

December 2019, Issue 84

# Newsletter

## A Message from the Headteacher

As term 2 draws to a close I can reflect on what has been a very positive first two terms of the academic year. The many changes introduced at the start of the academic year are bearing real dividends and I can see the impact on a number of elements of school life. In terms of behaviour there have been very significant improvements in terms of the numbers of students receiving consequences for poor choices. Most importantly, I can also see the impact in terms of the climate for learning around the school.

One stand out for me is “Prep-time” that our KS4 students have each morning. As I walk around the school and drop into tutor groups I can see the real impact it is having on so many students. Students are really developing their study skills in this time and using it to ensure they are on top of their revision and homework.

KS3 guided reading is also a real privilege to watch and take part in. Knowing that every student in Years 7 – 9 are reading challenging texts every day is a really positive development for the school. I know that students will really benefit from this in terms of developing their vocabulary, their cultural awareness but most simply from accessing cracking reads every day.

There is lots that makes me proud to be head at Severn Vale School. A real standout this term was the collection organised for the Gloucester Foodbank that took place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. To see the students come into the hall in the morning with their donations and the sheer quantity of food donated was inspiring. It was a great example of how small individual actions can make a large difference collectively. Thank you for helping us make this such a success.

This has been a busy term for extra-curricular activities once again. We have had a wide range of activities including spelling bees, book clubs, creative writing club, debate club, DofE, skyping an Antarctic scientist, visits to Renishaw, visits to the University of Gloucester, visits to Cyber Associates, post 16 visits, mock interviews, first aid training, a music showcase, a trip to Rome as well as a wide range of sporting activities. You can read about some of these activities in this newsletter.

All that is left for me to do is to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January which is a week A.

Richard Johnson  
**Headteacher**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	iMedia exam (pm)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Year 11 Revision Evening for Parents 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	World Religion Day
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2020	Martin Luther King Day
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2020	NEA Food Exam p.1-4
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Holocaust Memorial Day
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	DofE Parents' Meeting
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2020	DofE Training Day
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Paris Trip
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	End of Term 3

## SAFEGUARDING

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2019 was **Change Starts With Us**. This year the aim of anti-bullying week was to encourage young people, schools and parents and carers to know that it takes a collective responsibility to stop bullying. The school marked the week by delivering this important message in Morning Line Up as well as delivering anti-bullying resources through Prep times over the course of the week. In developing the theme of a Change Starts with Us the Anti-Bullying alliance worked with over 1,000 children and young people to create the message: **Small change. Big difference.**



Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, we can challenge bullying. Change starts with a conversation. It starts with checking in. It starts with work together. Change starts here. Change starts now. Change starts with us.

The aims of the week was to help students at Severn Vale School understand:

- The definitions of Bullying and Conflict
- Identify situations where bullying may occur at school
- How they can respond differently to others or change how they react to avoid incidents of bullying
- Give students opportunities to say what they think needs to change to help stop bullying at school

## GOVERNING BODY

How time flies by, we are at the end of term 2 and a third of the way through the academic year.

This term I want to continue looking at the role of the Curriculum and Achievement Committee (C&A) and how their work focuses on the core business of the school, ensuring the school are providing the best education possible for the students to support them being the best they can be. Monitoring visits to school this term have focused on working with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to complete the Self Evaluation Form (SEF) and produce the School Improvement Plan (SIP). These documents are used by SLT and Governors to focus school visits to ensure progress is being made towards meeting targets, along with reviewing the impact this is having on improving outcomes for our students.

Governors take areas of the SIP to monitor for the coming year. The monitoring usually includes one or two visits to school which can involve a learning walk to see new procedures taking place such as those already carried out to look at the Guided Reading and 'Prep', it may also involve talking to staff and students. Following the visit the Governor will produce a report to record what they saw/ found out and note any future agreed actions that need to be completed, such as a follow up visit later in the year, before sending it to the Clerk of the Governing Body who shares it with the rest of the Governors. These reports are discussed at both the relevant Committee Meetings and full Governing Body Meetings where the SIP is a standing agenda item.

You may wonder why the SIP is not produced ready for the start of the new academic year. Some items included in are identified and agreed prior to the start of the year, however, it is essential that a full evaluation of progress data from the GCSE results and internal monitoring procedures takes place as part of the Self Evaluation Process. It is for this reason that the SIP starts in January; Governors do start to monitor any items that are identified prior to the start of a new year when and where appropriate.

Term 2 always sees the Key Stage 4 Graduation Evening. This is an event that many Governors attend. It is an absolute pleasure to welcome back the previous year 11 students to collect their very much deserved Awards and Certificates. It always astounds me how much these young people grow up in the few weeks since they left school, they are always keen to share news of their new courses and the adventures they are starting. Well done to them all.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jane Ireland  
**Chair of Governors**

**To contact the Chair of Governors, please telephone the Clerk to Governors, Mrs Lyn Woodrow at the school, on 01452 720458 ext 256**

### MEMBERS

Mrs J Ireland  
(*Chair of Governors*)

### PARENT GOVERNORS

Dr S Cockin  
(Joint Vice Chair)  
Mr R Rankin  
Mrs V Seymour  
Mrs L Adams  
Rev P Millward

### ORDINARY GOVERNORS

Mrs S Hawkins  
Mr A Ayland  
Mr I Pogue  
(Joint Vice Chair)  
Mr S Wilson  
Mr D Clark

### LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

Mrs L Berry

### STAFF GOVERNORS

Mr R Johnson  
(*Headteacher*)  
Ms Bagworth

## ATTENDANCE



### Attendance Matters

Success at Severn Vale School begins with parents ensuring their children come to school regularly in Years 7 and 8 and then continues with the student taking responsibility for their own attendance as they move up into Years 10 and 11. School attendance is a baseline factor in determining student success, a fact that may seem obvious to adults but occasionally the connection is not made by students until it is too late. Feedback from a research project commissioned by the Department for Education which involved young adults across the country being asked about their poor attendance at school had many participants saying they wished they could go back and "just start all over again". Students are only given one chance to take GCSEs therefore please help your child make the most of their education by encouraging them to be in school every day.

The attendance ladder shows how a student's percentage attendance equates to the amount of school time missed. 90% may well be a good percentage to get in an academic exam but when it comes to attendance 90% = cause for concern.

### Tips for Parents / Carers in Helping Reducing School Absence

Help your children understand why going to school every day matters. Talk about what they miss when they are not in school, how showing up every day is an important skill for getting and keeping a job and how attending every day helps them learn what they need to know to achieve their hopes and dreams.

- Set attendance goals with your child, and track your child's attendance on a calendar. Try offering small rewards for not missing any school, such as a later bedtime on weekends or perhaps a family games / film night.
- Make attendance a priority at home. Set daily routines such as regular bedtimes, when they need to finish playing on the X-Box, what time they are going to get up in the morning etc.
- If appropriate include your child's Head of Year / Tutor in your child's attendance goals. Teachers may have insights into why your child might not want to attend, such as friendship issues or academic challenges.
- Make sure you know your child's absence % - this can be found on their grade card, at parent's evening, in their student planner or email [vmartin@severnvaeschool.com](mailto:vmartin@severnvaeschool.com) and request this information.
- Identify and work with others to reduce common barriers to your child's strong attendance, such as a lack of reliable transportation or the effective management chronic health problems like asthma.

So often, we as parents think we are the only ones struggling with a problem, however a lot of families at Severn Vale school are facing the same challenges - it is good to talk about these issues and therefore I would like to invite you to attend our next course of four parenting workshops run by Triple P at Severn Vale School.

Getting teenagers to cooperate -	4 <sup>th</sup> March, 6-8pm
Coping with teenager's emotions	11 <sup>th</sup> March, 6-8pm
Reducing family conflict	18 <sup>th</sup> March, 6-8pm
Building teenagers' survival skills	25 <sup>th</sup> March, 6-8pm

If you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance or if you would like to book onto the above parenting workshops please contact Mrs Virginia Martin [vmartin@severnvaeschool.com](mailto:vmartin@severnvaeschool.com)

## CAREERS

As Severn Vale School's careers leader, the Gatsby Benchmarks are a set of guidelines that I use to judge the success of the careers programme I implement each year. Originating from a research report (Good Career Guidance) from the Gatsby Foundation in 2013, these set of eight benchmarks have been adopted by the Department of Education as representing best practice in careers delivery in schools. During November and December we have had a large number of careers events at Severn Vale that place us in a good position to ensure we meet all the benchmarks by the end of the school year and my personal highlights include:

**Benchmark 5** (Encounters with Employers and Employees) November and December saw our Year 10s during the FLD take part in a series of workshops run by representatives from Mira Showers and the NHS, while the Army came to do a Year 10 assembly and one of our parents, Mark Lawson, did a really interesting assembly to our Year 8s on what his company does (they invented Bluetooth) and his unconventional career path to becoming Director, Global Compliance for Polycom and Plantronics.

**Benchmark 6** (Work Experience) I'm really pleased to report that as of 11/12/19 65+ Year 10s have already handed in their work experience forms confirming their placements for June 2020 earning themselves a small reward for handing them in before the first cut-off date. All forms need to be handed in by end of March 2020 at the very latest. Please do not leave it until the last minute to organise work experience as places get filled up quickly.

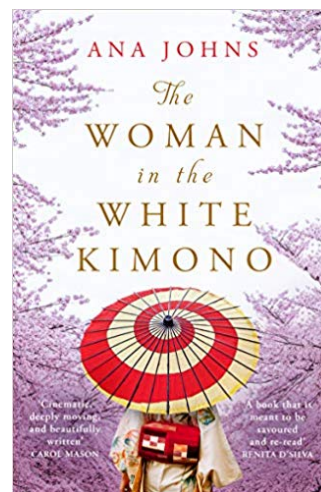
**Benchmark 7** (Encounters with Further and Higher Education) On the 28<sup>th</sup> November the whole of Year 11 spent the FLD visiting their 6<sup>th</sup> form or college of choice including GET (Gloucestershire Engineering Training) where as you will see from the photos the students had plenty of hands-on experience giving them a good idea of what it is like to be an engineering apprentice. In addition, on the 10<sup>th</sup> December we took 25 Year 9 students to the Royal Agricultural University for an insight into university life and on the same day another group of Year 9s visited Renishaw (who offer Post-16 apprenticeships).

**Benchmark 8** (Personal guidance) We are very lucky at Severn Vale School to have Georgina Blackburn who is our independent careers adviser. Each week she carries out eight 1:1 careers interviews, mainly with Year 11 or Year 10 students but also available to other years on request. In addition, I often meet with parents and students after school to discuss post-16 options and therefore if you would like to book an appointment with me please email [vmartin@severnvaeschool.com](mailto:vmartin@severnvaeschool.com)



## PARENT BOOK CLUB

Term 2's book club choice was 'The Woman in the White Kimono' by Ana Johns. This book follows the story of Tori, an American woman, who, as her elderly father passes away discovers the tales he had told her throughout her life from his time in the Navy and his visits to Japan point to a life he led before he met her mother. Tori sets out to seek her father's Japanese bride and in doing so discovers the story of her father and Naoko; a heartbreaking tale set right after the occupation of Japan when there is still great hostility in Japanese and American relations. Their story is of two young people who are very much in love, and that fight as hard as they can to be together, but fail due to the impossible circumstances they are faced with.



Our book clubbers loved this book, liking the contrast between 1950s Japan and the present day and how the two stories cleverly linked together. Everyone liked reading about Japanese culture and felt that the book could have benefitted with a little more of this information within the story. The average rating we have given this book is 3.5 stars.

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Severn Vale's Parent Book Club is an informal get together (with nibbles) which meets in the LRC on a Thursday evening at the end of each term. The current book for term 3 is 'Blood Orange', a part legal thriller / part domestic drama, by Harriet Tyce. If you'd like to read this book and come along to Parent Book Club, please let us know.



## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

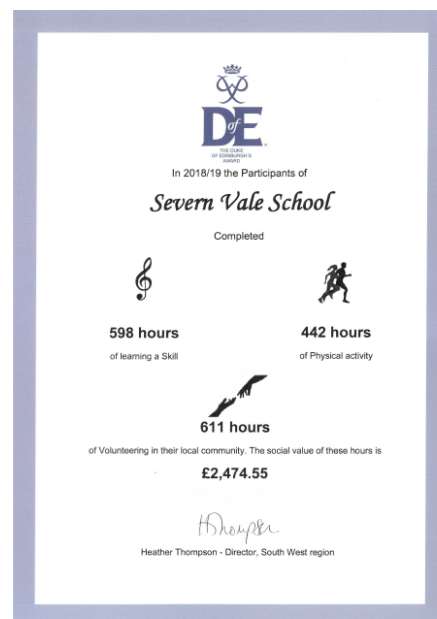
During the last academic year, 22 students completed their Bronze DofE Awards and 8 students completed their Silver DofE Awards (having completed their Bronze Awards the year before).



These students in total completed 1651 hours of activity outside of the curriculum.

- 598 hours learning new skills in music, photography, cooking, drama and many more areas.
- 442 of physical activity including football, rugby, netball, hockey, badminton and various other sports.
- 661 hours of volunteering to help in charity shops, the local library, read to younger students, childcare settings, local primary schools, scouts/ brownies and many other wonderful things to help the local community. The DofE estimate the value of these volunteering hours to be worth £2,474.55 to the local community.

Well done to all those who passed their awards and contributed to the total number of hours.



### eDofE:

It is **vital** that students log on to eDofE regularly to upload evidence and track any messages from their leader. They **must** check that an activity has been approved, or it may not count towards their DofE award.

Loading evidence can be done by visiting [www.edofe.org](http://www.edofe.org) or if a student has a smart phone they can do this all by downloading the DofE App. You will not achieve your DofE without providing relevant evidence of the activities you have been doing. It is your responsibility to ensure this is kept up to date and not wait until the last minute.

If a student doesn't have access to the internet at home, they can still complete their programme by using the Welcome Pack and log sheets:

- Use a log sheet, handed out (also accessed via SharePoint, these can be printed at school).
- Get your Assessor's comments in the Keeping Track Booklet.
- Get your Leader to approve your sections by signing and dating it.
- SVS Leaders will also be able to load any evidence students provide if they cannot access the internet.

**Good evidence:** can include many things, you may like to collect photographs, scans of certificates, letters etc. You can take audio files, photos or video footage with your phone or camera. You can use the pages in the *Keeping Track* booklet and scan it in/photograph it, you can also upload documents or just type a short written update of your activity straight into eDofE

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

### A couple of reminders to help those who have not yet had their activities approved:

1. The assessor cannot be a family member – if you are doing it at home then your group leader can be your assessor if you are uploading evidence like photos of you doing the activity and a log of when you did them to eDofE.
2. We need an assessor's e-mail or telephone number

### Important dates for your diary:

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January** – Parent's information evening starting at 18:00 in the main hall. This is an evening where Ocean Rock (the company running our expedition), will answer any questions and show you the kit required. Please do not decide to purchase any new kit until after this date, as all requirements will be shared with you on this evening and some kit (such as tents and cookers) will be provided.

- Staff from Go Outdoors in Gloucester will be available to show the recommend kit they can offer, as well as answer any questions.
- Don't forget every DofE participant has a DofE Discount card which gets them money off the Go Outdoors discount card price, as well as Blacks, Millets, Ultimate Outdoors and Tiso. If participants do not have their card (these should have gone directly to their home address), they can download a voucher from their eDofE account.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February** – Expedition training day at Severn Vale School in MFL, anticipated to be 10:00-15:00 but this will be confirmed by ParentMail closer to the time.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March** – Practice expedition (including Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March for Silver)

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June** – Qualifying Expedition (including Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June for Silver)

- All expeditions will meet at SVS at 08:00 on the Saturday morning.
- Estimated time of return on the Sunday will be between 14:00-16:00 for Bronze participants and by the end of the school day on the Monday for Silver Participants, depending on student pace and progress.
- Updates will be provided on the day itself.

### Please ensure you keep the school gates clear to allow the bus access to the school car park.

Remember in order to complete the expedition section, students must complete all three of these activities: Training Day, Practice Expedition and Qualifying Expedition. Bronze participants must also be in school on the Monday following the expedition. Students choosing not to attend, due to tiredness or blisters etc. jeopardise the school being able to run this opportunity in the future. The expedition section is generally the section the students find the most daunting, as it is out of their comfort zones, but they also gain the most sense of achievement. Students also learn a lot from the practice expedition. Many adapt what they carry, their pace and organisation and find the qualifying expedition easier as a result.

**Don't forget The DofE Team, Mr Higgs and your group leader, are here for you! If you are unsure of anything, finding it difficult to organise a section, don't know what to do next, come and speak to us.**

**We will help you!**

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT WINTER SOIREE

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm the SVS Music Department held their Winter Soiree in the Science Atrium. Over 25 SVS pupils from all year groups performed a whole range of music from across a range of genres.

The evening kicked off with the school band launching into “Smooth” by Santana, which, literally, knocked the legs off the drum kit! The evening also saw a whole range of solo and duet vocal performances: songs by Guns and Roses, Elton John, Ellie Goulding and Beach Bunny were sung with confidence alongside renditions of John Legend, Ella Henderson and Jeremy Soule. Thank you to Leona, Myleigh, Rosie, Mariska, Millie, Cerys, Shelley, Olivia, Beth, Jack, Summer, Ella, Holly and Olivia for each of their performances, several of whom also played guitar or piano to support their own renditions. The school choir concluded the first half with a tricky medley of songs from the hit musical, Les Miserables, which they delivered with confidence.

Alongside the vocal performances was some excellent musicianship. Leon Linton-Blake not only performed an outstanding piano performance composed (and improvised on the night) by himself, but also provided piano accompaniment for the school choir. This was impressive. The school brass ensemble have clearly been working hard too as a convincing performance of Henry VIII’s “Pastyme in Good Company” was delivered beautifully. Kai’s drum solo of “The Hype” by Twenty One Pilots was equally impressive. Calm under pressure too as he barely flinched when he lost, and regained, possession of one his drumsticks amid the animated performance! The guitars of the Rhythm Ensemble consisting of Elliot, Ryan and Josh opened the second half with “Message in a Bottle” and “Man on the Moon” by The Police. Hayden, on piano, joined Kai on drums for “Bitter Sweet Symphony” and “Lane Boy” and Hayden was also supporting Ella on piano later as she sang “Yours”. And Marley gave an excellent performance of “Skyrim” by Jeremy Soule – certainly an able pianist in the making.



A whole ensemble of pupils concluded our evening with Christmas songs and a finale of “Shut up and Dance” by Walk on the Moon. Mince pies (not enough!), Schloer and Pink Lemonade aplenty were certainly no match for the musical efforts of the evening. We would like to thank Mr Khoker, Mr Martin, Miss Newport and Sophie, our vocal peripatetic teacher, for all their work in delivering this evening. But the night goes to all the vocalists and musicians who put themselves forward, gave of their time and efforts, and performed magnificently during a Winter Soiree that welcomes in the festive season beautifully. A huge thank you to all.

## SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

Thanks to the amazing generosity of FOSV and the talent of our students we received a brilliant review of our "Romeo and Juliet" from the Shakespeare Schools Festival. We are all very proud of this wonderful group of Severn Vale students.

Miss Evans, Miss O'Neill and Miss Embling.

### "DID MY HEART LOVE 'TILL NOW?"

**Romeo and Juliet**

**Performed by Severn Vale School**

**At The Roses Theatre, 11/5/2019**

**Appraised by Kate Pasco**

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Severn Vale School for your tremendous production of Romeo and Juliet as part of the 2019 Shakespeare Schools Festival. It was an excellent night of theatre, and I'd like to highlight a few aspects that really stood out.

The energy with which the cast opened the show was completely electrifying! Introducing the audience to the Montagues and Capulets almost as two opposing tribes had us all gripped, on the edge of our seats, and excited for what was about to unfold before us. The tangible tension that was created between the two families from the off really threw the audience right into the centre of their world, which was such an exciting way to begin telling Romeo and Juliet's story.

I loved the way in which you created such distinct atmospheres for key moments in the play; from the lively and playful masked ball, to the bustling market scenes, and then taking us to the eerie and sombre vault - you succeeded in really immersing the audience through the way in which you worked as an ensemble and brought those places to life, leading us to truly believe we were there with you.

I thought that the clarity of storytelling and vocal quality of your cast was exceptional. You spoke the words of Shakespeare with ease, and undoubtedly had a great understanding of the text. Every line landed with the audience, and you held their focus from beginning to end by sharing the story with them through your clear delivery.

Your use of movement throughout the performance was highly effective and showed a brilliant use of space. These moments really highlighted what a slick ensemble of performers you are. Every single member of the cast had great stage presence, and it was wonderful to see you all really enjoying and taking pride in being up on that stage performing.

This was a highly engaging and dynamic Romeo and Juliet, from a respectful and professional cast. It was such a pleasure working with you all.

Performing Shakespeare's words on a professional stage takes bravery, resilience, and creativity. You should be immensely proud of what you and your teachers have achieved in this Season of Infinite Variety.

**Kate Pasco**



## FOODBANK

At Severn Vale School one of our core values is compassion. When you feel compassion for someone, you really want to help out. With this in mind on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December the students of Severn Vale turned out on mass to support Gloucester Foodbank. Pretty much every one of the 1300 students donated and whilst students were asked to bring in a single item each, many arrived laden with bags full. The collection area in the hall was absolutely packed, to the point that the foodbank had to make several trips, having only just emptied the hall by lunch!



What was particularly lovely to see was that many students had gone out to specifically buy selection boxes and other such treats to make sure other children would get more than just the staples this Christmas. This act of going above and beyond is something we have come to expect from our students but it is always heart-warming to see, especially at this time of year.

The Gloucester Foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust's network foodbanks, working to tackle food poverty and hunger in our local communities, as well as across the UK. In 2018/19, The Trussell Trust's Foodbank Network provided 1,583,668 three-day emergency food supplies and support to UK people in crisis. Of these, 577,618 went to children. In the sixth richest country in the world nobody should need to use a foodbank. Research published in 2017 found there were over 2,000 UK food banks. By contrast there are 1229 McDonald's!

Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy and celebration – but for too many people it's becoming harder and harder to keep their heads above water. This Friday our students proved that a collection of small actions can make a huge difference. We are extremely proud of every one of them.

## ART UPDATE

At the end of November, it was our pleasure in the Art Department to welcome back former students Dawid and Damian Giermak. Dawid studied GCSE Graphic Communication and Damian studied both Fine Art and Photography with us at Severn Vale School. Damian is currently studying for his degree in photography and Dawid is now working for a Graphics technology company in Bristol after finishing his degree at University of the West of England (Bristol).

Damian and Dawid were both able to share their experiences of studying an art based subject in higher education. They spoke passionately of the opportunities this has brought them, as well as the satisfaction of forging a career in a subject that they love. This really inspired our year 11 students and raised discussion about the diverse areas and careers that art and design can lead you to.

We were privileged to view some of the work that Dawid has been involved in, including some interactive graphics used by The Royal Mint Museum. Damian shared his current photographic projects and talked about how Severn Vale School had given him the confidence to work towards his goals.



## ROME TRIP

October Half-Term saw some very unexpected Autumn sun for 32 Year 11 who accompanied us to the beautiful city of Rome. As part of their GCSE Religious Studies course the students were lucky enough to spend 4 glorious days visiting key religious and historical sites, accompanied by myself, Mr Connor, Miss Crouch and Miss O'Neill. The Vatican was awe inspiring, and busier than normal due to visiting pilgrims. We were interested to learn that the current Pop - Pope Francis - has bucked tradition and refused to live within the Vatican's palatial Pope's apartment - instead choosing to live in a standard room given to priests within the Vatican. Despite the building work going on to restore the Colosseum it still impressed us all with its amazing (and gruesome) history. The beautiful Piazza's provided some shopping opportunities and much deserved gelato to cool us down. Food featured heavily on the trip - with the most amazing pasta and pizza plus a treat night at the Hard Rock Cafe.

By day four, students were growing in confidence, coping with the crowds on the Metro and ordering food and drink on their own. It was a fabulous trip, if not very tiring with an average 24,000 steps being done every day! Cue lots of sore legs and much needed rest to our return to the UK. Thank you Year 11 for an amazing trip - we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

Mrs Dodd

**Subject Leader for RE**



## YEAR 8 STUDENTS TAKE PART IN THE EMPOWERCYBER EVENT



Due to the support and opportunities offered by the National Cyber Security Council and the Cyber Schools Hub, the Computer Science department have been able to take advantage of a number of exciting opportunities this term.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November twelve Year 8 girls took part in the EmPowerCyber event hosted at Gloucestershire University which was attended by 800 Year 8 girls from across the county. This was in preparation for taking part in the CyberFirst competition due to be launched shortly where they will use the skills of Logic and Coding, Cryptography, Networks and Cyber Security.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves taking part in 4 workshops where the activities were as diverse as flying a drone, coding a Sphero ball to run around a maze, crack codes in order to defuse a bomb (not a real one!), learn about the Enigma Machine, learn about the components of a network and intercept data travelling on a network.

The girls are now raring to go with the competition and we look forward to tracking their success with this.

Ms Jenkins

**Subject Leader for Computing**

## YEAR 11 VISIT TO CYBER SECURITY ASSOCIATES



On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November both Year 11 Computer Science GCSE classes spent an inspirational and interesting day with Cyber Security Associates who took them through Ethical Hacking and a variety of practical real-world scenarios in this field. They were able to experience WIFI jamming, brute force password attacks, Linux commands, Digital Footprints and an interesting presentation from experts in the field of Cyber Security.

The real-world experience they can apply to what they have learned in the classroom has proved to be invaluable.

Ms Jenkins

**Subject Leader for Computing**

## FOOD STYLING MASTERCLASS FOR YEAR 11

Year 11 GCSE Food pupils were treated to a masterclass on food styling and plating up by a chef from Gloucestershire College - Matt Stead. The dishes presented were chicken wrapped in pancetta served with a medley of vegetables, followed with chocolate mousse on a genoise sponge.

The pupils have a 3-hour practical exam in January as part of their GCSE. The brief from the exam board is a Valentine's menu for a hotel. Matt demonstrated high level skills and presentation techniques which the pupils can now take forward and use in their own cooking.

Mrs Child

**Teacher in Charge of Food**



## YEAR 9 AND 10 GIRLS VISIT TO RENISHAW

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 29 girls from Year 9 and 10 visited Renishaw in South Gloucestershire to find out more about careers in Engineering and Science. Given the low percentage of women entering this field nationally, this visit gave the girls an opportunity to find out if there was a place for them in the future. The girls were given a tour of Renishaw's innovation centre, where they saw working models of the equipment that Renishaw have developed and use daily. They enjoyed seeing Renishaw's Gromit statue from the Gromit trail around Bristol and had an opportunity to get hands on, making their own LED torches.

It was a fantastic day and great opportunity for the girls.

Mrs Madrick & Miss Reynolds  
**Science Department**



## YEAR 10 APPRENTICESHIP EVENT

Earlier this term Year 10 students were lucky enough to have a visit by 3 people who outlined their experience of apprenticeships in the fields of education, business administration and construction. Each spoke with passion about their chosen industry and offered some invaluable advice about both apprenticeships and career progression in general.

One thing that stood out for me was the varied routes they had taken to get there, be that from school, university, or several jobs before embarking on the apprenticeship path. The key message from all of them was that you don't need to be sure to make a choice. Get started, see it through and then if you want to change direction your experience will still count towards your future plans.

Another useful tip was to remember large companies have a variety of opportunities available. Whilst Starbucks sell drinks, they offer apprenticeships in everything from accounting through to marketing. They're a multinational company with jobs in more than coffee!

The final message they left us with was the importance of being proactive. Anyone interested in an apprenticeship should look on <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>. The site is updated daily and even if you don't see a job you'd like, read the entry requirements so you get an idea of what companies are looking for. Scour social media, look in shop windows, read the local press and contact companies direct. Any and all of these are routes into an apprenticeship but remember, it's not like looking for a college course with defined entry dates, you're relying on a job coming up and this can happen at any time so you'll need to a) look every week and b) make sure you have a back-up plan in case you don't find something or your employer lets you down.

Anyone looking for further advice and guidance should contact Mrs Martin in the careers office who would be happy to help point you in the right direction.



## PE RESULTS – TERM 2

### Rugby – Boys

Year 7	vs	Dene Magna	Lost 20-5
Year 7	vs	Newent	Won 25-5
Year 7	vs	Barnwood *	Won
Year 7	vs	Gloucester Academy *	Won
Year 7	vs	Sir Thomas Rich's *	Lost
Year 7	vs	Kings *	Lost

\* Churchdown 10s Tournament

### Badminton – Boys

KS4	vs	St Peters	Won 5-0
KS4	vs	Crypt	Lost 3-2
KS4	vs	Sir Thomas Rich's	Lost 5-0

3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the District Tournament

### Football – Boys

Year 8	vs	Five Acres	Won 10-0 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round ESFA Cup
Year 8	vs	Sheldon	Lost 3-1 4 <sup>th</sup> Round ESFA Cup

### Handball – Boys

GCSE PE	vs	Crypt	Lost 10-8
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### Hockey - Girls

Year 7	vs	Denmark Road	Won 4-1
Year 7	vs	Newent	Won 4-1
Year 8	vs	Denmark Road	Lost 2-1
Year 8	vs	Newent	Lost 2-1

### Football - Girls

Year 7	vs	Churchdown	Won 12-1
Year 7	vs	St Peters	Won 6-2
Year 7	vs	Ribston	Won 6-1
Year 7	vs	Holmleigh Park	Won 14-4

### Badminton - Girls

KS4	vs	St Peters	Won 5-0
KS4	vs	Denmark Road	Lost 5-0

2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the District Tournament

### Netball - Girls

Year 7	vs	Gloucester Academy	Won 10-3
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If you have any old pairs of football/rugby boots that are just gathering dust or any old PE kit you would like to give a new home, can you please drop them in to Rob Hunte in the PE Dept. Thank you

## TIC+

Following on from the successful launch of the Parent Support and Advice Line, TIC+ are delighted to let you know that they will be launching a series of **Parent Support Groups** from April 2020.

The service is for parents living in Gloucestershire who are worried about the mental health and emotional wellbeing of their child (between the ages of 11-18).

Parents will need to self-refer by completing the **Online Referral Form** accessed from the **Parent Support** button from the home page of our website. Telephone self-referrals are also accepted.



Phone: 01594 372777  
Web: [www.ticplus.org.uk](http://www.ticplus.org.uk)  
Address: TIC+ Offices, 4th Floor, Building 7,  
Vantage Point Business Village, Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, GL17 0DD  
TIC+ is a Registered Charity No. 1045429



## PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

**Are you worried about your child's mental health, emotional well-being or behaviour?**

Parenting can be hugely rewarding but it can also be really hard work, especially if you think your child is unhappy or you are worried about them.

### FREE PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

For parents of young people aged 11-18 living in Gloucestershire struggling with mental health, emotional wellbeing and behavioural issues.

Groups are weekly for six weeks and last 1.5 hours - daytime and evening groups available.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

At various times and locations  
**GLOUCESTER - CHELTENHAM - FOREST OF DEAN**

TIC+ cares – we're here to help!

To book your place on the next group complete a self-referral form accessible from the TIC+ website or call us.

CONTACT US  
**01594 372777**

PARENT SELF REFERRAL FORM

[www.ticplus.org.uk](http://www.ticplus.org.uk)

*"I've come away each week with new ideas and tools to try at home and I've made a few new friends with other parents in the group!"*

**Developed by TIC+ Senior Counsellor Romina Bacon, the group is designed to inform and support parents, helping them to understand their child's distress and discover effective strategies to improve their resilience. The group is also an opportunity for parents going through similar experiences to encourage, support and learn from each other in a safe and friendly environment.**

Each group will be led by 2 facilitators who are fully-trained and experienced in parenting and young people's mental health. Parents are encouraged to commit to all 6 sessions to gain the most benefit out of the group.

Please note: due to limited places:

- Groups must be booked in advance
- Parents are encouraged to commit to all 6 sessions to gain the most benefit out of the group.
- Each group will close to new members after the second session.
- Only one parent per family can attend each group.

Locations, times and dates are available on the TIC+ website.



TIC+ is a mental health charity founded in 1993. Our mission is to improve, preserve and promote, good mental health and wellbeing among children, young people and families.

Charity number 1045429

ADULT EDUCATION



Adult Education  
in Gloucestershire



Severn Vale School



# Time to upgrade your English and maths qualifications?

Join a free\* Functional Skills course and get qualified!

A Functional Skills qualification is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 4 or C

If you want to improve your job prospects, get into further education, or help your children with their homework – contact us today!

Courses starting in 2020 in Quedgeley at Severn Vale School

**Reserve your place at our enrolment  
sessions on 26 February at 1830**

Book online: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mathseenglish](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mathseenglish)

Email: [Megan.Thoesson@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Megan.Thoesson@gloucestershire.gov.uk) • Tel: 01452 583800

*Join us! Improve your confidence! Get qualified!*

\*subject to eligibility

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