



Dream big • Do your best • Give back

13th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move into the final week of term, we have a range of festive activities ahead which we are all looking forward to. As a reminder of the various events taking place next week, all students can wear their Christmas jumpers to school on Wednesday 18th December. Year 7 are raising money for their charity week, so if families would like to make a donation of £1 to their chosen charities 'Be More Ben' and 'British Heart Foundation' students can bring the cash to the Year 7 area on the day.

Year 7 Charity Week

Next week will see fun activities every day for Year 7s during their charity week supporting 'Be More Ben' and the 'British Heart Foundation' charities:

- **Monday** breaktime - Penalty shootout on the 3G. £1 for 3 shots and sweets as prizes.
- **Tuesday** breaktime - Cake sale in Elliot Hall. Donations of cakes for students to sell would be welcome.
- **Wednesday** - Christmas Jumper Day (see above). Suggested donation of £1 (not essential).
- **Thursday** - Santa Run in PE lesson. All pupils asked to run or walk a mile listening to Christmas music. They can wear a Santa hat, elf hat or reindeer ears. Sponsorship - all students to raise money for running a mile or for how many laps they complete. Minimum of £1 to be raised. Sponsorship forms in Mrs Wills' office if needed.
- **Friday** - Christmas film in the Sixth Form Hall during Tutor Time and Lesson 1: The Grinch. £1 a ticket. Tickets can be purchased from Mrs Wills' office before Thursday.

Further details about the charity week will be sent to Year 7 parents on Monday.

Other Christmas Activities

- Sixth Form RAG week takes place all week with a range of activities, see below
- Our fantastic Music Concerts take place on Tuesday and Wednesday evening at 6.30pm - click [here](#) to book your tickets
- Tuesday is the Sixth Form Christmas lunch
- Wednesday is the Year 7-11 Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day

Phone-Free School

On Wednesday 11th December, I had the pleasure of visiting Redmaids School in Bristol with two members of my senior team; Redmaids began using the Yondr system in September.

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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

We had the opportunity to meet with staff and pupils, who talked to us about their transition to using Yondr pouches and the impact it has had on school life and their phone habits. Whilst Redmaids is in a different context to us, the conversations we had around phone habits and mental health echoed those we have had in school with our young people. The visit has confirmed the significant importance of our upcoming move to using the Yondr system and helped to shape our thinking about the launch of it.

Many of you will have already seen the Channel 4 documentary, that also aired on Wednesday 11th December, 'Swiped: The School that Banned Smartphones', but for those who haven't, we would recommend watching it. It is an uncomfortable watch for anyone involved in raising young people, staff and parents alike, but is very helpful for all of us in considering how we support young people with safe and healthy engagement in the online world.

Year 10AR1 Reports and Target setting

We are working with a new system of reporting with Year 10, moving to fine grading. As you will be aware, Year 10 students do not have KS2 data from Primary School, due to the disruption from the pandemic. As a result, we have used MIDYIS testing to produce their target grades. There can be anomalies for some subjects placing a lower target grade than the projected grade. This will be monitored and rectified moving forward to represent more accurate targets, so please use the projected grade as a measure of progress at the moment. Thank you for your understanding.

Mock Exams

Well done to Year 11 (and Year 10 Religious Studies students) who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and focus in their approach towards the mock examinations. Students have been a credit to themselves, and I have received lots of positive feedback about the students. Some subjects may be able to share feedback with students and offer scores. However, the Mock Result Grades will be shared on **Friday 17 January**, where students will be able to collect them from the Main Hall at the start of the school day.

RAG Fest Postponement

The Sixth Form have taken the decision to postpone the RAG Fest from Thursday 19th December - new date to be confirmed. We have not sold as many tickets as we would have liked and appreciate that our event is clashing with many other Christmas events and gatherings in people's calendars. We also have many musicians involved in other gigs and are conscious of their time and energy around Christmas. If you did purchase a ticket, this will be carried over to the new date.

Staff v Students Dodgeball at lunchtime on Monday 16th December and Christmas RAG Fayre on Wednesday 18th December lunchtime are still very much on and we encourage all students to attend; those having Christmas lunch can come across after their turkey and stuffing for some fun and games! Tokens are available to buy online, or students should bring cash to spend.

At this season of goodwill and giving, we would love as many donations as possible for the Caring at Christmas goods being delivered on Thursday 19th December to the centre in Bristol. Collection boxes are in the house areas and reception area. Any financial donations for our two charities, Caring at Christmas appeal and Cancer Research are also gratefully received via Parent Pay.

Denim Amnesty!

Did you know that every year a massive 2.16 million metric tons of denim jeans is globally wasted and mostly goes into landfill? The Textiles Team are preparing for a new up-cycling project and are looking for donations of clean denim - any colour and style, even ripped and stained - just so long as it's washed! They also always accept donations of clean polycotton/cotton (e.g. bedding). Thank you from Mrs Pullen, Mrs Hannam and Mrs Murdock.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend

Yours sincerely



Ms L Blundell
Headteacher

Key Dates for Term 2

Monday 16th to Friday 20th December	Sixth Form RAG Week
Monday 16th to Friday 20th December	Year 7 Charity Week
Monday 16th December	Flu Vaccinations (Year 11)
Tuesday 17th December	Christmas Concert all-day rehearsal
Tuesday 17th December	Sixth Form Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December	6.30pm Christmas Concert
Wednesday 18th December	Year 7 - Year 11 Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 18th December	5pm - 6pm A-Level Certificate Evening
Friday 20 December	Last Day of Term - 12.30pm finish for students
Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January inclusive	HOLIDAY

Key Dates for Term 3

Monday 6th January	INSET Day
Wednesday 15th January	Sixth Form Winter Electives begin
Wednesday 15th January	Year 12 Food & Nutrition Practical Exam
Thursday 16th January	Year 13 A-level Music mock recitals
Friday 17th January	Year 11 Mock Results Day
Tuesday 21st January	6pm Year 11 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 22nd January	Year 11 Inclusive Curriculum KS4 Trip to City of Bristol campuses
Thursday 23rd January	Year 13 Progress Evening
Tuesday 28th January	4.30 - 6pm Media Studies Creative Showcase
Wednesday 29th January	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Thursday 30th January	Year 10 Employability Workshop

Monday 3rd February	Year 10/11 GCSE Music trip to see Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Tuesday 4th February	Year 11 Geography field trip to River Holford (group 1)
Wednesday 5th February	Year 11 Geography field trip to River Holford (group 2)
Thursday 6th February	A-level Music trip to the Welsh National Opera
Thursday 6th February	Year 12 & 13 MFL trip to BFI London
Thursday 6th February	3.35pm Year 8/9 General Knowledge Quiz
Sunday 9th February	Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Training Day
Mon 10th to Fri 14th February	National Apprenticeship Week
Monday 10th February	3.35pm MFL Spelling Bee Final
Mon 10th to Wed 12th February	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Exam
Tuesday 11th February	6pm Parent Forum
Wednesday 12th February	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Wednesday 12th February	Year 9 Travel & Tourism trip (group 1)
Wednesday 12th February	2.30 - 7.30pm Post-18 Apprenticeship Evening
Thursday 13th February	Year 11 & Year 13 Student Leadership Conference, Chew Valley School
Thursday 13th February	Year 12 & Year 13 English Trip, Noel Coward Theatre London
Thursday 13th February	4.00 - 7.30 Year 11 Progress Evening
Friday 14th February	INSET Day
Monday 17th to Friday 21st February inclusive	HOLIDAY