

To inspire, to learn, to succeed

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is now my second year in post and without question the school feels a very different place. I regularly walk around the school and the impression I have is of a calm and purposeful environment. Behaviour around the school and in lessons has improved thanks to the hard work of staff and the support of our parents. Students are engaged in their learning, show respect towards one another and seem to be enjoying their school experience. I am a firm believer that a happy child is one that will achieve to the best of their ability. Our aim is to ensure that this is the case and I am confident that we are well on the way to doing so.

This newsletter is a particularly busy edition and it has proved impossible to fit in all of the news and updates from our first term of the year; therefore, we will be sending out an additional newsletter shortly after the holiday.

I am delighted to be able to report very pleasing GCSE and A Level results in the summer. The GCSE results showed further improvement from the previous two years with 70% of our students gaining a C+ (now Level 4 pass) in both English and maths and 69% achieving 5+ A*-C grades including English and maths. On an individual basis there were many outstanding achievements with 14 students achieving 7 or more A*/A equivalent grades. The A Level results were excellent and the outcomes for our Year 13 students place the school in the top 25% of sixth forms nationally. The average grade achieved in the summer 2017 A level examinations was a C+ and 57% of all grades were A*/A or B. A number of subject areas performed in line with the top 10% nationally which is a fantastic achievement. The benefits of small classes in the sixth form and the individual attention that students receive, along with strong teaching is evident from these results. The full summary of 2017 examination results is available on the school website.

We have a number of new teaching staff this year; having made a number of appointments across the school in teaching and support roles and they have appreciated the warm welcome to the school that they have received from students and from the parents that they have met at school events during this term. You will find out more about our new (and old) staff throughout the year; each newsletter will include a profile of a Learning Area starting with maths.

There has been far too much happening this term to cover all of this in my letter and you will get a flavour of this in the newsletter. Having said this, a couple of events have stood out for me as being particularly memorable. The Year 7 BBQ and disco in September was one. This was new venture for us so I was delighted to see so many parents and students attend with their families. Unfortunately, I was not able to speak with many parents as I was furiously cooking sausages and burgers on the largest BBQ I have ever seen. By all accounts it was a great success and something that we will repeat in future years. The other was the open school events which were a great success; we were extremely busy and there was a great atmosphere across the school for all three events. The feedback from prospective parents on the role played by subject helpers and tour guides was exceptional, I told them in my speech that our students would be the best advertisement for our school and this proved to be the case.

You will, of course, be aware that we changed to a single lunchtime at the start of this term. There was some trepidation in doing so as supervising and feeding all of the school in one session was an unknown for the school. I was confident that the transition would be relatively smooth and this has been the case. The catering facilities (with our new Snack Shack) seem to be coping well and our arrangements for separate play/social spaces has also worked well. The longer lunch seems to have been appreciated by staff and students and it is allowing us to run a wide range of clubs and activities at lunchtime and we are encouraging every child to attend at least one of these in any week. Your support in doing this as well is appreciated. The list of activities is on the school website and will be updated on a termly basis.

The after-school homework club runs in the Learning Resource Centre. This is open after school from Monday to Thursday until 4.30 pm and there is a member of staff available to supervise students and offer support with homework. Expectations with regards to behaviour will be the same as those in lessons and it is expected that students making use of this facility will be working quietly.

I am very much looking forward to next term with highlights to include the annual Christmas Concert, the Carole Service, the Year 10 performance of Macbeth in the Egg Theatre and the sixth form information evening. However, it will be hard to beat the excitement of the house conker competition today where I got a fourer!

Best wishes for the coming school year.

*Steven Mackay
Headteacher*

NOTICE BOARD

School calendar

The remaining inset day this year will be on Wednesday 3rd January. Term Two finishes on Friday 15th December and this will be a half day with school ending at 12.15 that day. The term dates for 2018 -2019 have been published and these are on the website; please note that the summer term in 2019 will end for students on Friday 19th July.

Important Dates;

20 Oct 2017

END OF TERM 1

30 Oct (WEEK TWO)

START OF TERM 2

31 Oct

Pumpkin carving competition

01 Nov

Yr 8 BANES Netball tournament

(away)

02 Nov

Yr 10,11,12 Rambert Dance Company; Ghost Dances (Bath Theatre Royal)

03 Nov

South West Skills Show

06 Nov

Yr 13 Mock Examination Week

07 Nov

BANES Cross Country

Yr 10/11 Rugby v. Writhlington

(away)

08 Nov

Yr 7 Rugby v Ralph Allen (away)

Yr 11 Basketball v Ralph Allen

(away)

13 Nov

Yr 10 Drama students Macbeth, Egg Theatre

14 Nov

Sixth Form Information

Evening, 5.30—8pm

20 Nov

Yr 11 Mock Exam Week

21 Nov

Yr 9 BANES Netball tournament

22 Nov

U14, U16 Girls Football (away)

29 Nov

New House Names!!

We are excited to announce that the new House names have been selected. At the beginning of the term, groups of staff from across the school submitted a selection of names associated with the school or the history of Bath. Following a whole-school student vote, there was an overwhelming response for the following winning names:

Yellow: Apollo (God of the Sun) - Miss Vickery, Head of Apollo House

Blue: Neptune (God of the Sea) - Mr Fox, Head of Neptune House

Red: Minerva (Goddess of Wisdom) - Mrs Macnaughton, Head of Minerva House

Green: Maia (Goddess of Growth) - Mr Gann, Head of Maia House

Attendance and holiday requests

You will know that there is a direct relationship between attendance and attainment and we would like to remind parents of the importance of ensuring that students have good attendance. Parents are requested to phone the school on the morning of an absence before 9am to inform us that their child is not attending school that day. If we have not received a message, then the Attendance Officer contacts parents.

In order to ensure high levels of attendance, the school does not authorise holidays taken during term time and will only authorise absence if the circumstances are exceptional because of the impact that the missed time can have on a child's education. Any requests for absence must be made in writing at least 10 days before the date of the absence to Mrs Mills. If a holiday is taken without authorisation, the absence will be marked as an 'unauthorised holiday'. Unauthorised absences are dealt with according to national guidelines and unauthorised absences will result in intervention by the Local Authority Education Welfare Service.

We would like to express our thanks to Fineline Lighting for providing the disco lights at our recent Year 7 disco and BBQ. We appreciate your support and help in making this a great event.

Fineline Lighting supply Stage Lighting, Rigging, Video and Structures to both indoor and outdoor events both in UK

and Europe. We work across most entertainment industry sectors from Music to Corporate to Theatre to Television. We also provide professional design and installation services for both temporary and permanent projects as well as equipment dry hire. <http://www.finelineighting.com/>



**Fineline
Lighting**

Lost Property

We try to return all named items of lost property to students as and when they are found. Unfortunately we have a large amount of un-named coats and other items in Lost Property from Term 1, all of these items are displayed at the end of term, so please encourage your child to come and claim their property. It would be very helpful if you could check and label any items not already labelled over the holiday ready for the start of term 2.

*Mrs Henry
Student Welfare Officer*

Parents' Evenings and Curriculum Information Evenings

Your attendance at these evenings is very much encouraged. Parents' Evenings provide the opportunity for you to discuss a number of issues regarding your child with teaching and pastoral staff. We have increased the number of these this year to allow more opportunities for parents to meet with teachers and to reduce the gap between these.

NOTICE BOARD

CONT.....

School Council

Thank you to all students who applied for a position on this year's student council. I was delighted by the amount of interest and look forward to working with you all on developments across the school.

There are currently 48 students on the council, divided into four main community areas of focus:

- Teaching and Learning
- Behaviour for Learning
- Learning Environment and Sustainability
- Wellbeing.

Work experience placements for our students

Year 10 students will be participating in planned Work Experience for five working days in June 2018. We are continually looking to expand our School's Work Experience database in order to offer as many opportunities to our students as possible. If you or your employer could potentially offer a Work Experience place to a student, please contact Mrs Williams a.williams@oldfieldschool.com or alternatively phone the main number, 01225 423582. Many thanks for your help.

Mrs A Williams
Careers advisor / Work Experience Co-ordinator

OLDFIELD SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (OSA)



Hi, we wanted to introduce ourselves to those of you that may not have come across us yet. We are the parent staff association of Oldfield School; a group of parents and school staff who raise funds for the school. All parents, carers, staff and friends of the school are welcome to join. We get together once a term to discuss funding requests, plan upcoming events and generally share ideas. Our aim is not only to raise funds, but to create closer links between parents and the school. The OSA raise money by organising events for parents, staff and students during which everyone can get to know each other in a relaxed and informal environment while, hopefully, having some fun.

Who are we?

Chair: Susan Holway with a daughter in Year 8

Treasurer: Debbie Cottle with sons in Year 7 and Year 9

Secretary: Gaynor Williams with a daughter in Year 7 and sons in Years 8 and 10

School Link: Mr Mackay

The OSA organises several key events every year so pop a note in your diary for these coming up over the next couple of months;

- **The Christmas Fair, Saturday 2nd December 10am—12pm;** Festive hampers and prizes, musical performances, festive gifts and treats and Nordman Fir non-drop Christmas trees from £35. We also provide refreshments and hold a raffle. All stalls are run by students who pay a nominal £2 for a table and keep the proceeds.
- **OSA Quiz Night in March.** The quiz night is a really good opportunity for parents/carers, staff, governors and 6th formers to relax but at the same time enjoy some healthy competition.
- **The Battle of the Bands in June/July;** student bands compete against one another to win the chance to have their song professionally recorded and receive feedback from a panel of judges. This event is organised in conjunction with the music department.

As well as the above, the OSA supports the school by providing refreshments for parents and students at a variety of evening events held by the school, for example the Open Evening and the Year 7 New Intake Evening. We also helped out at the Year 7 family BBQ and disco, held for the first time in September this year. The aim was to give new parents a chance to meet each other in an informal and relaxed setting, whilst their children enjoyed the disco. This is a free event open to Year 7 families, with a licensed bar to purchase drinks. Thank you to all our new members for signing up and to those who helped out at the BBQ. If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to get involved, please do email us at osa@oldfieldschool.com.

Next meeting is on **Wednesday 1st November at 7pm** in The Boathouse on Newbridge Road.

SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING AREAS —

Maths, Business and Computing

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my name is Matthew Brooke and I am the new Leader of Learning for Maths, Business and Computing. I started at Oldfield this September along with a few new faces in our area; Miss J Prior (Maths) Mr Spence (Maths) and Mr Howard (Computing). We join an already established team made up of Mrs Britton (Computing and Business Studies), Ms Eason-Blake (Maths), Mr Eidman (Computing and ICT), Mrs Folland (Business Studies), Mrs Henly (Maths), Mr Herbert (Maths), Mr March (Maths), Mr McHugh (Maths), Miss Monaghan (Maths) and Mrs Pierce-Butler (Maths). In the Learning Area we have a number of exciting extra-curricular activities taking place so far this term. In Maths we are running Code-Breaking Club at lunchtimes which is building towards the National Cypher Challenge. For our Year 11s, 12s and 13s we are beginning to prepare a team for the Senior Team Maths Challenge later next term. There will be opportunities for individual and team challenges for KS3 and KS4 students later in the year. We are also continuing to run our termly maths puzzle competitions and are pleased with the growing number of entries we have received this term so far. For more information see Show My Homework.

In Business Studies we are currently working closely with Bath Rotary Club who are visiting the school to work with some of our Year 9 students. They are working on developing a wide variety of business skills through the “Big Pitch” project.

In Computing we are currently offering app development, KS4 key skills sessions and Year 9s have the opportunity to take part in the Bebras challenge for computational thinking between 6th and 17th November.

I am also very passionate about the Post 16 opportunities and provision that is available to our students within the Learning Area. We are delighted to be able to offer both Further Maths A Level and Computer Science A Level for the first time, these are a welcome addition to the 6th form and we are looking forward to growing this provision in future years. The commitment to small classes that we have in place, I believe, really sets us apart as a school and enables all students to achieve the very best teaching, support and guidance throughout their A Level courses.

I am very excited to be here at Oldfield and look forward to supporting and working with your children over the coming weeks, months and years.

Student Leadership Team

On 15th September, Mr Mackay and myself were delighted to interview and appoint the new Year 11 Student Leadership team.

Head Boy: Jed Quinn
 Head Girl: Iman Darr
 Deputy Head Boy: Emmanuel Allen-Burnett
 Deputy Head Girl: Kareen Ojeiwa
 Head of Student Voice: Hannah Tyson

The appointment of 23 Year 11 prefects and our new Student Leaders has already had a very positive influence across the school. Congratulations to all involved!

Miss Lobbett
 Assistant Headteacher

Duke of Edinburgh Award News

We will be continuing the Duke of Edinburgh Award in 2017/18 and will be offering the Bronze Level in Years 9 & 10. If your son/daughter has shown an interest in enrolling on the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award at Bronze Level, there will be an Introduction evening on **Wednesday 22nd November 18.30-19.30** in the main hall. The evening will be a chance to learn more about the award and also meet our award winning external provider Ocean Rock and some of last year’s participants.



For students whose evidence has been approved (Year 11s) there will be a reward assembly to distribute certificates in November.

This table shows the current Duke of Edinburgh awards pathway available at Oldfield School.

School Year	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
2017-2018	Bronze	Bronze		
2018-2019	Bronze	Silver		Silver Gold
2019-2020	Bronze	Silver		Gold

Mr John
 PE Teacher and DofE Coordinator

Oldfield Sixth Form- What's new and noteworthy?



Firstly, for all Year 10 and 11 students, parents and carers, please book into your diary the Sixth Form Information Evening on Tuesday 14th November 2017. The evening will run from 5.30pm to 8pm. The Sixth Form common and study rooms will be open in Penn House for you to look at and students will be on hand to talk about their experience of the Sixth Form. In the Main Hall and the canteen there will be a subject fair where teachers will be available to give you details about their individual courses. I will deliver a speech at 6.15pm in the Main Hall. We will post home prospectuses with application forms to all Year 11 parents/carers and the prospectus will also be available to pick up on the evening.

During the week preceding the Information Evening, from Monday 6th to Friday 10th November, there will be a series of talks and events within Learning Areas designed to provide students with more specific information about particular A Level courses and the advantages and future pathways those courses can lead onto.

The website is also in the process of being updated and you can now look at subject details on the "Courses on Offer" link as well as downloading our application form for 2018.

This Term has been a productive and busy one in the Sixth Form. Three of our students, Tom Wills, Freya Spear and Eylya Abumatar attended a two-day residential trip at Trinity College Cambridge to experience what life would be like for our Oxbridge candidates if they prove successful with their applications. You can read all about their experience in the next newsletter. Our Drama & Theatre Studies students, alongside students from Kingswood school, spent a weekend in London visiting the Globe, going to the theatre and attending a workshop on Elizabethan costume design. Our Fashion & Textiles and Photography students have been away on a trip to the Mulberry Factory and a trip to the Fashion Museum.

All Sixth Form students were also treated to a talk about University life by two of our more recent Alumni, Rawia El-Turke and Jeorgia Scott. It was a pleasure to see Rawia and Jeorgia again and a real pleasure to see what articulate, confident and enthusiastic students they have become.

All our Sixth Form students are expected to take part in School Service or other voluntary community work. Year 12 students have been helping out in Year 7 classes supporting with numeracy and literacy. Just this week we were very pleased to welcome Keith Ledbury from the Rotary Club to offer our students a range of exciting volunteering opportunities, including applying for the Rotary Club Young Leadership Award. The successful applicant will have an expenses-paid trip to Dartmoor for an intensive week developing leadership skills.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that I welcome Tom Templeton to our Sixth Form student leadership team as our new Sport's Captain. Tom has already made a great start to his role, meeting with Mr Pearce on a regular basis and will play an important role in the wider school community- well done Tom!

Mr Nash
Head of Sixth Form



Sixth Form Student Leadership Team

(from left) Amy Kinch, Head of Minerva
Hollie Birkwood, Deputy Head Student
Laura Banks, Head Student
Tom Templeton, Sports Captain
Erin Roberts, Head of Apollo House
Alicia Lines, Head of Maia House
Megan Fewes, Student Wellbeing Ambassador

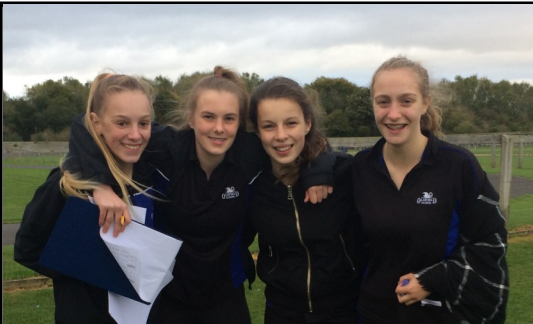
.....PE NEWS....PE NEWS....PE NEWS....PE NEWS....PE NEWS.....

.....Starting Wednesday 1st November, 15.00—16.00;
Years 9/10/11 Girls Rugby Training with Bath Rugby (Year 7/8 will begin in Spring 2018) Contact Mr John for further information.....

.....Starting Friday 3rd November, registration time;
Year 7 Inter-tutor sports to enhance healthy lifestyles. Students will need to bring trainers and a drink for the sessions which will concentrate on fitness and fun. The first sport we will participate in will be: Dodgeball.....

.....Starting Wednesday 8th November, lunchtimes;
Year 7 5-a-side football in the Sports Hall. Spaces are limited to 8 Teams of 6 Players. Deadline for entries will be Friday 3rd November with matches starting on Wednesday 8th November.....

.....A reminder that all PE lessons will change activity for Term 2. Please ensure your son/daughter has checked with his/her PE teacher as to what equipment/clothing/footwear is required for next term.....



Oldfield Sports Leaders

On Wednesday the 4th October, a group of Year 9 sports leaders (Bryony, Esther, Ellie, Nelly, Erin, Remy, Emma, Ruby, Ella, Holly, Ilham, Nico, Mackenzie, Jake and Will) went to Odd Down Sports Ground to help with the Year 5 and 6 cross country run: this run included all the primary schools in BANES.

Out of the 16 sports leaders, 9 of us had to be hares, which meant we had to lead the children around the 1.4km track, with one person at the front running half way, the second person ran half way to the end and the third helped the last person and motivated them to finish; the hares alternated these roles between themselves. As the children finished their race, two leaders would give them a card saying what place they came; the top three would have their names written down by another leader to get a medal at the end of the day and the top 10 places would be given a letter to invite them to the finals by another leader.

The last two sports leaders collected in all the envelopes with the scores of the top 5 children from all of the schools. We would like to thank Miss Bell for this opportunity and hope to do this again.

By: Bryony Prewett and Esther Billington, Year 9s

Netball

Year 7,8 and 9 teams have played matches against St Gregory's and Somervale schools this term and all three teams have performed excellently. The Year 7s began their first match with a draw and went into their next game positive and came out with two wins as we entered two different teams. The Year 8 team worked consistently hard in both fixtures but unfortunately didn't manage to beat the opposition. Year 9's have started their matches on a high and they are performing to a high standard.

All three teams also played a school friendly against Ralph Allen on a wet and foggy day. The girls were excellent, they got organised quickly and we got into the matches straight away. The Year 7s played really well, it was a competitive game of netball. The girls showed dedication and hard work throughout, but unfortunately lost the game. The Year 8 girls also played extremely well and Mrs Bell rotated the team to play students in different positions to try different variations of play. The girls were fantastic and got on with the game but Ralph Allen managed get the win. The Year 9s were ready from the first whistle and played with desire and determination to win the game. The girls worked extremely hard for each other and successfully managed to get another for the team. The BANES tournaments are the next upcoming fixtures for each year group, this is where we are aiming to win each tournament for each year group. The Year 8s are the first year group to have their tournament on Wednesday 1st November. Good luck to the girls competing.



*Miss Hooper
PE Teacher*

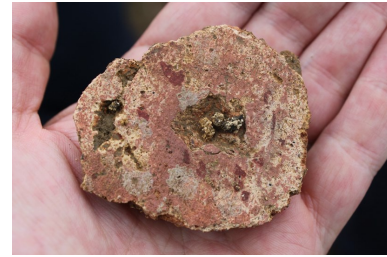
TRIPS AND VISITS

Archaeology Club trip

Students from Oldfield School Archaeology Club visited a local dig site at Hanging Hill, near Upton Cheyney, on 4th October. The archaeologists were investigating the site of a Roman villa on a hill overlooking Keynsham and Bath. The timing of our trip was fortunate as on the very day we visited, the diggers had discovered the villa's main building including a section of painted wall. This wall, painted a beautiful coral pink colour, had been covered up for almost 2000 years... until the day of our visit! Tony Roberts, the archaeologist in charge of the dig, said that 'it was good to see such enthusiasm amongst the group. They asked some really interesting and insightful questions'.

Archaeology Club is in room 106 on Monday lunchtimes.

*Mr Allen
History Teacher*



Year 12 Health and Social Care trip

On Wednesday 13th September the Year 12 Level 3 Health and Social care students went on a very informative visit to Newbridge Towers residential home. We were greeted by Maria the senior manager who took us on a private tour around the home. Maria seemed very passionate and dedicated to her job, she was also open to all our questions and enquiries which we took advantage of and we therefore gained a lot of information! We also had the opportunity to talk to other members of staff who were also very helpful. We met some of the residents that were living in the care home, there was 19 in total aged from 60 to 97. Furthermore, the three of us really enjoyed our visit and we gained loads of information about what a care setting looks like and how it is run. This will undoubtedly help us with our learning and assessments throughout the course. We now hope to visit some more health and social care setting including a nursery and local primary school

Keira Shepherd, Year 12

A Level Drama Trip to London!

We were really lucky to be able to stay overnight in London and watch not one piece of theatre but two! In preparation for our A Level Theatre Review we joined Kingswood School and hopped on a train. This was great as we got to make new friends. As soon as we arrived we headed straight to the West End, to see the play *The Comedy about a Bank Robbery* at the Criterion Theatre.

We really enjoyed the performance of Sam Fogell who played Sam, he had brilliant comic timing and he really captivated the audience. This was really nice to see as he was the understudy for the role. Our favourite parts were the set for the diamond robbery where the actors actually looked like they were climbing through air-conditioning vents, and in Caprice's apartment where visitors kept arriving and she was trying to hide Sam (he ended up getting squished by a fold out bed several times!) and there were moments of great physicality too, especially as the cast created car chases with chairs.



After a night in a hotel with the driest croissants in the world, we travelled to the Globe Theatre where we got our very own tour of the theatre, including a costume workshop. We nearly didn't make it though as we couldn't work out which tube we needed to be on! After the tour and a spot of lunch at Five Guys, we had our first groundling experience! It was hard to stand for the 3 hours, but well worth it as the play was really well staged, the actors showed versatility and we enjoyed wearing our sun hats! The play was set in the Mexican Revolution and the action was set in and around a train. There were some really comedic moments involving Benedict and Beatrice peeping out of the train windows to overhear conversations about their love for each other.

Although it was tiring and our feet were aching, we thought it was a brilliant trip and would love to go again!!

Jessica Coleman and Byron Melksham Year 12

Bath Fashion Museum trip

On Monday 16th October, A Level and GCSE Textiles, Art and Photography students attended a workshop at Bath Fashion Museum. They sketched and developed fabric manipulation samples from the inspiring collections at the museum, which included dresses from the 1600s alongside contemporary catwalk pieces by Alexander McQueen and Dior. The students created some stunning work which can now be used in their coursework. Josh said "It was very intriguing to find out about the historical pieces".



Year 7s taking a walk on the Wild Side

Year 7s on their trip to the Wild Place in Bristol where they took part in a high ropes challenge, which included a climbing wall and giant swing, known as the Leap of Faith.



On Tuesday 10th October, Textiles students travelled to the Mulberry Factory in Chilcompton for a guided tour. They were lucky enough to speak to staff from all production stages, seeing how AutoCAD is used to create and cut the pattern pieces for each bag, seeing the first prototype samples, touring the leather store and seeing all of the different hides used to make the bags. They then had a guided tour of the production lines, seeing how the bags are made from start to finish. Rosy and Alicia, A Level students, said, 'The trip provided a real insight into not only the fashion industry but the whole process behind it. It has inspired us to take more notice of the fashion industry as a future career'.

*Miss M Evans
Technology Teacher*



MULBERRY