

Dear Parents and Carers,

The events in school over the last term have reminded me of how important the wider life of the school is. We have had a fantastically successful activities week with hundreds of children having been on residential and day trips. This has all been captured by students who produced a separate newsletter as part of their chosen activity during the week. Their newsletter is attached. There was a brilliant school production and a truly delightful Sports Awards Evening, our intrepid D of E students have been hiking across Wiltshire, the wonderful Evening of Dance, a well-organised and exciting Sports Day and even our very own festival, Oldfest, all very successful events and there have been many other opportunities to participate in activities and fixtures. We have also appointed our student leadership team and run sports festivals and curriculum days for local primary schools, as well as welcoming our new Year 7 and 12 students. In summary; a very busy term! All of this is only possible because staff at the school give freely and generously of their own time to ensure that our students have these opportunities. I am sure that you are as grateful as I am for their commitment to the school and our students.

I hope that you will forgive me if I now stray from my usual narrative, in what will be my last Headteacher's newsletter. You will know that central to my educational values is a belief that schools add value to society well beyond the impact that they have on purely academic outcomes. This, I think, was only fully understood and appreciated during the pandemic, when the consequences of schools being closed for a lengthy period of time was experienced by us all. Far too often we hear how many of the services that we depend on are at breaking point or are not coping and, as a consequence, access to these services for young people and their parents is becoming more and more difficult. Consequently, it has fallen on schools to do more and more intervention and work in areas that are not directly related to their core purpose of educating children. Despite this it is clear to me that, while schools are under ever increasing pressure to do more, they are continuing to ensure that their young people are being supported, challenged and developed. I am immensely proud of the way that schools as a whole, and Oldfield School in particular, have responded to the ever increasing demands that have been placed on us. The last few years have been amongst the most challenging I have known, but also the most rewarding.

I will now return to my final task of the year, to recognise and thank the staff who are leaving us at the end of this academic year. Two of our senior team are departing; Jessica Lobbett has been appointed as Headteacher at Castle School in Thornbury; and James Beddow has been promoted to the position of Deputy Headteacher at the Sandon School in Essex. Rebecca Sancto-Halpin, our Head of Psychology has secured a role as Assistant Head of Year in the sixth form at St Mary Redcliffe School in Bristol. Abby Davies is leaving teaching to pursue another career, as is Jo Dyer; both will be missed in the classroom and I hope they will return to teaching at some point in the future. Greig Seavill, Alternative Provision Manager, has been appointed to a post at the Virtual School in BANES, a role that will mean that he still remains in contact with the school.

A number of teachers are moving to work in other schools, locally and nationally: Megan Tatnell, Alison Clark, Kevin Carter, Charisse Lam, Chris King, Priya Hasnat and Caroline Sackett. Moving further afield are Ceri Rushworth, to teach in Dubai, and also Paolo Santarpino and Catriona Houston, both of whom are relocating to teach in New Zealand. Two of our support staff are also leaving us at the end of this year; our Science Technician, Tia Dally, is relocating to Birmingham and Naomi Tarrant is starting a teacher training course in September, having had a taste for this working as a Teaching Assistant at the school. We wish them all the very best for the future.

I would like to end by thanking all of you for the support that you have given your children, their teachers and our non-teaching staff at the school. You and your children will have selected this school for a myriad of reasons but I suspect that a common factor has been that you recognise that Oldfield is a genuinely comprehensive, inclusive and caring school. This is what I see in school every day, and I think that this is the greatest strength of the school. The school's culture and ethos have not developed by chance; it is something, I know, that all of the school community believe in and have helped to establish. It has been a pleasure and privilege to have had the opportunity to contribute towards this over the last seven years.

Best wishes,

*Steven Mackay, Headteacher*

# NOTICE BOARD

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## Updating details – general and medical

Please ensure you keep us up to date on where you live and contact numbers and email if they change. Also, if your child suffers from a medical condition then we need to be informed of any changes. Please do so by emailing [enquiries@oldfieldschool.com](mailto:enquiries@oldfieldschool.com)

## Warning Allergies

Many of our students suffer serious nut and sesame seed allergies. Therefore, please remember not to include these in your child's packed lunch. We are a nut free school.

## Follow our social media accounts to get updates from school trips and activities;



@OldfieldSchool



Oldfield\_school

Or visit our website for information on all aspects of the school [www.oldfieldschool.com](http://www.oldfieldschool.com)

## Important Dates;

**21 July**  
END OF TERM 6

**17 Aug**  
A level Results Day

**24 Aug**  
GCSE Results Day

**01 Sept**  
INSET DAY

**04 Sept**  
TERM 1  
INSET DAY

**05 Sept WEEK 1**  
Yrs 7, 10, 12 start school

**06 Sept**  
All years in school

**08 Sept**  
Yrs 7, 10, 12 School photos

**11 Sept WEEK 2**  
Yr 13 Information Evening (online)

**12 Sept**  
Yr 7 Information Evening

**13 Sept**  
Yrs 8, 9, 11, 13 School photos  
OSA Meeting, online

**14 Sept**  
Yr 10 Information Evening & WEX launch

**20 Sept**  
Open Evening

**21 Sept**  
INSET DAY

**26 Sept**  
Open Morning

**27 Sept**  
Yr 7 BBQ and Disco

**29 Sept**  
Yr 11 Mock Interviews

**05 Oct**  
Yr 10 Parents' Evening

**06 Oct**  
Yr 10 Cooking Workshop

**09 Oct**  
Yr 7 Wildplace Trip (half year group)  
OSA AGM

**10 Oct**  
Yr 7 Wildplace Trip (half year group)

**18 Oct**  
Yr 7 Welcome Concert

**19 Oct**  
Tutor Evening; Yr 7, 12, 13

**20 Oct**  
END OF TERM 1

BANES have asked us to share the following campaign with you. Please be aware of running your engine while outside the school.

**TURN YOUR  
ENGINE OFF  
WHEN WAITING.**

**AIR POLLUTION WORSENS LUNG AND  
HEART CONDITIONS, INCLUDING ASTHMA.**

[www.bathnes.gov.uk/engineoff](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/engineoff)

CLEAN AIR MAKES  
B&NES A SAFER PLACE

Bath & North-East  
Somerset Council  
Improving People's Lives





### Dates for your diary

**Wed 13th Sept;** OSA committee meeting on zoom. To sign up to attend please email [osa@oldfieldschool.com](mailto:osa@oldfieldschool.com)

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October;** OSA AGM in the library at school. All welcome for cheese and wine as we review the year and look ahead to new projects that we can support.

Pre-loved uniform sale week date tbc. Likely to be after school one day in the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> Oct

### Pre-loved uniform sale Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July

A huge thank you to all of you who donated uniform or who came to our recent sale. We were inundated with students and parents. So many thanks too to the OSA volunteers who gave up their time to sort, label and hang up endless blazers. This included Peter Ralph, Sarah Knight, Catrin Yeomans, Gill Simpson, Ailie Steele and Suzanne Young. The sale raised a staggering £2200 for the school which is amazing.

We completely sold out of lots of our stock so will be keen to accept more donations in September. Our next sale will be in week 6 or 7 of term 1.



### Projects

This past term we have been able to support a number of mentoring projects at the school. Lux Mentoring have worked with students in Year 9 and Sporting Family Change have worked with students from The Hemmings Centre. Staff and students say that it is this additional 1:1 support and small group support has had a huge impact on student's mental health, well-being and sense of belonging. We have just agreed to support mental health in the sixth form by paying for a trial of student subscriptions to Headspace. This bid will benefit those students needing extra pastoral support, but who may want to do this a little more independently and at their own pace. See <https://www.headspace.com/> for more information on this great resource for young people.

Over the course of the year OSA has run a number of Ukrainian Family Coffee Mornings. It has been such a privilege to befriend those mums who moved to the UK last year due to the conflict. We have laughed together, shared stories and supported each other so that these families feel an important part of our community too. OSA is very grateful to Nic Pearce, our librarian, Nadiia Rawlings our careers advisor and Jean Black, assistant Head of Year 10/11. Their input to these mornings has been invaluable as they have shared their expertise and knowledge of school systems to ensure that these parents know what is going on.

### Changes at OSA

From September there are a few of our parent volunteers who will be stepping down from the OSA committee. We are so grateful to Deb Cottle for the many hours that she has put in counting money and paying our bills. She has volunteered for OSA for eight years as our treasurer and done a brilliant job. Nic Clements has had the responsibility of buying all our refreshments for the last few years. We estimate that she has personally shifted well over 5,000 bottles of beer, wine and cans. OSA could not have done without her shopping skills, always looking out for bargain booze to help make our events run well! I will be stepping down as chair of OSA and would like to express my thanks for all the support from the team.

*Gaynor Williams, Chair of OSA*



Another superb festival with so many activities, stalls, events and music taking place. Students and staff all got stuck in and made it a really special day.



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## Celebrating our Prefects and Student Awards

We are pleased to announce the new Prefect Student Leadership Team for 2023-24. The prefects were interviewed by the Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher and the following were selected;

Prefect Leadership Team 2023-2024		
Head of Prefects	Olive	Hosker
Head of Prefects	Holly	Regan
Deputy Head of Prefects	Ria	Darr
Deputy Head of Prefects	Ben	Hackett
Team Leader	Ethan	Earl
Team Leader	Aya	Kassous
Team Leader	Alex	Medley
Team Leader	Rosie	Savory



The selection was made after applications were received following an assembly to Year 10 about the role of being a prefect at Oldfield School. The assembly explained the roles and expectations, the benefits of being part of the prefect leadership team, and the further responsibilities that would be involved. Prefects are role models for the rest of the school community. The student leadership team model the high expectations that are expected of our students, which includes the highest of uniform standards, superb attitudes towards staff and their peers, integrity and a consistent and hardworking approach to their studies and extra-curricular activities. Students were required to include an explanation of their skills and qualities and why these would be applicable for the role of being a prefect when they were asked to apply for the prefect team.

There are rewards assemblies at the end of this academic year. These are on the last two days of term and include the following awards: Student Subject Awards, Attendance Awards, Sports Awards, Highest Achievement Point Awards. These are to celebrate the success of our students here at Oldfield School. The assemblies will be a formal occasion.

Well done to all students that have received awards throughout this year and we look forward to seeing more successful achievements next year.

*Mr Beddow, Assistant Headteacher*

Just as we congratulated our Year 13s on finishing their exams with a spectacular prom celebration, we welcomed the new Year 11 applicants with a Sixth Form Induction Day. Students had the chance to experience their new A level subjects, meet their teachers and enjoy a BBQ with their classmates. We very much look forward to so many students joining us in September!



Our Year 10s were also able to experience life at Oldfield Sixth Form through their own taster day. This was a great opportunity for students to start thinking about their options after their GCSEs.

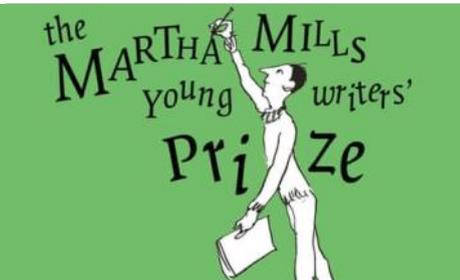
With GCSE and A level results day next month, we wish all students the very best of luck and look forward to celebrating their successes. The sixth form team will be on hand to help with any entry requirements and university application queries.

Finally, the Head Student and deputies have been chosen for the coming year. Congratulations to Hannah Waters who will be our new Head Student and supported by Ellie Babbage, Evan McLain and George Sweet, in leading the new Sixth Form Leadership team.



### Glad Rags and Handbags; Year 11 Prom!

We were thrilled to welcome the Year 11 cohort to the Bath Racecourse for their Year 11 Prom night. They have worked exceptionally hard over the last few years and thoroughly deserved the enjoyable evening they had. The theme was Hollywood. The event was attended by the largest number of students we have ever had to a prom. Many thanks to all the staff involved in the preparation and organisation of the prom to ensure the students had a great night.



### Writing Genius!

We are extremely proud of talented writer Mabel Swift (9L) who was recently named as one of three winners of The Guardian's Martha Mills prize for young writers.

The competition, which attracted more than 1,000 entrants, sought "lively, unusual or otherwise original" writing on the theme of "The Stranger", with writers invited to submit a piece of

prose of up to 500 words.

The judging panel, featuring the much-loved writer Katherine Rundell, described Mabel's piece about a mysterious dancing stranger as "lyrical and expressive" with a "timeless, mythic quality".

Congratulations to Mabel on this fantastic achievement – we look forward to seeing what her pen produces in the years to come.

You can read more about the competition here; [www.theguardian.com/books/2023/jul/04/winners-of-the-inaugural-martha-mills-prize-for-young-writers-announced](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/jul/04/winners-of-the-inaugural-martha-mills-prize-for-young-writers-announced)

*Mr Blower, English Teacher*



### Racing to School!

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, 30 of our Year 8 students took part in a "Racing to School Day" at Bath Racecourse. The students investigated the length of a furlong, visited the Weighing Room, found out about how the handicapping system works, took a tour of the Grandstand, learnt about the photo finish and watched a race!

*Mrs Eason-Blake, Maths Teacher*





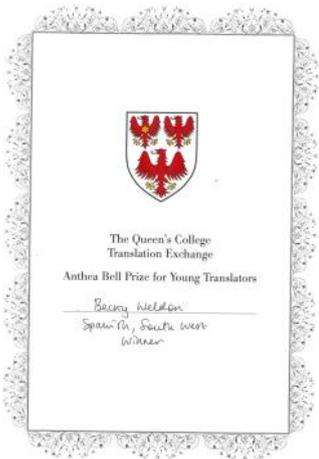
### Next Steps

Bath College visited our Year 10 students on 20th June. A range of different post-16 options was discussed, including apprenticeships and T-levels. Students were shown a variety of courses that they could study at different entry levels (with and without complete GCSEs) and where those courses could lead in the future.

*Mrs Rawlins, Careers Advisor*



On 9th June 8S tutor group visited RUH Bath Hospital. During this short 2 hour trip our students learned about different clinical and non-clinical jobs in a hospital environment. We met with some employees of the RUH Bath and listened to their career stories. Students were introduced to apprenticeships and their value to employers and employees. We also walked around the RUH Bath grounds to see what sort of departments are there and talked about people who work there, their qualifications and possible career routes.



### Anthea Bell Translation Competition

Over 15,000 students took part in this year's Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators and we are absolutely delighted that Becky Weldon from Oldfield was an Area Winner for her Spanish translation! This is a fantastic achievement given the number and standard of entries this year. Well done to all of our students who submitted a translation and congratulations to Becky.

*Mrs Green, MFL Teacher*

### Year 10 Clevedon Geography Trip

In June, Y10 Geographers experienced their first taste of sunny fieldwork as we enjoyed our annual trip to Clevedon. Students spent time measuring the gradient of the beach (with varying degrees of success!) to identify if effective management followed by a walking tour



of different areas of Clevedon to identify different land uses.

This was followed by fish and chips for many, a geographers dream! Fantastic days all round with students getting stuck in with the field work. Well done Y10 Geographers!

*Mr Santarpino, Geography Teacher*



# PSHEdition

We have covered many topics over the last year in our Personal, Social and Health Education lessons at Oldfield. From relationships to cyberbullying and first aid to equality and justice. Teachers have led curriculum lessons, tutors have discussed topics in tutorials and we have worked with many outside agencies to ensure that our students are prepared for life inside and outside of school.

We continue to work closely with Tender on our RE:SET project and have been lucky enough to host many talks in school from a variety of organisations to allow our students to gain a better understanding of the world around them.



When we return in September we'll be starting our PSHE curriculum lessons with our ETA's (Everybody Talking About) topics. These lessons focus on the three strands of the PSHE curriculum; The Wider World, Healthy Lifestyles and Relationships.



In October we'll be inviting parents to an awareness evening called "It is never going to happen to my child..." which will focus on raising awareness of the influence social media apps and gaming. This session will be run by Operation TOPAZ from Avon and Somerset Constabulary. Look out for more information and how to book onto the evening in the new academic year.

The six week summer break can feel like an amazing time to recharge for many people but some people can struggle with being out of a routine and miss being in school. The following sites may be useful to students and parents during the break.

**PROBLEM?**  
NOT SURE WHO TO TURN TO?

WHY NOT WHISPER IT?

Whisper is our school's confidential system for reporting problems at school or at home

WHO IS IT FOR?  
You, your friends or family



LINK

Click on where you see the link:  
[swgflwhisper.org.uk/report/OLD](http://swgflwhisper.org.uk/report/OLD)

BUTTON

Click on the button on your school website or blog



TEXT

Send an anonymous text to:  
**OLD** - your message to

**07860**  
**021584**

**childline**

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME  
[childline.org.uk](http://childline.org.uk) | 0800 1111

**kooth**

Kooth is a free online service offering emotional and mental health support for children and young people

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

**YOUNGMINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental health

Be kind



headspace

Mrs Macnaughton  
Head of PSHE

### 21<sup>st</sup> June – U15 Cricket vs Writhlington

Oldfield got off to a good start in this game bowling well and managed to take a couple of key wickets in the early overs. Writhlington managed to keep the score board ticking over with a few boundaries and plenty of singles to progress their score to 80 in their innings. Stand out bowler for Oldfield was Tom Ellicott with 3 wickets and less than 5 runs scored off his bowling. During Oldfield's batting performance Ben Lunt got off to a good start with a couple of early boundaries but unfortunately couldn't convert this to a bigger score, Benji came in and stabilised the innings with wickets falling around him and scored over 20 runs. Unfortunately Oldfield lost by 2 runs on this occasion which came as a result of not enough quick singles and too many extras when bowling. A well fought game, but a game Oldfield will feel they should have won.

*Mr Driver, Head of PE and Dance*



### Year 8 Cricket v Writhlington

This was an unusual game in that Oldfield only managed to field 7 players and Writhlington only 9! Despite this, it was a very close game in the end. Oldfield posted 79 to win on a tricky wicket that gave the bowlers plenty of encouragement and some poor shots played by batters. Writhlington then won from the last ball of the game with 1 wicket left, the Oldfield bowlers did great job.

*Mr L Dorman, PE Teacher and Head of Year 8*

### Year 7, 8 Cricket v Ralph Allen

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July, a combined selection of Year 7 and Year 8 travelled to Ralph Allen for a softball cricket match. To maximise enjoyment and engagement, all teachers agreed to play a mixed 6 aside tournament. On pitch 1 Oldfield won their games whilst on pitch 2 Ralph Allen won their games. Despite an even result, there were many fantastic performances from all players. Each partnership faced 2 full overs and this enabled all our young cricket stars to have fun whilst batting! This was a brilliant experience for our Year 7 players who will be playing with a hardball next season. Great work cricketers!

*Mr Gann, PE Teacher*

### Up and Coming Fixtures in the New School Year

- Tuesday 19 Sept—Yr 11 Rugby v St Greg's
- Tuesday 19 Sept—Yr 8 Rugby v St Greg's
- Tuesday 26 Sept—Yr 7, 8, 9 Netball v Somervale
- Wednesday 27 Sept—Yr 10 Rugby v St Mark's
- Tuesday 03 Oct—Yr 11 Rugby v Ralph Allen
- Tuesday 03 Oct—Yr 9 Rugby v Ralph Allen
- Wednesday 04 Oct—Yr 7, 8, 9 Netball v Ralph Allen
- Wednesday 04 Oct—Yr 10 Rugby v Ralph Allen
- Tuesday 10 Oct—Yr 7 Rugby v Ralph Allen
- Tuesday 10 Oct—Yr 8 Rugby v Ralph Allen

# FROM OUR COMMUNITY



Wednesday  
9th August, 1pm

Meeting at  
'The Down's Cafe',  
Stoke Road, Durdham  
Downs, Bristol, BS9 1FG

## CONNECT WITH OTHER GRIEVING FAMILIES

Meet others who get what you're going through

Walk and Talk events connect grieving young people and their families with one another in a relaxed setting.

It's your chance to share stories, experiences and advice with people who really 'get it' whilst enjoying a walk around beautiful Bristol.

Organised by youth bereavement charity Winston's Wish, we'll walk with you and be on hand to answer any questions.

Register your interest at [winstonswish.org/walk](http://winstonswish.org/walk)

For immediate grief support call:  
Helpline 08088 020 021  
[winstonswish.org](http://winstonswish.org)

**WINSTON'S WISH**  
Giving hope to grieving children

Winston's Wish is a Registered Charity (England and Wales) 1061059, (Scotland) SC04140 (0448-14-31)



**BATH CITY YOUTH  
U15 GIRLS  
RECRUITING NOW**  
Year 9 & Year 10 September 2023  
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

**TRAINING ALL SUMMER  
LANSDOWN SOUTH PLAYING FIELDS**

**EMAIL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
BATHCITYGIRLSFOOTBALL@GMAIL.COM**

**hcrj**  
Care Group

**Cook it**

**FREE five week cookery course for  
parents/carers and children**

Join a group session to discover how to make  
easy, healthy budget friendly recipes in person  
or online

- Free recipe book and NEW video recipe links
- Support with meal planning and budgeting
- Encouraging children to eat balanced meals
- Ingredients provided or funded with £30 voucher

Upcoming start dates (one session per week);

- Summer holiday Cook It: Thurs 3rd - 31st August, 4-5pm, Online.
- More in person dates coming in Sept, please contact us to be added to the waiting list.

**Contact the Community Wellbeing Hub to book on  
Tel: 0300 247 0050 Email: [BATHNES.thehub@hcrjcaregroup.com](mailto:BATHNES.thehub@hcrjcaregroup.com)**

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

