

newsletter

October 2024



From the Headteacher

It has been a very enjoyable and successful term. Staff and students 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 2025)

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://smrt.bristol.sch.uk) to enable us to apply faith criteria to your application.

Closing date for both forms is **midnight on Thursday 31 October 2024**.

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 2025)

Our first Sixth Form opening evening took place on Thursday 17 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 6 November.

Details about how to apply are on the Sixth Form page of the school website ([Applying to Us](#)).

Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 11 have their mock exams from Monday 11 November to Friday 15 November. 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.

Y11 Study Skills Evening

We had an incredibly well attended Year 11 Study Skills Evening on the evening of 22 October, with over 200 people in attendance. Parents/carers and students heard from Mr Eve (Acting Head of English) and Mr Sims (Head of Maths), alongside other key members of staff who support Year 11. The evening is designed to provide students and their families with revision strategies and to help them develop confidence so that they are ready for their GCSE examinations in the summer. Thank you to all who attended.

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 also helps the school as some of our funding is allocated on the percentage of students on free school meals. You can apply for free school meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Universal Credit if your household income is less than £7,400 a year or £616.67 a month after tax
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- 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)
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- If we find your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish their phase of schooling (primary or secondary) on 31 March 2025

The Local Authority [website](#), has all the information you need and you can apply '[on line](#)'. Please contact our FSM Administrator, Mrs Cooper, if you need more information (coopere@smrt.bristol.sch.uk).

Community News

I spoke with Year 10 student Calvin about his extraordinary achievements in the world of Irish Dancing, and he is currently the U15 World Champion. Achieving this accolade is a testament to his dedication and resilience, and we must give credit to his family who support him. We are very proud to have him as part of our community at SMRT.

Congratulations to Year 10 student Elijah, who competed for Spain in October in the BOXAM boxing championships in Alicante and beat the European number 3 in the final to claim the gold medal. This is another amazing sporting achievement for a student from our community and we are very proud of his achievements.

Other good news comes in the form of ex-Year 11 student Bradley Burrowes, who played for Aston Villa U21s in the EFL trophy against Bolton Wanderers (1st team) in front of a few thousand spectators, set up their goal, and scored the winning penalty! This is a very impressive achievement.

Looking Forward

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

Del Planter, Headteacher

Attendance Update

Firstly, can I thank parents/carers for their support for the school implementing new attendance procedures that all schools have had to introduce following attendance legislation introduced on the 19th August 2024. At St. Mary Redcliffe and Temple School, we are delighted with the overall attendance percentage for students. Since September 2024 Attendance data to date has indicated that the school is significantly above the National average by 1.42%, the Regional average by 1.92% and the Bristol Average.

We are always striving to improve student attendance and to work with families where there may be difficulties in their child attending school. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact the Year team.

May I remind Parent/Carers that the school day starts at 8.30am and morning registers can only be 'open' until after 9.00am. If a student arrives after 9am unfortunately their attendance in school is marked as a U (unauthorised absence). We fully understand that there may be situations with the transport network in Bristol. The school would encourage that if you know that unforeseen and occasional train/bus issues have caused them to be late prior to 9am to email attendance@smrt.sch.bristol.uk with details to apply for discretion.

Mr Thomas-White, Director of Attendance, Inclusion and Equalities

Poetry Competition (National Poetry Day) 03 October 2024

We celebrated National Poetry Day on Thursday 3rd October by having a wonderful poetry competition in the library. The theme was counting, and a great turnout saw a wonderful range of poems shared and enjoyed by all. The following students all took part and were amazing:

Ciara (Year 9)
Jack (Year 9)
Oliver (Year 7)
Isaac (Year 7)
Josh (Year 7)
Annie (Year 7)
Dana (Year 7)
Zion (Year 7)
Atipa (Year 7)
Zachary (Year 7)
Wema (Year 7)
Keon (Year 7)
Harvey (Year 7)
Mia (Year 8)
Bea Rolls (Year 7)
Sophie (Year 7)
Vivienne (Year 7)
Thea (Year 7)
Ellie (Year 7)
Florence (Year 7)

Mr Boswell

EAL (English as an Additional Language) Peer Tutoring

We've teamed up again with 'Jacari' this year to run our EAL (English as an Additional Language) peer tutoring program. Our sixth form students come and spend every Tuesday lunch with some of our students who are working on improving their English proficiency level.

The first session was just lovely, students ate together whilst getting to know each other. Sixth form tutors were amazing at making their main school tutees feel comfortable and happy. Games were played, laughs were had, English language skills were developed.



Mrs Casselden

Black History Month 2024

We have marked Black History Month this year in a number of ways. The theme this year has been, 'Reclaiming Narratives' and we have used our tutor time/pastoral curriculum sessions to help our students appreciate that so much of British History includes people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and that we need to make sure all of them are celebrated. We have linked all of this to our ALIVE Value, 'We value Justice and Respect' as we have thought about how we can stand up for others recognising the number of people throughout history who have used their voice and their actions to make the world a fairer place, reclaiming the narrative for so many different people groups. We have also used our worship sessions in tutor time to consider what the Bible says about justice and respect in the context of Black History Month. There have also been assemblies on this theme, including one led by some of our 6th form students. Tatiana Gurley (year 13) read a poem that she had written on this theme. We hope you find it as powerful as we did.

You see, they taught us to start our story in chains,
as if our legacy began with bondage,
as if our roots didn't stretch far beyond the shores
where they stole us.
But I'm reclaiming that too.
Because I know my ancestors wore crowns
long before they wore shackles.
I know they built civilizations
before they were forced to build someone else's.
And I know my history is not a history of pain,
but a history of power.

You see, they want us to believe
that struggle is our only inheritance.

paint us in the colors of oppression alone,
as if the only thing we know is survival.
But I know better.
I know I come from resilience
wrapped in gold and silk.
I know I come from minds
that mapped the stars,
that mastered trade,
that carved art from stone
and wisdom from the heart.

They want to tell you we began with chains,
but they don't know the strength of our unbroken spirits,
the resilience that lives in the marrow of our bones.
Our narrative isn't about the suffering they caused,
it's about the way we thrived in spite of it.
It's about the music we made,
even when they tried to silence us,
the dance of our feet even when they shackled them,
the brilliance of our minds,
still creating, still innovating,
even when they tried to bury us.

See, we're reclaiming that too.
The story of how we took the scraps they threw at us
and turned them into soul food.
The story of how we survived in the spaces
where they said we didn't belong,
and made those spaces our own.

I'm reclaiming the stories they buried,
the names they forgot to mention,
the voices they tried to silence.
Because my people were more than the struggle—
we were the source.
We still are.

and though They try to write us in the margins of history, we are the center of the story.
Not just the victims of injustice,
but the victors in battles they never saw coming.

So when they ask me who I am,
when they try to tell me where I come from,
I look them in the eye and say:
I come from kingdoms you never learned about,
from dynasties your textbooks erased.
I come from voices that echo through centuries,
carving paths of possibility.

I am not just the past you choose to remember—
I am the future you cannot ignore.

and this time we will not ask for permission.
 We will write it ourselves.
 Unapologetic. Unafraid. Unstoppable.

Because the narrative was always ours.
 And now, the world will know.
 - Tatiana Gurley

We are always keen to do more to promote and celebrate the diversity in our school, if you have any ideas that you could share, please do get in touch.

Mrs Duzniak, Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development, Community and Faith)

Dates for the diary

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

| November 2024 | |
|--|--|
| Monday 04 November | Start of Term 2, Week 1 |
| Tuesday 05 November | Johnson House Eucharist |
| Wednesday 06 November | Post-16 Open evening (4pm to 6:30pm) |
| Monday 11 November | Year 11 Mock Exams Begin |
| Wednesday 13 November | Maths Trip (Year 9) |
| | Friends of SMRT Meeting (7pm to 8:30pm) |
| Thursday 14 November | Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening - online (4pm to 7pm) |
| | Musical Performance Evening (7pm to 9pm) |
| Wednesday 20 November | INSET Day – School closed to students |
| Thursday 21 November | Poetry Workshops |
| Friday 22 November | Year 11 Mock Exams End |
| Monday 25 November – Thursday 28 November | GCSE Art and Photography Mock Exams |
| Wednesday 27 November – Friday 29 November | GCSE MFL Speaking Mock Exams |
| Tuesday 26 November | Day of Prayer (Year 7 to Year 9) |
| Wednesday 27 November | Full Governing Body Meeting (6pm) |

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



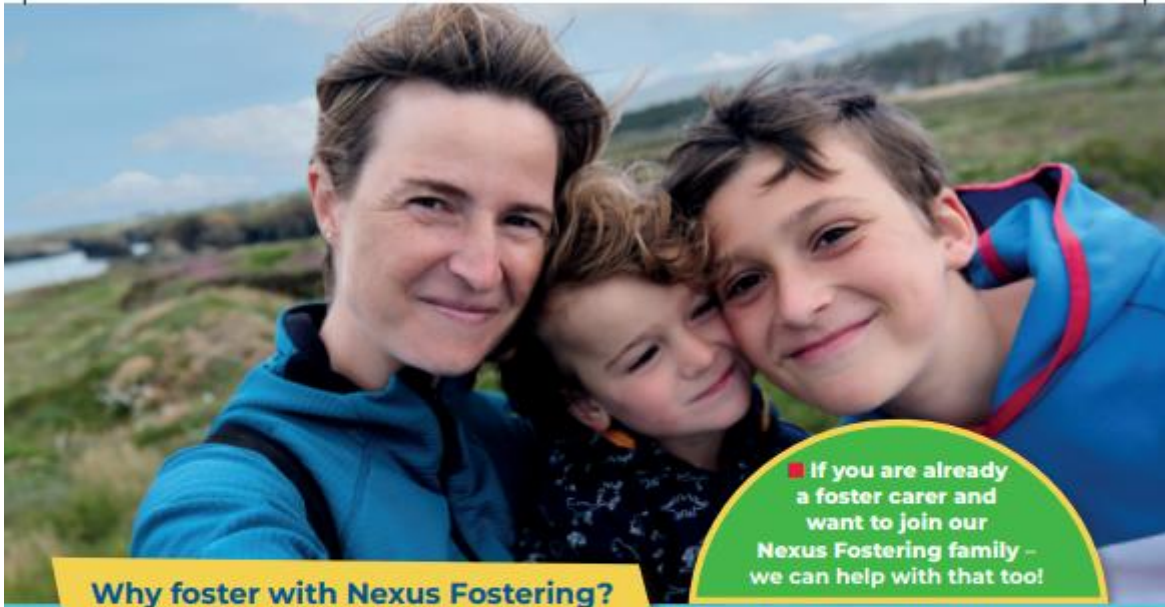
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Fostering a child can be a rewarding and fulfilling experience for anyone with a passion for helping others.

If you think you could make a difference to a young person's life, get in touch today for an informal chat about what's involved.

Tel: **01452 491 980**



or visit us online at:
www.nexusfostering.co.uk/Gloucester

Unit A5 | Elmbridge Court | Cheltenham Road East | Gloucester | GL3 1JZ

Bristol Parenting Groups

- Are you pregnant or a parent of a 0 - 8 year old?
- Would you like to add ideas and skills to your parenting toolbox?
- Would you like to develop more confidence in your parenting?
- Would you like to understand your child better?

Free
groups for
adults run
by Bristol
Children's
Centres

Scan here
to find out
more and
register your
interest!



Your parenting
toolbox:



For more information please call: **07721 311 497**
or email: **pssso@bristol.gov.uk**

Once you have registered your interest via:
www.bit.ly/BristolParentingGroups we will be in touch to find
the best group option for you.



FREE 6 week course: VISUAL ARTS

CREATIVE
YOUTH
NETWORK.

Exploring the theme 'Urban Futures' over the 6 weeks, we will design our own collaged cities. You will get to use spray paint, Indian ink & washi tape to create new worlds.

Whether you are a confident artist or a beginner, come along and learn something new.

When: Every Tuesday from 5th
November to 10th December
5:30-7:30pm

Where: The Station, Silver
Street, Bristol, BS1 2AG



THIS COURSE IS FOR 13-19
YEAR OLDS LIVING IN
BRISTOL
OR GOING TO SCHOOL
IN OR NEARBY BRISTOL

GOT ANY QUESTIONS? GET IN TOUCH WITH ANTONIA

EMAIL: creative.dept@creativyouthnetwork.org.uk

TEL: 07821 683 032

Stronger Relationships Online Course

For parents and other adult carers
living together or apart



- Do you want to get some new ideas to help you be an even better parent ?
- Would you like to reduce the arguments and disagreements in your family and cope better with stress?
- Would you like to enhance your relationship with your current partner, or improve communication with your ex or the other people helping to raise your children?
- How about learning at a time that suits you?



6 online
sessions



6 group
discussions



Certificate on
completion



Information on
strategies to identify
and reduce arguments



Hear from other
parents and carers



Downloadable
worksheets and
handouts



Videos, quizzes and
interactive activities



Do sessions at a time
that works for you



Weekly support from
our course experts

TOPICS COVERED

- Healthy adult relationships
- Identifying and managing disagreements
- Understanding how conflict affects your children
- Enhancing parent-child relationships
- Managing stress, anger and emotions
- Strategies to resolve conflict and create a parenting agreement

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Speak to a course expert and get answers to some of the questions you might have
2. Talk about how the strategies are going at home and how to adjust them for you
3. Address other difficulties relating to your relationships
4. Hear from others about what works for them

Find out more
or register for
the course by
scanning this QR
code or email us at:



sfscparent@racefound.org.uk

strengthening
families
strengthening
communities

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.