1, they had a strong attack and a very strong defence. Thank you Miss Jackson for helping out and Congratulations to Nyasha for getting Player of the Match.

Thursday 3rd October - Year 9 Netball vs. Avon Valley

First match of the year for our year 9s Away at Marlborough and they got themselves a WIN. The final score was 6-4 and, they girls played extremely well, thank you to Miss Jackson for umpiring and big congratulations to Kacie who got Player of the Match.

Friday 4th October - U16s WSFA Cup Match

The U16s have WON their first match in Round 1 of the WSFA County Cup. We played away at Avon Valley, and the score was 11-2, our goal scorers being Jack, Connor, Mac, Harry and Oscar, as well as our team being very strong in defence. The boys have their next round of the cup against Stonehenge after half term.

Friday 4th October - Sports Leaders

Our amazing Sports Leaders helped at Marlborough Leisure Centre leading a group around 8 activity stations.

Monday 14th October - Football vs. Avon Valley Academy

Our Year 7s had their first football match of the year. We travelled away to Avon Valley Academy but unfortunately did not come away with the win. The final score was 4-2, and it was an unfortunate loss. They played brilliantly, starting the game off with 1-0, as Phoenix scored a fantastic corner. Jasper handled him so well in goal and made some great saves. In the second half we saw another good goal assisted by Rubie, and scored by Aydon. The coach's player of the match was awarded to Phoenix.

Tuesday 15th October - Football vs. Avon Valley Academy

The Year 9s had their first football match at home against Avon Valley. A tough game, but the team worked well together with lots to take away and work on for next time.

Tuesday 15th October - U14s Netball at Marlborough College

This was a challenging tournament for our U14s team at Marlborough College, they played against Marlborough, Warminster and Dauntsey's. The girls worked extremely hard and managed to get a draw against Warminster in the second half of their match, after struggling to find their feet in the first half. Despite the results, the girls demonstrated some great play and came away happy with juice, fruit and lots of kit kats! Coach's players of the tournament were Laila and Holly. Thank you so much to our Head Girl Caitlin who came along to support the girls and take score.

Tuesday 15th October - Sports Leaders

It was a soggy day at the primary schools football festival. The Sports Leaders were brilliant bearing in mind it is a non-stop crazy day!

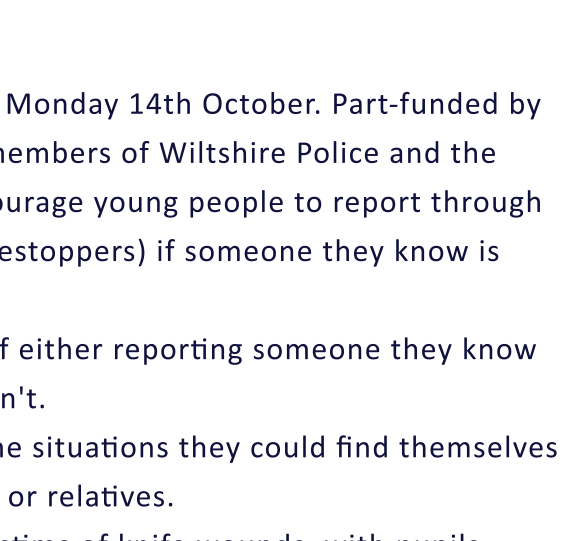
Friday 18th October - Sports Leaders

An amazing group of Year 9 Sports Leaders helped the School Games Co-ordinator at a KS1&2 SEND Panathlon. Based in the sports centre at Avon Valley Academy, they led groups of pupils through 8 exciting activity stations.



YEAR 11 STUDY SKILLS EVENING - MR PRITCHARD

Year 11 students and their parents came to a Study Skills Presentation last night; it was great to see so many of you there. During the evening, we were able to help the students develop study and revision skills, as well as providing a bespoke revision guide and resources set for each student. Any Year 11 student who was unable to attend can have a catch up session next term.



STUDENT SUCCESS - JACK D

On 17th September Jack D was invited to train with Swindon Town football club under 17 Scholes. Following on from this he was also asked to play an England Under 15 Young Lions match on Wednesday 18th of September against Bournemouth. What a fantastic achievement Jack, we are all very proud of you.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our Student Voice is made up of elected student Navigators from each year group. These student Navigators represent the Voice of the student body and are the school's role models, working as a point of contact for students to approach with any specific issues, concerns or ideas relevant to their position i.e.;

- Curriculum Navigator
- Well-being & Enrichment Navigator
- Sports Navigator
- Creative Navigator

If your child is interested in the position of student Navigator, please request an application from The School Office.

This form will outline the job description, personal qualities needed, and the application process. The deadline for students to hand in their application is Friday 8th November.

You will then sit a formal interview with chosen members of the Senior Student Leadership Team.

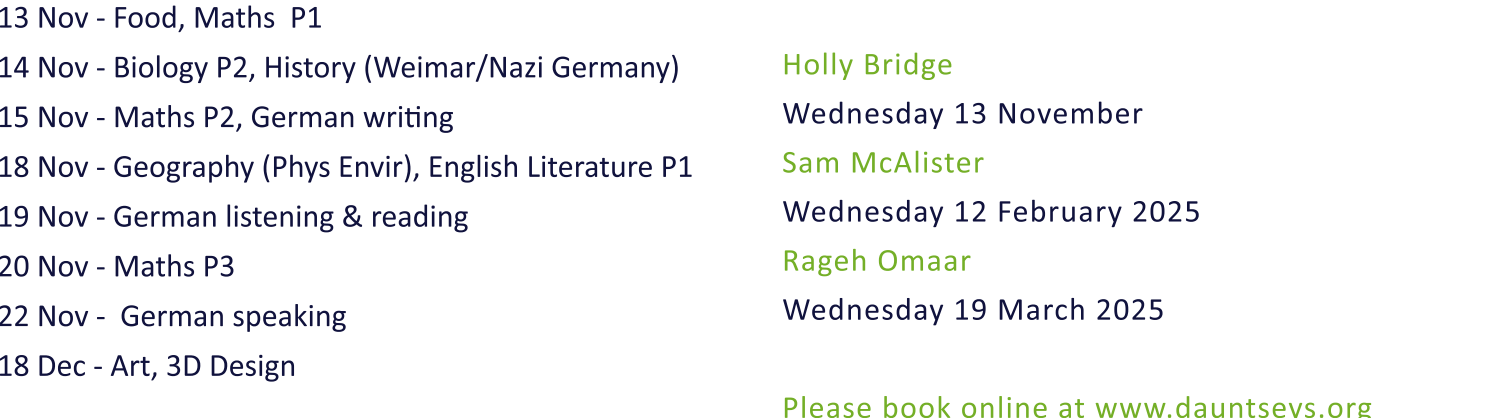
BLUNT TRUTH WORKSHOP - MISS DEAN

The Year 9 students participated in the Blunt Truth workshop on Monday 14th October. Part-funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and involving members of Wiltshire Police and the NHS, Blunt Truth was an hour-long workshop which aims to encourage young people to report through their school, the police or through FEARLESS (youth arm of Crimestoppers) if someone they know is carrying a knife.

Pupils were shown a video highlighting the different outcomes of either reporting someone they know to be carrying a knife or the potential tragic outcomes if they don't.

Members of Wiltshire Police also talked to the students about the situations they could find themselves in and who they could talk to if they were worried about friends or relatives.

A qualified Nurse then led the students in first aid training for victims of knife wounds, with pupils taking part in practical demonstrations.



SCHOOL CLUBS - 'LUNCHRICHMENT'

We are excited to offer our lunchtime enrichment programme, 'Lunchrichment' from the beginning of term 2. We know that the majority of our students rely on buses to travel home in the afternoon and therefore are unable to attend traditional after school clubs. As part of our change to the school day we have increased the length of lunch time to give students the opportunity to take part in a school club. We have put together an extensive list of different clubs to ensure that there is an opportunity for every one of our students to take part in lunchrichment. Our lunchtime runs from 1:00pm-1:45pm and lunchrichment clubs will run from 1:15pm-1:40pm. We have challenged all of our students to attend 1 lunchrichment session a week (of course they can attend more!).

As we move into term 3 (after Christmas) there will be the opportunity for our students to attend specific subject revision/support sessions and we will publish these nearer the time.

(N.B. – students will need to have full PE kit for Fitness and Triathlon Club only).

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Lunchtime	Lunchtime	Lunchtime	Lunchtime	Lunchtime
History Fiction Club Y8+9 Room 22	Badminton Club Y7-9 Sports Hall	Subbutee Club all Yrs Room 12	Photography Club all Yrs Room 20	Badminton Club Y10-11 Sports Hall
Shakespeare Festival Room 16	Mindfulness Club all Yrs Room 25	All too Swiftie Club all Yrs Room 18	Triathlon Club all Yrs Room 1	Art Shorts all Yrs Room 7,8,9
Maths Intervention Y7-9 Room 12	Reading Club Y7 (A) Y8 (B) Library	Choir Club Y7-9 Room 21	Reading Club Y9 Library	Theatre Company Y7-9 Room 17
Football Club Y9-10 Sports Hall	Karaoke Club all Yrs Room 16	Just Dance Club all Yrs Room 16	Rock Soc all Yrs Room 2	Tennis Club all Yrs off-site
Fitness Club Y10-11 Vale		Chess Club all Yrs Library	Basketball Club Y10-11 Sports Hall	
			Creative Writing Club all Yrs Room 19	
After school	After school	After school	After school	After school
Homework Club all Yrs Room 3	Homework Club all Yrs Room 3	Homework Club all Yrs Room 3	Homework Club all Yrs Room 3	
	Netball Club all Yrs Courts	Art Club Y10-11 Room 9		

YEAR 11 EXAMS - MRS BOTTOMS

The Year 11 Pre-Application exams are coming up next term. The dates are as follows:

- 12 Nov - PE P1, Health & Social Care, English Language P2
- 13 Nov - Food, Maths P1
- 14 Nov - Biology P2, History (Weimar/Nazi Germany)
- 15 Nov - Maths P2, German writing
- 18 Nov - Geography (Phys Envir), English Literature P1
- 19 Nov - German listening & reading
- 20 Nov - Maths P3
- 22 Nov - German speaking
- 18 Dec - Art, 3D Design

Students will attend normal timetabled lessons when not sitting an exam. Registration will take place in the exam hall.

MERCER'S LECTURES - DAUNTSEY'S SCHOOL

This year Dauntsey's School look forward to a diverse range of speakers covering; adventure, international affairs and television production.

Holly Bridge
Wednesday 13 November

Sam McAlister
Wednesday 12 February 2025

Rageh Omaar
Wednesday 19 March 2025

Please book online at www.dauntseys.org

Everyone is welcome and entry is free, but you are required to reserve your seat online and bring confirmation of booking to the event. All lectures start at 19.30 and will be held in the Memorial Hall at Dauntsey's.

THE STUDENT VOICE

The student leadership voted to hold a non-uniform day on the last day of term to raise funds for new Football team kit. The students and staff were asked to bring in £1, which has so far raised £213.00. Donations can still be made via ScoPay until close of play on Friday, so we are hoping we will be able to meet our target of £320.00. Many thanks to all of those who have given money.

£213.00

THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Please could we ask parents and carers that if you would like to speak with a member of staff regarding your child, please email your child's tutor, subject teacher or appropriate member of staff. If you would like to have an appointment with a member of staff, please, you can book this in advance through the school office. Our staff are exceedingly busy during the school day and may not have the capacity to meet without an appointment. Many thanks for your understanding.

