

newsletter

June 2024



From the Headteacher

Welcome to our June newsletter.

I hope you are enjoying the sunshine! It has been an incredibly busy month as we have supported over 550 students through examinations. Thank you to all parents, carers, staff, and invigilators for your support and hard work during this period.

On Thursday evening (27 June), the parents and carers of the Year 7 students who are starting in September got their first chance to come into school. We explained what life would be like for a new Year 7 student at SMRT. Thank you to all the staff and students who took part, and to those staff behind the scenes who organised the evening. We are looking forward to seeing the new Year 7 students themselves on one of the two Induction Days, when they come in for an exciting day of sample lessons. We have communicated with families directly to inform them of their specific induction day.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students finished their GCSE and A Level exams last week. It was lovely to see many Year 11 students and their families at their leavers' service on Tuesday 25 June in St Mary Redcliffe Church. It was a wonderful celebration of their time at SMRT. We also held our fantastic Year 11 Prom that evening.

Pentecost

It was a wonderful opportunity to have the whole school engaged in the service and have students contribute to the service in a variety of ways. My thanks go to Mrs Duzniak (Assistant Headteacher), Chaplain Josh, and our IT Team for their work in organising this service.

Next September

The school will be welcoming Year 7 and Year 12 students back after the holidays on Tuesday 03 September. The other year groups will return on Wednesday 04 September. These days are a period of induction for students who are new to the school, and an opportunity for us to set out our expectations for the year ahead to the whole school community.

Uniform

Monkhouse, our uniform suppliers have asked us to let parent/carers know that you are now able to book in-store appointments, in addition to the current 'walk in' arrangements. This will mean that you can avoid a queue and their staff will be able to advise you about sizing. Appointments can be booked up to a month in advance. You are still able to order online should you prefer that. You can find more information about their store and how to book at www.monkhouse.com.

GCSE and A Level Results

Grades will be released to students in person from 8.30am on Thursday 15 August (A Levels) and from 9am on Thursday 22 August (GCSE). Grades will also be released to students via Bromcom.

Friends of SMRT

Friends of SMRT is the name we give to the equivalent of the PTA you might be familiar with from your children's Primary Schools. Everyone has automatic, free membership! The committee meets termly, and all are welcome to attend. The committee are elected in Term 2, at their Annual General Meeting. You can find full details on our website [here](#), and the meeting dates are in our school calendar. The group's primary function is to support the school socially, financially, and educationally. They run the School Support Fund, details of which can be found [here](#). Please consider whether you are able to donate to this worthwhile fund. There are a number of ways you can actively contribute to the work of Friends of SMRT. I am sure the group would be delighted to welcome new faces at their next meeting!

Free School Meal Holiday Vouchers

Bristol City Council (BCC) have contacted us about the Household Support Fund which they receive from the government, who extended this provision until September 2024. A large proportion of this money is used to provide supermarket vouchers for the families of eligible Free School Meal pupils during holiday periods. BCC's Strategy and Resources committee have agreed to use the fund to award grants of £45 per pupil for the upcoming summer holiday period. They have recognised that this is a reduced rate compared to previous years due to the limited six-month extension until September.

BCC understand that this may cause real challenges for families over the school holidays. If you know someone who is struggling, there is further information and support on BCC's dedicated cost of living webpage. The We Are Bristol phonenumber is also available on 0800 694 0184 between 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

BCC do not yet know details about the future of the Household Support Fund beyond September 2024 when the fund is expected to end. This will be decided by the future government after the general election on Thursday 4 July and there will be further updates then.

My thanks go to our admin team at SMRT who work hard to ensure that these vouchers get sent to the correct families in a timely manner.

New Attendance Guidance

The government has issued new statutory attendance guidance that will take effect from **19 August 2024**. We will be updating our attendance policy in accordance with the new legislation. The new guidance stresses the importance of attendance to school along with the importance of school adopting a supportive approach with families. The guidance can be read [here](#).

There has been a significant **national** change regarding penalty notice fines for school attendance that we need to make you aware of.

- The **first** time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance, the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days) Reduced to: £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
- The **second** time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance to the same parent for the same child the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days) There is no reduction in the amount.
- The **third** time an offence is committed for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance by the same parent for the same child (including those by other Local Authorities) a Penalty Notice will NOT be issued but will be referred to Bristol City Council's Education Welfare service for Prosecution which may result in fines of up to £2,500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in a Magistrate's Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate.

We have enclosed two documents from Bristol City Council:

1. What you need to know if your child is absent (unauthorised) during term time - valid from September 2024 onwards.
2. School Attendance: The law is changing from 19th August 2024.

We offer a significant level of support for students who are struggling with attendance. Please contact your child's tutor if you have any concerns or need support. Our website will be updated in line with the new guidance.

Community News

We had good news from a parent about ex-student Chay Mullins, who left in 2018 to attend SGS college. Chay has secured a place in the Irish rugby sevens team attending the Paris Olympics in July 2024 and has also secured a professional contract with Connacht Rugby Club. This is an impressive achievement.

It will soon be time to say goodbye to those members of teaching staff who are retiring, leaving us for new promoted posts, or posts elsewhere, or whose temporary contracts are coming to an end. There will be a summary of those who are leaving in the final newsletter of the year, and we will introduce our new staff early in September.

Introduction from Mr Morgan – Deputy Headteacher (Behaviour, Inclusion, and Ethos)

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you read this newsletter, I will have just completed my first month at SMRT. It's been a very busy month full of new challenges and I am very pleased to be in post before the start of the new academic year.

Last week I spoke to Years 7 to 10 in assembly, focusing on our Alive value of the term: Justice and Respect. At the start of the assembly, I said a few words to introduce myself and why I decided to join SMRT. I thought it would be good to share them with you too. I worked in my last school for nearly 20 years, as an Assistant Headteacher for nearly a decade; I loved the school and the role, but I felt that it might be time for a new challenge. This role was the only one I was interested in moving schools for, and I shared with the students three of the reasons why SMRT really stood out to me. Firstly: it is really a special place. Bringing together students from all over the city and far beyond, every day into this amazing community of young people bound together through their daily shared experiences and routines is truly unique. Secondly: every school has values or mottos that encapsulate their purpose, but at SMRT those values stand out a mile – the Alive values and the 'three circles' – as they focus on the whole person, their personal and moral growth, and, most importantly, hope in God is right at the centre. Thirdly: the school strongly resources pastoral care and specialist support, which shows how much the school cares for its students. So, I was sold! I thought it was important to share that with students because we all get used to our surroundings, complacent even, and it's important to be proud about the place where you belong.

In this last month, whilst getting myself accustomed to a new environment, we have been reviewing our behaviour and uniform codes to help make them both simpler and clearer. I will follow up shortly with some more information for parents and carers that you will need to know to help your young person be 'September ready'.

Del Planter, Headteacher

Poetry Competition Winners

The following students all took part in the poetry competition on Thursday 16th May. They all wrote and performed excellent poems on the theme of 'My City'. The use of language and range of ideas was excellent and enjoyable to listen to.

Well, done to: Anna White, Mia Staynings, Joy Lin, Joseph Morris, Justyn Brailsford

Mr Boswell



Maths Spread Evaluation

The emphasis of the Maths Spread was "thinking mathematically"; the Year 7 and 8 SMRT teams did this tremendously while simultaneously competing against many schools from around Bristol. A crossnumber appetiser (instead of crossword) preceded a three-course mathematical meal consisting of, firstly, mind-bending problems - like, rank these in order of eyesight: bat, hawk, mole, cat, dog - then a 25 minute main course of counting squares on a 5-by-5 dotted grid, then (after a break for squash and fancy biscuits) onto the dessert: quick-fire problems with each success rewarded with a piece of a jigsaw - a jigsaw of a Penrose tiling! As mentioned, competition was allegedly secondary to the delights of mathematics. However, when the bags of chocolate came out for the "winners" the focus shifted to mathematical success; SMRT students' success was in their resilience, teamwork and questioning, and they left with their mathematical stomachs replete.

Mr Cross

Geography

Year 10 students recently descended on Holford Combe in the Quantocks for geography fieldwork. They proved brilliant overall, a credit to the school. All returned wet, tired and in one piece having bonded with nature. We'll done.



Mr Killen

Jacari Peer Tutoring

We have been working with Jacari this year supporting our students who use English as an additional language. Our sixth form students support students in main school to improve their English level through various games and activities every Wednesday morning.



As a thank you to all the sixth form volunteer tutors and all the main school tutees, Jacari organised a trip to CoExist community kitchen in Easton where students worked together making their very own pasta. Students had a great time and enjoyed the challenge of creating pasta from scratch. Everyone sat down together and enjoyed a delicious meal at the end. It was a great afternoon.

Special thanks to Aggie from Jacari for working with us this year on the peer tutoring programme, we look forward to working with you again next year.



Miss Casselden

Eid-ul-Adha

As a school, we value faith and the expression of faith in our communities. We recognise that many of our Muslim students were celebrating Eid ul-Adha in June. I have had the privilege of hearing stories of celebration, family meals and gift giving. For those who celebrated Eid ul-Adha, we hope you and your family had a blessed Eid filled with happiness and cherished moments.

Have a read of our Weekly Worship as we reflected on Eid ul-Adha together.

<https://www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk/faith-and-community/weekly-worship/we-value-justice-and-respect-4-2024>

May this festival be a reminder of the love and support we have for each other.

God bless,

Chaplain Josh

SMRT Spelling Bee

I am delighted to say that on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th June, Year 7 and 8 students took part in our annual year group Spelling Bee competition. This was an exceptionally brave and bold thing to do with a selection of wonderful students competing to spell a number of tongue-twisting words in front of their whole year group. All the students listed below were brilliant and have been rewarded with prizes:

YEAR 7

Girum Cherinet - WINNER
Kenneth Pannicker
Michelle Fernando
Jasper Wilkinson
Iqra Salad
Shadane Anderson
Raenisa Cameron
Tommie Downey-Tams
Girum Cherinet

YEAR 8

Rachel Hall-Green - WINNER
Adeire Odutola - WINNER
Chloe Clements - WINNER

Nancy Bain

Sofia Agnese
Isaac Koya-Rawlinson

Mr Boswell

School Uniform

If you have any uniform that you no longer need that you would like to donate to our second hand uniform sale please bring it in and give to Mrs Miller on student reception. Thank you for your support.

Mrs Miller

Raising awareness of testicular torsion

Testicular torsion is a time-critical emergency where a testicle twists, cutting off the blood supply and causing sudden scrotal pain. The testicle can die within six hours without emergency surgery.

With torsion occurring in 1 in 1,000 boys aged 10-20 NHS England, the Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme is working to raise awareness and improve education among young people, parents/carers and teachers to ensure boys experiencing severe testicular pain and other symptoms of torsion can recognise the signs and understand to act quickly. As a school we will be working to raise awareness amongst staff and students. Please do reinforce this with your children as relevant.

Katherine Meredith, Mental Health Lead

Dates for the diary

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

| July 2024 | |
|--------------|--|
| Wed 3 Jul | Gold DofE qualifying expedition |
| | MFL Mocks (Speaking) start |
| | Y6-7 Transition Day |
| | Alive Awards evening |
| Thu 4 Jul | Y6-7 Transition Day |
| | Y12 Gradesheet Home |
| Mon 8 Jul | Y10 Work experience week start |
| | Y12 Art and Photography Trip Barcelona |
| | Y12 Geography Fieldwork |
| | Activities Week start |
| 13,14,15 Jul | Silver qualifying expedition |
| | Bronze qualifying expedition |
| Tue 16 Jul | Going for Gold Celebration |
| Wed 17 Jul | Culture Day -Non-Uniform Day |
| Thur 18 Jul | Y10 GCSE English Speaking Assessment |
| | Year 6 SEND Parent's Coffee Morning 10:15am – 11:45am |
| | Second Hand Uniform Sale 15:45pm -16:45pm |
| 23 Jul | End of Year Service 9am - 10am |
| | Last day of the academic year - Early Finish @ 12:25pm |

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



Save the Date!!

Check out these upcoming careers events:

- 8th & 9th October 2024 – National Apprenticeship Show @ Ashton Gate Stadium.

[Click Here](#)

- 12th October 2024 – Allied Health Professionals Careers Fair @ UHBW Bristol Royal Infirmary Education Centre.



Customer Service Apprenticeship Vacancies

There are two fantastic opportunities to join North Bristol NHS Trust in an exciting role as an apprentice in the Women's & Children's Division. We are looking for a friendly and enthusiastic receptionists to join the maternity team at Southmead Hospital.

[Click Here](#)

Careers Hub



**Bristol, North Somerset
and South Gloucestershire**
Integrated Care Board

Hey, You

Careers Hub Newsletter May 24

Here you'll find helpful
information on Health & Social
Care upcoming career events
& apprenticeship vacancies

Support with Planning your Next Steps

Local NHS organisations are providing info and support to everyone who's taking their A-Level, AS-Level, and T-Level exams. If you're looking for advice or support about what to do next contact us!

[Email us](#)

REMINDER!

Contact:
bnssg.careershub@nhs.net

South West Health and Social Care Careers Website

The South West Health and Care Career Pathways website is a unique platform that provides career and pathway information as well as showcasing specific regional opportunities such as job vacancies, events, and work experience opportunities all in one place.

[Click Here](#)

NHS CARE

South West Health and Care
CAREER PATHWAYS



Summer Sessions





July
August



SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
TUESDAY 30 JULY - FRIDAY 02 AUGUST
10.30AM - 2.30PM

Join us this summer for a mix-up of activities, fun, hanging out, and learning from local creatives.

ACTIVITIES

-  Photography & film-making
-  Cooking on a campfire
-  Days out in the woodlands
-  **A special session with the acclaimed Hip Hop Garden!**

Outdoor & indoor summer activities for 11 - 16 year olds across 4 days



tinyurl.com/SAH-SummerSessions

Sign up is essential

ST ANNE'S HOUSE

Get in touch!
07718106953
@bricksbristol
jack.young@bricksbristol.org
stanneshouse.org

St Anne's House
St Anne's Rd
Brislington
BS4 4AB

ST ANNE'S YOUNG PEOPLE

Do you want a regular comfortable place to hang out, eat and relax with your mates?

Ages 13+

An inclusive space for you - young people living in St Anne's!

Do you want to explore creative and fun projects?

When?

Every Tuesday evening, 5-7pm.

Where?

Our base location is St Anne's House, but we're not limited to just one spot!

This group is by young people, for young people-with the support of a team of creative youth workers from Bricks and Creative Youth Network

We venture to different locations across St Anne's, so you can get to know us in different areas in your community.

How to sign up?

You can email: jack.young@bricksbristol.org

Call: 07718106953

Or visit:

stanneshouse.org/whats-here/youth



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HOST A STUDENT IN BRISTOL IN JULY



Do you have a spare room?

Do you live within 30 minutes of St Werburghs?

Would you like to earn some extra money this summer?

Why not host a French student?!

2nd - 9th July and/or 10th - 23rd July

Our student groups of teens have English classes
and activities 9.00am - 5.00pm

£29 for a single student, £56 for 2 students per night

CONTACT US

☎ 07816996430

✉ donnalousellick@gmail.com

Disclaimer

We sometimes share details with you of external clubs and non-school lettings, such as sports groups and clubs that are not necessarily affiliated to the school directly. Please note that we do not endorse these products or services and that if you purchase any of the products or services offered by these external third parties, you are purchasing directly from the third parties, and not from SMRT. We are not responsible for the offerings of these third parties and do not assume any responsibility or liability for the actions, products, or services of these third parties. They may have their own terms and policies which you should review carefully.