

newsletter

October 2023



From the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to our final newsletter of the term. It has been a very enjoyable and successful term. We have had a particular focus on embedding the changes and developments introduced last year. All stakeholders have worked hard, and I hope you can get some form of rest and family time during the half-term break.

Admission to Year 7 (September 2024)

A final reminder that if you are making an application to SMRT for a younger sibling and you are applying with faith criteria, please ensure you have:

- **Completed the Local Authority application form** [Apply for a new year 7 secondary school place \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk) giving your three preferences of school.
- **Completed the school supplementary form** [St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School - Admissions \(smrt.bristol.sch.uk\)](https://www.smrt.bristol.sch.uk) to enable us to apply faith criteria to your application.

Closing date for both forms is **midnight on Tuesday, 31 October 2023**.

If you do not have a Bristol postcode, you will need to apply to us via your own local authority. There are links for Bath and Northeast Somerset, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire on the Admissions page.

Admission to Year 12 (September 2024)

Our first Sixth Form opening evening took place on Thursday 19 October, and was very well attended. We were grateful for the support of some of our current students, and our sixth form team and teachers, in making this such a success. We have another on Wednesday 8 November. Due to exceptionally high demand, the bookings for the second event are already full, despite adding an extra talk at 5.30pm.

Details about how to apply are on the Sixth Form page of the school website ([Applying to Us](#)). **It is important that current SMRT Year 11 students apply using their school email address and the password they have been sent to access the application site, and do not register as a new student to the school.** Please make sure that you get your application in by **9am on Monday 11 December** as priority is given to on time applicants.

Sixth Form News

We are delighted with how well our Year 12s and Year 13s have settled into the new year. Our students have already contributed greatly to main school and beyond, with lots speaking at promotional events in the main school, mentoring our Year 11s, leading in main school events including an assembly on Black History Month, and are soon going to be helping Year 7 students with their reading. Last week, Year

12s met their Year 13 subject mentors, who shared tips and advice for each A Level subject. Meanwhile 53 of our students have applied through UCAS as early entry applicants so for applications to Oxbridge and/or for Medical, Dentistry and Veterinary courses. This is our highest ever number of early applicants. Sixth Form students are also proposing charities that we raise money for this year. We usually select two.

Provisional GCSE Exam Results

Last month I said we would provide an update on our GCSE exam outcomes. We have now received the provisional results from the DfE. These results suggest a Progress 8 score of +0.39 which is the highest-level SMRT students have achieved since the introduction of this measure. Similarly, disadvantaged students achieved a Progress 8 score of +0.11 which matches our previous highest achievement for this cohort. We expect the final validated results for GCSE and A Level in late October/early November and we will share these when they are live. I would like to put on record my congratulations to the Class of 2023, their parents/carers, and our staff for their role in this achievement.

Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 11 have their mock exams from Monday 6 November to Friday 16 November. Timetables have been sent home and personalised timetables will soon be available via Edulink. Year 11 students have had an assembly on the arrangements for the mock exams, as well as guidance on following exam procedure. Revision topic lists have also been sent out to students and parents and carers. It is important that students revise for these exams as they are excellent preparation for the summer external exams and will help with predicted grades and, for some subjects, tiers of entry.

Attendance and Punctuality

I would like to thank our students, parents, and carers for their contribution in the continued improvement in attendance and punctuality. Our attendance figures for the year so far are higher than this time last year, higher than the Bristol average, and higher than the national average. We are particularly pleased with the improved attend for Year 10 and Year 11 students. Please follow [this](#) link for information on our approach to attendance.

We have also seen a significant improvement in student punctuality. We are mindful of the challenges posed by our central location and public transport and therefore it is commendable that we have seen such improved punctuality. With the introduction of our new pastoral curriculum it is vital that students are in school for tutor time. Please follow [this](#) link for more information on our expectations and approach to improving punctuality. Thank you and well done!

Behaviour and Good Relationships

It has been great hearing visitors and stakeholders commenting on the calm and purposeful feel around the school. We have focused on ensuring that we recognise positive learning and contributions with ALIVE points and I am pleased that all students who have achieved 50 ALIVE points will be receiving a letter of encouragement sent to their parents/carers. These students will also receive a tutor treat from their Head of Year. Please see our [Behaviour and Good Relationships Policy](#) for more information on our rewards systems and follow [this](#) link for an update on how we communicate ALIVE points and Behaviour points with parents/carers. It has felt equally pleasing to celebrate students who have moved down or off the discipline stages.

Extra-Curricular Sport

Well done to all the students who have been able to attend clubs throughout this term. We are pleased that attendance to these clubs has increased over the term. Activities will change after half term with basketball, sports hall athletics, and cross-country competitions taking place in Term 2. Please follow [this](#) link for the schedule of sports clubs and activities.

Netball

It has been a fantastic start to the Netball season with over 100 students taking part over 3 days. Training has been going very well with a great atmosphere with students working hard to improve their skills and game play. The competitive season began with the Year 11s winning the Central Netball Festival.

Our next round of matches was against Ashton Park with wins for the Year 9 and 10 teams, and a narrow loss for the Year 11 team. The Year 10s played in the Central Netball Festival and came away with 2 wins against Trinity School and Fairfield to win the Festival.

Years 7, 8 and 10 all played Fairfield with the Year 10s winning 24-11. Years 7 and 8 lost their matches despite playing very well against strong teams. They demonstrated a lot of resilience and fought hard all the way to the final whistle. The Year 9 team played in the Central Netball Festival against nine teams. The competition was strong, and they played incredibly well to make it to the semi-finals where they lost by one goal.

Both the Year 7 and 8 have their festivals after the half-term along with further matches against other schools. Thank you to all the staff leading these events and netball players who have trained and competed well. We love seeing how you all support and encourage each other.

Chaplain

Joshua Newton joined us as our new Chaplain in mid-September. We are delighted that he has settled in so well at SMRT.

Curriculum Website

We are making good progress with updates to and restructure of the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 curriculum webpages. Please follow [this](#) link for a closer look. We are now working on bringing Key Stage 5 up to date, although current Key Stage 5 information provides parents, carers, and students with the key information they need.

Free School Meals

We know that the circumstances of many parents and carers change, and if you are not already registered for free school meals and think you may be entitled, please do register. This helps the school as some of our funding is allocated on the percentage of students on free school meals. This helps your family and the wider school community. Even if your child prefers to bring in a packed lunch, you can register for free school meals and have the occasional morning free from the chore of sandwich making! You can apply for free school meals from Year 3 onwards (including Secondary Schools) if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
 - Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
 - Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
 - Universal Credit: if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get. This is also called the 'minimum income floor'.)
- If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will be eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2025.

The Local Authority [website](#), has all the information you need and you can apply '[on line](#)'. Please contact Mr Morris (School Business Manager) if you need more information ([morrison@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:morrisi@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)).

Community News

Some of our LSAs are moving on to new challenges, so we say goodbye to Miss Pardie and Mr Edmundson. Miss Plomer (Cover Supervisor and Tutor) is also leaving us for a new post early in Term 2. We thank them for all their work with our young people and wish them well in the future.

Looking Forward

Please visit the website regularly if you don't already as it is a very strong source of information.

Del Planter, Headteacher

Literacy News

Poetry Competition - National Poetry Day

The poetry event for National Poetry Day took place on Thursday 5th October. We had a fantastic event in the library with 10 students reading their poems and 30 students in attendance. The theme of the event was 'Refuge' and students supported and listened to each other as poems were shared. It was a wonderful event.

Buy a Child A Book - Oxfam - Cotham Hill

SMRT recently had the good fortune to be involved in the 'Buy A Child A Book' project with Oxfam bookshop in Cotham Hill. The project was a huge success with many people donating books to the shop, I then had the opportunity to visit the shop and select books for our school. We now have a lovely selection of Young Adult novels for use in the library and silent reading in English lessons.

Mr Boswell

Chief Scout's Award

Congratulations to Thomas Grainger in year 10! Thomas has recently been presented with his Chief Scout's Gold Award which is a formidable achievement. This involves completing nine challenge awards and six activity badges. This is the highest scouting award achievable for his age group.

Well done!

Miss Young



Dates for the diary

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

November 2023	
Wed 1 Nov	Flu Vaccination
Thu 2 Nov	Y10 Settling in GCSE Gradesheet home
Mon 6 Nov	Y11 Mocks start
	Y13 Mocks start
Wed 8 Nov	Post 16 Open Evening 2
Thu 9 Nov	Late start (Students arrive @10:15am)
Sat 11 Nov	A level Concert Set Work Music Trip 7:45pm
Tue 14 Nov	Friends of SMRT AGM 6pm – 8pm
Wed 15 Nov	Senior Kangaroo and British Mathematical Olympiad Challenge (Round1)
	Piano Recital Evening 7:30 pm – 9pm
Thu 16 Nov	Y8 Gradesheet Home
Mon 20 Nov	Y11 Photography Mock Exam
	Y10 Parent/Carer Evening 4pm -6:30pm
Tue 21 Nov	Y11 Photography Mock Exam
	Muller House Eucharist 8:30am – 10am
Wed 22 Nov	Non-Uniform Day
	Y10 Parent/Carer Evening 4:30pm – 6:30pm
Thu 23 Nov	BJC Mock Interview Evening (Online event)
	Malaga Trip Depart
Fri 24 Nov	Friends of SMRT Quiz and Curry Night 7pm – 10pm
Mon 27 Nov	Malaga trip return
Tue 28 Nov	Day of Prayer
Thu 30 Nov	Inset Day
	Year 9 Gradesheets Home

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



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BIKEABILITY HOLIDAY COURSES

Ardagh Community Trust

October half term

Level 2 and 3



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Bristol Youth Vote ^X 2024

Bristol City Youth Council

Making a change for young people in your community

Nominations open 2nd-31st October 2023


a better Bristol

Families in Focus North Participation Team
40-44 Ridingleaze
Lawrence Weston
Bristol. BS11 0QE

 @BristolCYC
Email: ywparticipation@bristol.gov.uk








NHS

9 out of 10

unvaccinated children can catch measles if someone in their class has it

Check your child is up to date with their MMR vaccinations



NHS

102,000 children starting school in England are at risk of catching measles

Check your child is up to date with their MMR vaccinations

Friends of SMRT

QUIZ & CURRY NIGHT

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
@ 7:30pm

COME WITH A TEAM OR JOIN A TEAM ON THE NIGHT

£15 PER PERSON

CURRY INCLUDED IN THE PRICE. DRINKS AVAILABLE AT THE BAR.

SIGN UP NOW

<https://buytickets.at/thefriendsofstmaryredcliffeandtempleschool/1037724>

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