

**Important Dates;**

**18 Dec**  
 END OF TERM 2  
**05 Jan 2021**  
 INSET DAY  
**06 Jan 2021**  
 START OF TERM 3  
 WEEK 2  
**11 Jan**  
 WEEK 1  
 Yr 11 Sports Studies  
 Exam  
 Yr 12 Health &  
 Social Care Exam  
**14 Jan**  
 Yr 11 Parents'  
 Evening  
**18 Jan**  
 Yr 13 Health &  
 Social Care Exam  
**28 Jan**  
 Yr 12 Parents'  
 Meeting  
**04 Feb**  
 Yr 9 Options  
 Evening  
**10 Feb**  
 Yr 11 Music  
 Performance Day  
 OSA Meeting, 7pm  
**12 Feb**  
 INSET DAY  
 END OF TERM 3

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and you families are well. I was determined to try avoid a focus on Covid in this newsletter and, instead, focus on all of the positives from the last term. However I do need to address the announcement from the DfE yesterday evening regarding the return to school in January.

The current position is that, at present, only Year 11, Year 13, vulnerable children and children of critical workers will be in school for the first week of next term. The remainder of our students will be taught remotely for the first week of term; this will be for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday only, as the first day of term (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January) is an inset day. I will be writing to you during the holiday to ask parents who are eligible for their children to attend school on these three days to confirm whether they will be in school. It is possible that the guidance from the DfE about which children will be in school for the first week will change over the holiday period and I will inform you if this is the case.

I will also update you throughout the holiday on the remote learning arrangements for those students who are at home, although I can confirm now that students will follow the in-school timetable via Teams lessons. The arrangements for this will be the same as when year groups have had to self-isolate and this information is available in the parent area of the school website. Please remember that these lessons will be 45 minutes long and will start 15 minutes later than the in-school lesson start times. If your child does not have a device to use at home to access Teams lessons then please contact the school via [enquiries@oldfieldschool.com](mailto:enquiries@oldfieldschool.com).

We do not have any details about the testing proposals as the guidance on this is quite limited, we have been informed that additional guidance from DfE will be provided some time next week. Once we have this we will communicate our plans for testing, if this goes ahead.

Clearly the timing of this announcement leaves much to be desired, given the implications for both schools and for families. I will try to ensure that you are kept informed of developments over the holiday period.

Returning to school news, I was delighted to be involved in interviewing Year 11 prefects for the student leadership roles earlier this term. This has been a much delayed process, however this did not detract from the quality of the candidates; which was exceptional. Miss Lobbett has added an article later in the newsletter about our leadership team and prefects and I will let you read on to find out who the successful candidates were.

Christmas is rapidly approaching (seven more sleeps to go!) and we have launched ourselves into the festive season with a number of events and activities at the end of this term, including a Christmas raffle, bingo and the sixth form extravaganza. The Christmas Concert is a virtual event this year and is now available via a link on the school website; I hope that you enjoy watching this as much as I have.

There are a small number of staffing changes in place from January. Mr Sully is leaving us in his role as SENCO (Mrs Mills and Miss Grimes will be leading the SEND area in the interim). Mrs Conley is also leaving this term. There are some staff joining us in January; Lawrence Dorman, will be our new Head of Year 10 and will also be teaching PE, our SEND team is welcoming Amy Newman, Tegan Morris and Susannah Cram, they will be working in the department as teaching assistants. We are also joined by Donna Alexis in our finance office. I would like to thank Ross Fenwick for the support and guidance he has provided for our Year 10 students as their Head of Year; he is remaining at the school in his role as Head of Social Sciences. Miss Lobbett will be taking on the role of Deputy Headteacher in January, with oversight and responsibility for the Head of Year Team, behaviour, rewards and attendance.

Could I remind you that Tuesday 5th January is an inset day, therefore the first day of school for students will be Wednesday 6th January and that this is Week 2 of the timetable cycle.

Lastly I would like to thank all of our students, staff and parents for responding so well to the measures that we have had in place since September to keep everyone in the school community safe. I am very proud of what we have achieved this year in ensuring that staff and students feel safe in school and also maintaining a high quality learning environment and excellent pastoral care. While it is clear that there will continue to be challenges in the months ahead, there is an end in sight now with the development of the vaccination programme and that is something to feel very positive about for the new year.

Wishing you an enjoyable Christmas and a very happy new year.

*Steven Mackay, Headteacher*

# NOTICE BOARD

## 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)

## Parking around school

A further reminder to parents to please be careful when picking up and dropping off at the beginning or end of the school day. Parking should not be on the double yellow lines at the front or side of the school, near Penn, and drivers should be mindful of other traffic, our neighbours and most importantly, students crossing the roads.

Furthermore, parents should not pull into the main school carpark to drop off students, this blocks the area for teachers and staff trying to get to work.



## Christmas Card Winner!



We were overwhelmed by the amazing entries to this year's Christmas card competition. We had over 500 entries! Mr Mackay had the difficult job of judging them and we are pleased to announce the winner is Felix Roe from Year 7. He will receive a £20 Amazon Voucher and his design professionally printed and shared with the local community. There are two runners up, Beatrice Biro from Year 11 and Darcey Flint from Year 7, each will receive a £10 Amazon Gift Voucher. We are also pleased to announce that Miss Noakes' tutor group, 10N, won the tutor pizza session for producing the most quality designs.



Merry Christmas!

*Mr J Pearce, Head of Art*

## 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.

## Virtual Christmas Concert

Recordings have been submitted, and resubmitted, and uploaded, and downloaded, and transferred - thank you to those parents who sent links and attachments to me to make sure that everyone was involved! It has been a labour of love and we are proud to say it is ready to view on our website;

[www.oldfieldschool.com/news/oldfield-school-virtual-christmas-concert/](http://www.oldfieldschool.com/news/oldfield-school-virtual-christmas-concert/)

Many thanks to Mr Galatis in our IT department for putting all of the individual recordings together, without his work on this there would be no Virtual Concert.

I am really impressed with the work that has gone in from individual students (and staff!) to make this happen and I am so pleased that, despite not being able to rehearse in school, we have still been able to come together to make music for Christmas.

I hope you have a lovely break and I'll see your children for more music making next year!

*Mrs Robinson, Head of Music*





Dear Parents/Carers

It's hard to believe we are at the end of Christmas term without having had our annual Christmas fair, but we are pleased to say that our Christmas tree sales went very well on Saturday 5th December, with more Christmas trees being sold than previous years, and it is good to know we can provide this service for our school community and the surrounding neighbours of Oldfield. Despite the freezing cold all our trees were sold and £500 was raised for the school. Particular thanks to Jason Holway, the Barron family and Nick Wharf who helped to unload the trees from the van and carry them to people's cars. Also thanks to Catrin Yeomans and Gwen Cardiff who helped Susan and Gaynor to keep check of sales.

Many thanks for your amazing support in our recent online uniform sale. Nearly 60 parents responded with requests. We hope you agree that the introduction of an online google form helped the smoothness of the system, and we look forward to the next sale in Term 4. We realise that some people will not have received items that they requested, so hopefully stocks will be replenished and these can be re-ordered in the next sale. This fundraising activity helped to generate £428 which will go towards helping the school. (See below of when to donate your second-hand uniform).

Some of the money raised has been used to purchase a gazebo for use in activities which require outdoor facilities under the COVID restrictions and it will get plenty of use as we continue throughout the year. It has already been used at the Sixth Form Christmas social event which took place this week.

Finally, good luck to everyone who has bought raffle tickets. Prizes will be distributed as we go to press. The Heads of Houses have done a great job compiling a wonderful array of prizes and rallying staff to put together four wonderful hampers.

Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to send an email or text to thank the OSA for the work of the committee this term. Your support is much appreciated.

Our next OSA meeting will be on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February** via zoom, and we'd love to see you there!

*Happy Christmas from Susan Holway and Gaynor Williams on behalf of the OSA team*



**SECOND-HAND SCHOOL UNIFORM PRICE LIST**

	Old Logo or no logo	New Logo
PE Shorts/skorts	£4.00	
PE Tops	£3.00	£5.00
PE Jackets	£4.00	£6.00
Tracksuit Trousers	£2.00	
Blazers	£4.00	£7.00
Trousers	£4.00	
Skirts	£4.00	
Grey Jumpers	£3.00	£5.00
Ties	£2.00	

All proceeds from uniform sales go straight back into supporting your school.  
Please note, we are only able to accept Price and Buckland second-hand uniform donations.

Our bank details are: Lloyds 30-90-54 A/C 01977615

**Uniform donations in Term 3**

Second-hand uniform may be donated to reception in a bag labelled 'OSA' during Term 3.

We are currently very short of girls skirts and skorts.

Please note from now on we will only accept Price and Buckland uniform that has the new logo on it.

We can take blazers, skirts, trousers, jumpers and official PE kit.

The uniform must be washed and ready to sell, i.e. no hems to deal with or buttons to sew on please.

We do not accept coats, shirts, socks, hoodies, water bottles, DofE kit, pencil cases, timetables or trainers. Thanks for all your donations and watch this space for details of the next online sale.



# SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING AREAS —

## Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Hola and Bonjour from the MFL Department!

There are 6 members of staff in the MFL department and we're very pleased to announce the arrival of Miss Kovacs, who joined the team in September. She has this to say: "I am a native of Belgium and worked as a teacher in Granada, Spain, studying anthropology. Before that, I was a hotel receptionist and a nanny in Amsterdam, a tutor and a French teacher for adult training in Geneva and an English teacher in Brussels. I am a keen sci-fi reader who enjoys traveling, visiting art museums and going for hikes and camping. Not a fan of TV but I love good cinema, and, like a true Belgian, think that only we have the secret to excellent, thick, twice cooked chips!" Welcome Miss Kovacs!

We absolutely love languages and our aim is to help students communicate successfully and confidently. We want to help students develop a love and curiosity for the culture and heritage where the languages are spoken. Our ambitious and bespoke curriculum personalises learning and gives students the necessary body of knowledge and language skills to succeed at all levels. Material is revisited systematically to help boost long-term retention and regular vocabulary tests help students use more varied language in their work. We put an emphasis on getting the students to speak the language in lessons meaning students are able to reach a very high level of fluency.

You might be sitting there thinking: why learn a language? Well, did you know that learning a language broadens your horizons, improves your memory, increases self-confidence, fosters skills such as teamwork, problem solving and risk-taking *and* increases your job prospects? In fact, employees who use languages in their work earn on average 8% more! And on top of all that, it means you can communicate with the people of the country which makes travelling so much fun! All of us in the languages department have travelled far and wide and we have many a story to share...

Why don't you ask Mr Cordle about the time he introduced himself to 150 students at a Colombian university by saying 'Estoy muy embarazada' which means 'I am very pregnant', or Miss Kovacs about the time she had to mime being a chicken to get some eggs from a local village shop in Croatia, or Miss Hassell about the time she joined a choir in Argentina and performed solos in holiday events at her university...? And why not ask Mrs Green why "Gemütlichkeit" is her favourite word in German and when she's had to use it?

We're looking forward to getting back to travelling and running the school trips again. Last year (summer 2019) we visited Salamanca, Cordoba, Paris and Barcelona.

We have had to get used to teaching some year groups on Teams and are proud of how well the students participate and engage with their online language learning. It means that MFL staff are working hard to adapt lessons for this new, virtual environment but there has been a lot of success and students have been very positive about it.

Finally, why not download an app like Duolingo to learn French and/or Spanish and be one step ahead of everyone else? You won't regret it!

Hasta luego and à plus.

*Mr Cordle*

*Leader of Learning: MFL*

Currently reading: Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks



APOLL

AIA



## HOUSE NEWS

Tis the season to be jolly! As Heads of House we have been busy entertaining our students and staff with our Christmas Bingo video clips, some of which you can see on this page. As we are writing no-one has a full house yet but there are lots of tutor groups who are eagerly awaiting their final numbers so they can win a special prize for their end of term celebrations! We've had fun filming the clips and thinking of new festive bingo calls. Could "Number 33 Come Celebrate with Me" or "Number 89, Brussel sprouts are divine" take over from the old classic calls?!

Students will also be completing our 'Knowing Me. Knowing Yule' classic house competition where our fantastic teachers give facts about themselves. Students have to match the facts to the teacher. Could you work out which teacher has sung for the Pope? Who is related to one of the X-Men actors? Which one of us has adopted a dog this year?

Finally, we wanted to wish everyone in Apollo, Maia, Minerva and Neptune and their families a fantastic holiday. Rest up and recharge so that you are ready to come back to continue the quest for the House Shield in 2021!

*Amy Vickery, Head of Apollo House*

*Chris Gann, Head of Maia House*

*Sarah Macnaughton, Head of Minerva House*

*Lara Britton, Head of Neptune House*



# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



## Equality Team logo competition

We are proud to announce the relaunch and rebrand of the school's Equalities Team. The students have entered a competition to design a school logo for badges, banners and posters and the 17 shortlisted designs are being voted for by all the students.

Another change we are implementing is to have small teams of students, rather than one big team, who are interested in specific aspects of equalities within the school. The various teams will meet once a term and have responsibility for creating a stall for Oldfest at the end of the year celebration. The teams are; BAME, LGBTQ+, SEN, Religion and Human Rights. The entries for the new logo have been on display in the main corridor and we will announce the winner next term.

*Mrs Macnaughton, Head of PSHE*

## Student leadership team

I am delighted to announce that our 2020-21 student prefect and leadership team have now been appointed. Mr Mackay and I received a large number of very strong applications from Year 11 students, detailing their leadership experience to date and improvements they would like to make at school.

This year's prefect team is as follows:

Head Boy: Nathan Finch  
 Deputy Head Boy: Stanley Swift  
 Head Girl: Claudia Pearce  
 Deputy Head Girl: Eleni Francis  
 Head of Student Voice: Ella Regan  
 Congratulations to all involved!

*Miss Lobbett*



Some of the amazing pieces our Year 13 Art students are currently working on towards their mock exams.



## Prefect and Leadership Team

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Zuhur Aden            | Irene Anupun     |
| Jessie Amor           | Alexia Biro      |
| Louis Bell            | Finlay Cole      |
| Beatrice Biro         | Henry Court      |
| Molly Cordina-Wilson  | Nathan Finch     |
| Lubna Dahir           | Keshini Ganesh   |
| Eleni Francis         | Gina Lyne        |
| Grace Lewis           | Eleah Nye        |
| Izzy Medley           | Leyla Othman     |
| Jamie Olden           | Leticia Perez    |
| Claudia Pearce        | Ella Regan       |
| Thalia Perkins        | Tom Searle       |
| Aoife Rotheram        | Stanley Swift    |
| Athena Singh          | Anneila Williams |
| Antonia Van der Vliet |                  |

### Year 9 Sports Leaders

We are excited to be starting this year’s sessions for the Sports Leadership course. Forty one Year 9 students are able to take part this year and although they won’t have the usual sports festivals with the local primary schools, they will be able to run a series of mini festivals for their peer group during PE lessons. This will give them further opportunity and responsibility to demonstrate their leadership skills.

We will report back on their progress and activities in future newsletters – watch this space! *Mrs Bell, PE Teacher*



**The dance shall go on!**  
Despite COVID-19, our Year 10 girls are still loving being at school; our core PE lesson today soon became dance!



### Year 10 Inter-tutor Dodgeball Competition

We have introduced some inter-tutor sports for different year groups. These have been taking place on a Friday lunchtime during tutor time. Due to COVID-19 restrictions these will be run by Sports Leaders and Ambassadors within the year group. We have started with a Year 10 dodgeball which has been very popular. The Year 10 Sports Leaders have been doing a great job of informing tutors and running the competition on the day. Without the support of the Leaders these big competitions would not be able to take place.

After Christmas we will be offering an inter-tutor dodgeball competition to Year 9s and asking the current Year 9 Sports Leaders to run this event.

*Mrs Bell, PE Teacher*



### EXTRA CURRICULAR PE CLUBS

Don't forget the extra-curricular clubs are back on! These will continue during Term 3 for as long as we are able to. Please see the timetable below;

#### Week 1

Day	2.45-3.45pm	3.45-4.45pm
	Year 7, 8 & 9 Only	
<b>Monday</b>	Year 7 Ready for Rugby (JOD) Year 8 Five a-side Football (Bath City FC) Year 9 Dance (SMH)	Year 10 5 a-side football (Bath City FC)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 7 Football (CAD - Penn Field)	Year 11 Basketball (HPA)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Year 9 Netball (LIK) Year 7 Dance Club (MAS)	Year 10 Badminton (DRR)
<b>Thursday</b>	Year 9 Badminton (DRR)	

#### Week 2

Day	2.45-3.45pm	3.45-4.45pm
	Year 7, 8 & 9 Only	
<b>Monday</b>	Year 8 Five a-side Football (Bath City FC)	Year 10 5 a-side football (Bath City FC)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Year 7 Football (CAD – Outdoor, Penn Field) Year 8 Badminton - HPA	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Year 7 Netball (BER) Year 7 Dance Club (MAS)	Sixth Form Volleyball (DRR)
<b>Thursday</b>		Year 11 5 a-side football (DRR)



### Sixth Form Applications

Don't forget to get your Sixth Form application in. You can access the application form online here;

[www.oldfieldschool.com/sixth-form/how-to-apply/sixth-form-application-form/](http://www.oldfieldschool.com/sixth-form/how-to-apply/sixth-form-application-form/)

You can view the Sixth Form Prospectus here on the website or if you would prefer a hard copy, please get in touch;

[www.oldfieldschool.com/sixth-form/prospectus/](http://www.oldfieldschool.com/sixth-form/prospectus/)

If you are still unsure of what you want to do, please contact Mr Nash for a chat about your options, or have a look at the videos on the website explaining more about life in Oldfield Sixth Form;

[www.oldfieldschool.com/sixth-form/](http://www.oldfieldschool.com/sixth-form/)

If you have any questions about the Sixth Form, or would like to find out more about specific courses available, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Nash; [g.nash@oldfieldschool.com](mailto:g.nash@oldfieldschool.com)



**The Nativity by 13c, Miss Sancto's tutor group**



**Two wise queens follow the star**



### Sixth Form Christmas Extravaganza

Undeterred by the Covid pandemic and the limitations of virtual events, the Sixth Form went ahead and held its annual Christmas extravaganza. Each tutor group had to contribute a skit, a performance, a dance or a song to keep us all aglow with festive cheer. Special mention has to go to the students in Mr Pearce's tutor group who produced an excellent video to go with East 17's Stay Now and Mr Trowell's group with their fantastic pastiche of the John Lewis advert. Still, few will forget Mr Hayward as Kirsty McColl and Mr Nash as Shane McGowan delivering that festive favourite, 'Fairytale of New York.' Plans are already being hatched for the Easter Ball!



**Stay another day ft. East 12a, Mr Pearce's tutor group**

