

newsletter

January 2024



From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. It has been a positive start to the year with a wonderful start of term church service. As always, the highlight of the service was the contributions made by our students. A massive thank you to Chaplain Josh who has made such a positive impact since he joined us in September.

Bromcom

As part of the ongoing effort to improve the information and communication the school provides internally and externally, we will be changing our management information system (MIS). Our MIS underpins all aspects of the school's data processing systems. At SMRT, the company that we will be using for this new system is called Bromcom. This change will take place from Monday 19 February (the first day of Term 4). [Here is a link to the letter that explains more about this change.](#) It is important you read this letter as it explains that we will no longer be using Edulink as Edulink does not integrate with Bromcom. Instead, we will use Bromcom's parent app called **My Child At School (MCAS)** and Bromcom's student App called **Student App**.

School Leadership Team

Mr Matthew Woodville will be joining the SMRT leadership team next week as Senior Assistant Headteacher. Mr Woodville will be with us for the remainder of the academic year. He brings a wealth of leadership experience which will benefit all stakeholders. This will bring the educational leadership team up to full strength following the departure of Mr Simon Shaw (one of our Deputy Headteachers) in September 2023.

In February we will be interviewing for Mr Shaw's permanent replacement. We have had a great deal of interest in this vacancy, and I look forward to updating you on developments in this area.

Parent/Carer Contact Details

Do make sure the school has your most up to date phone and email details, and that your child's emergency contact list is up to date, as this will assist us in reaching someone, should we need to make contact in an emergency. Currently, you can update your details via Edulink. If you don't have access as a parent/carer, let us know and our Data Team will be able to help you.

Sixth Form Applications

Guidance meetings for students who have applied to the Sixth Form and have requested this support will

be taking place during February and March. Students who are applying from our own Year 11 need to stay focused on achieving their target grades and make full use of the support from teachers and other staff. As we have received more applications to our Sixth Form than ever before, it is important that Year 11 work hard to achieve the entry requirements to secure their place, as we won't be able to be flexible with students who miss out on these grades on results day.

Choosing GCSE Options (for Year 9 Students)

Year 9 students will begin the process of selecting their GCSE option choices this term. This is a lengthy and detailed process, which will include ViP lessons on options, assemblies, information for parents and carers, additional support for key groups of students, and a dedicated section on our school website. We are currently finalising our curriculum offer for 2024 to 2025 and will begin to share information with students, and parents and carers towards the end of January with a view to finalising option choices in Term 5.

SMRT Three Circles and ALIVE Model Update



Safe Boundaries and Good Relationships

- Corridor Code

I would like to start by commending our students for the way they have re-engaged with our Corridor Code at the start of the new term. There has been a noticeable difference which goes beyond compliance and better reflects our [ALIVE model](#) – **We Value Ourselves** and **We are interdependent**.

- Attendance

Student attendance at school is essential to their success both now and in the future. We are very grateful to parents and carers for their efforts in getting students into school, but we know that sometimes life can throw up challenges which make this difficult. We are here to support you so if you are having trouble getting your child into school then please contact your child's Tutor or Deputy Head of Year and we can work together to resolve the issue. Working together we have been able to continue the improvement in attendance which continues to be above the Bristol and National averages. Attendance over the last two weeks has been at least 94%. Well done and let's keep going! Please visit the attendance area of our website [here](#) for information about our procedures.

- Racial Equity and Literacy

We are currently completing our second [FLAIR](#) survey. This is a follow up to the survey that students and

staff completed last year. We will use the data to evaluate our progress in this area. As a result of the Survey last year, we review how we addressed the reporting of discrimination, bullying and harassment. This is outlined on our website [here](#). We have also begun our partnership with Representation Matters, with our first engagement in December 2023 and which has been followed up with strategic work with students and staff. This partnership will continue throughout the year. Mr Thomas-White (Director of Attendance, Inclusion, and Equalities) will provide a more detailed update in due course.

- January Student Council Meeting

I facilitated the Student Council Meeting which focussed on two big items:

1. School Uniform. How can we maintain the quality and smart appearance whilst improving affordability?
2. Lunchtime. How can we improve the dining experience with particular focus on introducing additional resources and systems to overcome problems caused by our smaller than average dining hall.

We are collating the excellent ideas and suggestions which will inform the Tutor Group Meetings in February. These meetings will be facilitated by the Student Council representatives. It was great to be able to share with the Student Council that the Governing Body are fully committed to working with the School Leadership Team, Student Council, and our suppliers to explore how we can improve affordability. In addition, our superb catering provider (Innovate) are fully committed to supporting us in our plans to improve the lunchtime experience.

Empowered Learning

- Careers Fair

Thank you to Mrs Hale for the exceptional work she does coordinating our careers provision in the main school. Students have benefited from an engaging and thought-provoking Careers Fayre. It was great to see the range of careers represented and students' horizons being broadened. This has given our students the opportunity to live out **We can research**, and we are grateful to all the companies and agencies who gave up their time to visit our school.

- Year 9 Assessment

Well done to Year 9 for how well they have conducted themselves during the Year 9 assessments. This is the first time we have held formal, whole cohort assessments in the Sports Hall. As well as providing teachers with data to inform their planning, students have gained invaluable experience which will prepare them for their GCSEs. They have demonstrated **We are organised** and should feel proud of themselves.

Community News

We welcomed back some of our staff who were on maternity leave, so students will be seeing Ms Cooper (Maths) and Mrs Luckett (formerly Ms Wesley DT) in school again this term. We will be welcoming back Ms Hutchinson (Maths) at the end of January. Ms Hobson has taken over from Ms Mullins as Deputy SENDCo, as Ms Mullins has now started her maternity leave.

Miss Crump (DT) is covering Mrs Brooker's teaching role, until a new permanent Second in DT starts after the Easter holiday, who will be specialising in Food Technology. Mr Cullinane (Drama) has replaced Miss Smith until the end of the academic year (and has taken over her Y7 tutor group), and Mrs Biden will be teaching RE and some history until a permanent replacement starts after the Easter holiday.

We have welcomed Miss Barry, who is our new Learning Mentor (responsible for Children in Care), and Miss Fox, who is our Attendance Administrator in the sixth form, replacing Ms Owen, who is now our Senior Attendance Officer.

Del Planter, Headteacher

French Cheese Festival



In the last week of Term 2, Year 11 French GCSE students and all Year 9 French students were treated to a French Cheese Festival, thanks to a generous donation from the Enabling Fund. Students had to order their food in French and then write up an opinion sheet.

The following cheeses and French treats were on offer: macarons, grapes, salami, crackers, Camembert, Brie, croissants, Ossau Iraty, Neufchâtel, Pavé d’Affinois Bleu, Comté, Halal salami, and vegetarian cheese slices.

You can imagine the whiff of French cheese by the end of the week and thank you to DT for letting us use their fridges!

Mrs Clapson

Jacari Peer Tutoring

Last term we teamed up with the wonderful charity Jacari. 14 of our A level students volunteer to support students in main school who all use English as an additional language and most are newly arrived refugees. Many of the volunteers are also from EAL backgrounds so they can relate to their younger tutees experience of arriving in the UK and learning English.

The tutees and mentors really enjoy these sessions, the tutees gain English language skills in a fun and dynamic way and our wonderful tutors gain mentoring skills, such a valuable experience for all!

Mrs Casselden

Dates for the diary

[Click here](#) to visit our website calendar for up to the minute dates.

January 2024	
Tue 30 Jan	Year 13 Maths Challenge 4:15pm – 5:15pm
Wed 31 Jan	Intermediate Mathematical Challenge
	UCAS Deadline
February 2024	
Thu 1 Feb	Y12 Hampton Court Trip
	Y13 Art Photography London Trip
	Poetry Event
Fri 2 Feb	Y13 Art and Photography London Trip
Tue 6 Feb	DofE expedition for all awards
	Y12 & Y13 Trip to UWE
	Y9 Parent/ Carer Options Information Evening 6pm-7pm
Wed 7 Feb	6th Form Culture Day
	Y13 Parental Briefing 5pm-7pm
Thu 8 Feb	Y10 Gradesheet Home
	Y9 Reports Home
	Year 10 Next Steps Careers and Progression Event
Tue 20 Feb	Y11 Spanish Mock (Speaking) start
Wed 21 Feb	Maths Roadshow 1pm - 3:30pm
Thu 22 Feb	GCSE PE Moderation start
	Music Trip 7:30pm – 9pm
Mon 26 Feb	Y11 Mocks start
	Y13 Internal Assessment start
Tue 27 Feb	A Level Spanish
	Y12 Gradesheet home
	Y8 HPV Vaccinations
Wed 28 Feb	Poetry Workshop 9am – 12:25pm
	Music Concert at SMR Church

The full school calendar will be available [Click here](#) on the school website (School Life, Calendar). While correct at the time of publication there are occasional changes to the dates above, so for the latest information please refer to Options Form In the calendar on the website. If you don't have computer access and would like to receive a paper copy of the Newsletter, please contact Mrs Chaibi chaibih@smrt.bristol.sch.uk

St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School, Somerset Square, Bristol BS1 6RT T: 0117 3772100 | enquiries@smrt.bristol.sch.uk



Do you want to practice speaking English? Come to an English Conversation Club.

Czy chcesz ćwiczyć rozmowy w języku angielskim? Przyłącz się do klubu konwersacyjnego English Conversation Club.

Ma doonaysaa in aad luqadda Ingiriisiga si fiican ugu hadasho? Kaalay oo ka qaybqaado kulamo gaar ah oo loogu talagalay xoojinta ama horumarinta ku hadalka luqadda Ingiriisiga.

کیا آپ انگریزی بولنے کی مشق کرنا چاہتے ہیں؟
انگریزی بول چال کے کلب میں تشریف لائیں۔

Хочеш попрактикувати розмовну англійську?
Приєднуйся до англійського розмовного клубу
English Conversation Club.

SCAN QR code to find out more



- Practice speaking English • Improve your confidence
- Meet new people • Term times only • Enjoy fun activities •

Come and join us at the ESOL Conversation Clubs in locations in Bristol

SCAN the QR code or email/text or call the number below

FREE Speaking classes in Bristol | No need to enrol—just turn up!



**COMMUNITY
LEARNING**

www.esolcc.org or contact Aggie on:
 ✉ esolconversationclubs@bristol.gov.uk
 ☎ 07768500673

How can I get my child to eat healthier if they won't try new things?



Our top 6 tips to tackle fussy eating at home

Get **FREE** support to get your family healthier

Join programmes starting in January, or start online programmes now!

1. The big "why"? Why don't they try new things? Are there tastes or textures they love or hate?

2. Check your language. Aim for encouraging language and avoid labelling. Swap "my child doesn't eat vegetables" for "my child loves sweetcorn."

3. Lower anxiety at mealtimes. Phones away and focus on chatting. There's no need to pressure them to try new foods.

4. Exposure. Get them to pick out fruits and veg when you're out shopping and ask them to help chop them up.

5. Routine. Set mealtimes to build regular habits and aim for 2 healthy snacks per day between meals.

6. Make it fun! Make funny face pizzas and add some new toppings.



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Scan the code

...or click here to find out more

Sign up today!



Ready for your family to feel healthier and happier?

Join **BeeZee Families Live**. A **free**, 12 week online course for you and your family. You can:

Join from the comfort of your home



Learn about healthy eating and wellbeing



Have fun and get moving with our games!



FREE 1 hour Half-term
activity session with stories!

the NEIGHBOURS UPSTAIRS SENSATION!

This sensory stimulating storytelling sensation is sure to send your senses silly! There will be all sorts of stuff to see, hear, smell, taste and touch throughout the stories of the Neighbours Upstairs...

6-10 year olds can come and join us at

Trinity Centre

Tuesday 13th February

10am, 12pm or 2pm

Tickets are limited so if you can't make it please let us know.

For more info and tickets search for us
on Headfirst or email:

theneighboursupstairs@gmail.com