

## EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

### AFTER SCHOOL - 3:30-4:30

Monday	Yr 9/10/11 Netball – Wellsprings <b>MRS BIRD</b>
Tuesday	Early Bird Revision GCSE PE <b>MRS ARDREN</b> Football Fixtures – All Years <b>MR MASON/MR COX</b> Badminton – All Years <b>MRS BIRD</b>
Wednesday	Boys/Girls Football - Yr 7-11 School Field <b>MR MASON/MR COX/MR ROGERS</b> Year 7/8 Girls Netball <b>MRS ROULSTON/MRS ARDREN/MRS GELDENHUYS</b> Badminton Club – All Years Wellsprings <b>MR DAY</b> GCSE PE Revision PM <b>All PE staff</b>
Thursday	Year 9/10/11 Netball <b>MRS ROULSTON</b> Football Fixtures – All Years <b>MR MASON/MR COX</b>



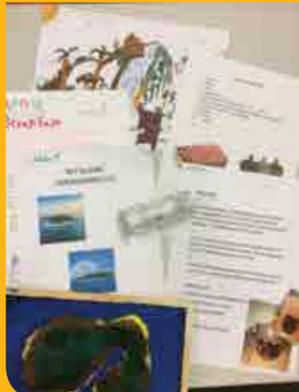
## Photo Gallery



Some Year 8s in the drama studio in their Christmas attire on the last day of term.



An excited group of Year 9s off to the Eden Project with Science and DT.



Year 7s' homework on the theme of islands, ranged from maps to recipes (apparently disgusting) to 3D models. So creative!



Year 8 cosy readers loving the new cushions!

## HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE

At the end of December I wrote to you about the intensive literacy programme we are putting in place this term. Literacy is paramount in securing good progress and outcomes for our students. We have now put this in place alongside a number of other improvements, having listened to the students and taken their views into account on several issues.

As we have grown in numbers, the length of queues at lunchtimes, and the lack of spaces in which to eat, have become frustrating for students. To address this we have changed the school day slightly, enabling every student to have a structured, highly effective 30 minute literacy programme, which appears as 'DEAR' (Drop Everything and Read) on student timetables, delivered by tutors, and a more positive lunchtime experience. It will also create a more focused learning environment for the afternoon lessons so high quality teaching and learning is maximised.

I continue to be really proud of the academy and its students. As always, I am grateful for your support; working together is the best way to ensure our students are as successful as they can be.

Mrs J Veal

## DROP EVERYTHING AND READ!

DEAR sessions are 30 minute reading sessions where tutor groups read together to improve levels of literacy and enjoyment of reading. We offer students the opportunity to read high quality literature to also improve their understanding of the world around them. Each year group has age-appropriate novels to read together. Within this collection of literature, each tutor group reads a different novel or play.

To better illustrate, here is a sample programme which some of our students are following this term:

Year 7: Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Year 8: Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Year 9: Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Year 10: Dracula by Bram Stoker

Year 11: J.B. Priestley's An Inspector Calls (to aid revision of a GCSE set text for English Literature)

As well as reading together, teachers provide chances for students to enhance their vocabulary by the learning of key words and phrases from the texts. Each student has been given a bookmark where they can record these keywords for future reference and revision. Whilst the DEAR programme



is a timed session with various reading activities, many tutors have also invested time with their groups to discuss the meanings of keywords and the stories with which they are engaging.



We hope that many students will build their confidence in their own reading ability and this will allow them greater independence with their learning in school and beyond. Thank you to staff and students alike for the positivity and enthusiasm surrounding this new and important programme of learning.



Ms Jones

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:



**Year 7:** Mia for excellent contribution in all lessons and Leo for excellent effort in all lessons and home learning.



**Year 7:** Madison and Brooklyn for an excellent start to the term, for having a positive attitude to learning and receiving a high number of merits.



**Year 8:** Abby for showing great resilience to new changes and Taylor for great involvement with the new format for DEAR time.



**Year 9:** Keanan for his excellent attitude to learning this year in every lesson. Anya for always working hard, which is evident in her excellent progress.

## INTERNET SAFETY

To ensure children remain safe while using the internet and social media, we have put together some tips and useful sites for parents and carers to use. We hope this information will help you in supporting your child to use the internet safely. Please remind your children to keep their Instagram profiles private and to not accept Facebook friend requests from strangers. This will ensure they are not contacted by anyone with harmful intent.

## GOING CASHLESS

Most of you are already successfully making payments via ParentMail. However there are still a small number of parents making payments by cash or cheque. We are now completely cashless, so you will need to register with ParentMail if you have not already done so. You will be able to pay electronically, using credit or debit cards, as well as PayPal, and if you do not want to pay with a card, cash can be taken at an outlet offering Paypoint. The nearest to the School is CostCutter at 301 Cheddon Road.

If you are not already registered with ParentMail, we have sent you an email via ParentMail to register your account, this is very quick and easy to do and will automatically link you to your child's account at the school. If you need any additional information or assistance, please use the help site: [www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/](http://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/) or contact school Reception.

## INVESTED IN HUMANITIES

Year 7 Humanities students have been working on a tourism project, based on Taunton. Working on the same project for five or six lessons has been a test of friendship and cooperation for some, while others found the opportunity to make new friends. They managed to find out a surprising amount about their town. For example, did you know that the tower of St. Mary Magdalene's Church was built using a donkey to work the crane to pull each of the stones up? When the tower was finished, the workers used the crane to pull the donkey to the top to admire the view it had helped to create!



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Mrs Motion



## COMMUNITY SERVICES



At the end of last term Imogen handed over her baked goods to the ladies in charge of the Open Door kitchen in Taunton, which helps the homeless. All in all she managed to make them Australian crunch, chocolate brownies, syrup sponge pudding, flapjack and sausage

rolls, then used the last of her money to buy custard to go with it all! Needless to say the staff at Open Door were extremely grateful and very impressed with her efforts. Well done Imogen!

## HELPING THE HOMELESS

Thank you to all those who contributed to the collection for the homeless. It was very much appreciated. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

Ms Roulston



## READING RECEPTION

Some of our students read to Reception and Year 1 students at Priorswood School at the end of last term. It was a lovely morning; our students wrote their own Christmas stories which were then entered into a competition with the winners reading theirs to the younger children.

Mrs Council



## WELLBEING CHAMPIONS

Thank you to Lily and Katie from SHARE (Schools Health and Resilience Education) for training our wellbeing champions, who are supporting emotional wellbeing and positive mental health within school. Their training has helped them to build knowledge of emotions, wellbeing, self care, resilience, communication and supporting peers to seek help.

We hope to cascade this training to future student champions.

There will be opportunities for parents and carers to get involved with SHARE by attending our 'Tuning into Teens' programme, more information coming soon.

Mrs Vercoe



## LEADERSHIP FESTIVAL



More than 30 Year 10 leaders led Year 5 students through a series of problem solving, strategy, communication, decision making and teamwork based activities in order to improve the students' leadership skills. They did a great job, I received

a lot of positive feedback from primary staff and two boys from Lyngford Park left saying it was the "best morning ever"!

Mrs Ardren

## BASKETBALL NEWS

Five Year 8 boys competed in the local Basketball CVL held at Heathfield School. The boys worked tremendously hard and produced some fine performances winning three out of the four matches.

Scores:

Taunton Academy 12-0 Haygrove

Taunton Academy 16-2 Castle

Taunton Academy 16-6 Heathfield B

Taunton Academy 7-13 Heathfield A

Well done boys on your achievements.

Mr Cox



## FOOTBALL NEWS

The Year 9 boys football team battled well in the second round of the county cup and put in a hearty display away from home against a very strong Beechen Cliff (in Bath) team. With a large crowd watching, the boys worked tirelessly but unfortunately saw their cup run come to an end following defeat. Great character and resolve was shown throughout so, well done boys! Best wishes to Beechen Cliff in the next round. The fixtures are set to come thick and fast now for all year groups with training every Wednesday from 3.30-4.30pm on the school field.

Mr Cox

