

BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

Termly round up



Welcome to the first edition of the new Bradon Forest Newsletter where we will share all that is great about our school community with you. From news and achievements to recommendations and competitions, we will reflect the positivity and variety that makes Bradon Forest such a wonderful place to be.

My first term as Headteacher has been a whirlwind of new opportunities, faces and experiences and I have enjoyed every minute of it. The school community have been very welcoming and supportive and it has been fantastic to see the students return to a much more normal school routine. As I show visitors around our calm and engaged classrooms, I feel proud that I can work to lead the school forward and provide all our learners with the best possible education. Have a wonderful half-term break.

 - Mrs Haines, Headteacher

We asked our new staff to describe their first term at Bradon Forest in five words...

REWARDING **CARING**
EXCITING **BUSY** FRIENDLY

Mrs Greenaway-Light, Counsellor

ABSORBING **SUPPORTIVE**
Varied **FUN** *Happy*

Mrs Haines, Headteacher

ENTERTAINING **ENGAGING**
EXCITING **EXHAUSTING** **INTERESTING**

Mr Cridge, English and Drama Teacher

THE BLUEPRINT FOR YOUR FUTURE

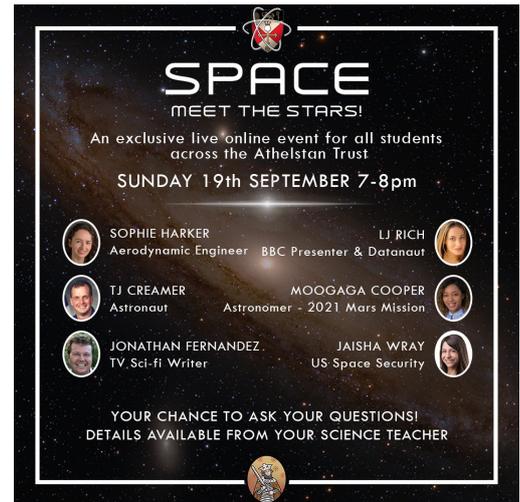


SPACE: MEET THE STARS!

Science had an explosive start this term with 'Space: meet the Stars!', an exclusive event for all the students across the Athelstan Trust, with space experts from the UK and the US invited to speak to our students live and share their extraordinary experiences. The online event was presented by the sparkling BBC presenter LJ Rich and the stellar crew included TJ Creamer (NASA Flight Director and Astronaut), Sophie Harker (award winning engineer), Jonathan Fernandez (writer of Star Trek Enterprise), Jaisha Wray (space security expert) and Moogega Cooper (NASA Mars mission astronomer). It truly was *out of this world!*

The speakers beautifully answered the brilliant questions posed by our very own superstar students. A big thank you to all the students and families who tuned in on the night, for the live comments and questions.

If you missed it, you are able to watch the recording <https://bit.ly/spacemeetthestarsagain>



BOOKBUZZ

The exciting Bookbuzz programme will be rolled out to all the Year 7 students during their English library lesson. The students will have the opportunity to choose a book from the selection for them to keep.

All Year 7 students are encouraged to visit the library to look at the books and read the blurb so they are familiar with the choices available to them. We look forward to seeing the Year 7 students with their new books.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to Hills Waste Solutions for their lovely donation of compost and sunflower seeds!

YEAR 10 ART WORKSHOPS

Our Year 10 students who are studying Art at GCSE level took part in three workshops today. In a previous lesson students had studied natural forms and then recreated one in clay. The second workshop was looking at typography and then students produced a painting. The third workshop focused on printing techniques inspired by nature.

Thank you to artist, Catherine Chappell, for visiting the school to share her printing press with our students. Also to Mr Martch-Harry and Mrs Holmes, Bradon Forest School Art teachers, for organising this event for our students.



MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP WITH LEX GIBBONS

Thanks to Lex Gibbons for running her mental health workshops for years 7 - 10. Lex is an up and coming singer and used her talents to entertain students before discussing topics close to her heart such as bullying and how social media can affect your mental health.

GRANDPARENTS' COFFEE MORNING

We were delighted to welcome grandparents of our Year 7 students into school on Wednesday 13 October to watch their final assembly of Term 1. Mrs Wiltshire, Head of Year 7, led the assembly focusing on how far each of them had come since joining us only seven weeks ago. Students were recognised for all their achievements whether representing the school in a sporting team, entering a house competition as well as for all the house points they have been awarded. Students were then able to give their grandparents a tour of the school, introducing them to their favourite teachers and showing them the parts of the school which were important to them. Grandparents returned to the hall to enjoy refreshments including cakes provided by our caterers, Aspens. Our Year 10 Peer Mentor prefects and members of staff chatted with families. We particularly enjoyed hearing from grandparents with a previous connection to the school including one who was part of the team that built the school in 1962!



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

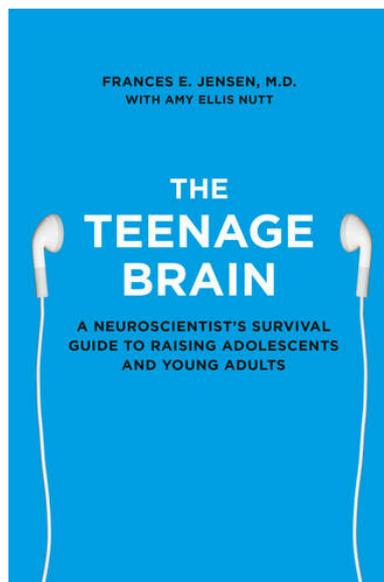
The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist's Survival Guide to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults

"We used to think that erratic teenage behaviour was due to a sudden surge in hormones, but modern neuroscience shows us that this isn't true. The Teenage Brain is a journey through the new discoveries that show us exactly what happens to the brain in this crucial period, how it dictates teenagers' behaviour, and how the experiences of our teenage years are what shape our attitudes, and often our happiness in later life.

Many of our ideas about our growing brains are completely re-written. They don't stop developing at the end of our teens – they keep adapting until we are in our mid-twenties. They are wired back to front, with the most important parts, the parts that we associate with good judgement, concentration, organization and emotional and behavioural control being connected last of all.

The teenage brain is a powerful animal primed for learning, but this creates problems. Addiction is a form of learning, and Frances Jensen, Professor of Pediatric Neurology at the teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School reveals exactly what lies behind all aspects of teenage behaviour and its lasting effects – from drugs, lack of sleep and smoking to multi-tasking and stress."

Thank you to Mr Sturla for recommending this book.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During October we organised a variety of events and activities to celebrate black history and culture. Interim head of history Joel Koniarski and Maths teacher and leader of Bradon's pro-diversity student group Akua Doffour-Dapaah are led the events this year.

Assistant headteacher Paul Dipple said: "At Bradon we have focused on the theme of Proud to Be. This is part of the national campaign this year to recognise the importance of celebrating black history and culture. In lessons we learn a lot about black history in terms of civil rights in America during the 1950s and 1960s and the struggle for equality. This is a massively important aspect of history to address particularly in light of the fact that racial inequality still exists today in many societies. We wanted this year to challenge students to learn about a part of black history that we do not normally focus upon and that is black African history."



Cooking up a storm in Food tech thanks to Miss Fennel and Miss Dapaah.



DOVER CASTLE TRIP



is understandably starting to typical Roman style of lighthouse with its octagonal shape and being several stories high. Next to the lighthouse students delved into the Anglo Saxon church of St. Mary in Castro which is still in use today and has been a place of remembrance for all those who have fought in the 20th century wars.

Standing in the middle of the formidable castle is the 12th century Stone Keep, a behemoth of a structure when it was built in 1180 by Henry II. The keep consists of several levels of living quarters which housed the king, his visitors and the ordinary folk who worked there. English Heritage who now own and run the site have spent millions of pounds over the last few years attempting to bring the interior of the keep back to former glory and hopefully the students got a little taster of what life was like for the king in 1180.

All the students need to be praised for the good behaviour and humour, as do the members of staff on the trip. The weather this year was absolutely stunning and made the outdoor picnic a real treat! Many thanks to all the staff that went on the trip: Mrs Loxton, Mr Dipple, Mrs Cole, Mr Morris and Miss Cottier.

On Tuesday 21st September Year 11 historians were treated to a sumptuous exploration of over 2000 years of history in one place. As part of their OCR B History GCSE course students have to study and write an examination on a historical site on how it was first used and how it has significantly changed over time.

Starting at the 46AD Roman lighthouse (Pharos) students developed a keen understanding of how Dover was a key landing post for the continuation of the Roman invasion of Britain. The Pharos today crumble, however what remains shows off the



STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

This term we have focussed on a variety of subjects for our continual staff development:

- Safeguarding including Incel culture and GDPR
- Teaching and learning has covered our new teacher toolkit framework and ensuring we are delivering high quality lessons at all times.
 - This term the focus was on knowledge and understanding which includes student misconception
- We have a biweekly teaching and learning briefing which has Pupil Premium, Most Able and SEND focus areas for term 1
- In addition, we ensure our staff new to the school have a robust induction programme which focusses on consistency and knowing where to find important data they need.
- We also host Intending Teachers and offer them weekly training.



This term, the whole teaching body are involved in a whole Trust CPD session. It's exciting as this is the first time we have done this. This is the first of 3 sessions and will focus on a school theme that a member of staff is interested in. For example, boys, literacy, metacognition or diversity. They will then use research to inform their planning and work in this area during the year, coming together during session 3 during a whole Athelstan Trust TD DAY to share their findings and work.

In addition we also have a number of staff this year who will be involved in out of school training. This includes those who will complete: National Professional Qualifications, North Wilts Senior and Middle Leadership programmes and other Trust training opportunities.

OPEN EVENTS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Thank you to everyone who came to our open evening and series of open mornings this term. It was great to welcome so many families and share with them the love we have for our school.



A reminder that the deadline for Secondary School applications is **31 October 2021**.

Swindon residents need to apply via this link: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school_places_and_admissions/424/secondary_school_places_and_admissions/3

Wiltshire residents can apply here: <https://parentportal.wiltshire.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/parents/admissions>



SWINDON SCHOOL'S YEAR 7 NETBALL TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

Tuesday 5 October saw the first Swindon Schools netball tournament of the year for Year 7, played at Dorcan School. There were 2 pools and we took two teams. The B team played well and drew 1 match. 'Players of their Team' were Eloise Adam and Emily Phillips (who was also captain!). The A team, captained by Layla Hynes, won all their matches, having scored 26 goals and didn't concede any - so were Pool A winners! Well done to all the girls for a great display of skill and resilience and thanks to Lauren Ambrose for assisting Mrs Evans.



Nicolaas and Kian McNally, play for Cirencester U18's Youth FA Cup Team on Thursday 1 October. It was a lively and exciting match featuring several excellent saves by Ted in goal. It was great to see our students performing so well, despite the pouring rain and (what felt like) gale force winds! - Ms Beet

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL SUCCESS



Our Year 8 team had an emphatic win in round 2 of the English Schools' National Cup Football beating Backwell School (Somerset) 6-0. An excellent team performance and a great start their football journey at Bradon Forest School! Goals scorers were Jack Oakes (3), Jay Horgan (1), Louis Gunning(1) and Finley Davies (1). Man of Match was Louis Gunning. - Mr Bray



CIRENCESTER U18'S YOUTH TEAM

I had the absolute pleasure of going to watch three Year 11 students, Ted Andrews, Ethan

BFS GIRLS WIN AT U16 ESFA!

Monday afternoon saw round 2 of the U16 England School's Football Association Girls competition and we are proud to say our girls won 5-2! Congratulations to the whole team, including Lani Hunt who scored 3 and Faith



Pound who scored 2 and was also named Player of the Match!



SWINDON SCHOOLS' NETBALL CHAMPS

Congratulations to our U14 netball team who won the Swindon Schools Tournament last night so are Swindon Champions! They will represent Swindon at the Wiltshire County Town in November! They beat RWBA, LPA, Warneford and St Joe's in their pool matches, only conceding 3 goals. They beat RWBA B team in the semis 7-0 then had a tough final against Ridgeway; 5-5 at full time then won 7-5 after extra time. Great team performance but POMS were Olivia Osborne and Macy Pickett.



SWIM SUCCESS FOR NEW YEAR 7 STUDENT

Congratulations to one of our new Year 7 students, Niamh McGlade, who swims for the Tiger Sharks. Over the Summer, Niamh competed in a local gala at Wroughton and won NINE gold medals and one silver. Niamh swam a 25m butterfly in 19 seconds, which was one of her 9 races; all of which she achieved personal bests. We look forward to watching your swim career progress!



EX-STUDENT JUMPS FOR ENGLAND

Congratulations to ex-student, Amy Warre, who took home the gold medal at the England Nationals Championships. As Under 17's England triple jump champion, she then went on to represent England in the Under 17's Schools International Competition 2021. Amy landed a new PB of 12.10m, winning gold in the triple jump, and finished the season ranked 3rd in the UK for her age group. Congratulations Amy!





Athelstan Trust

Christmas Card Competition

Deadline:
Friday 12 November
12pm

Be bold, bright and eye catching. The winning entry will be used by all the Trust schools!

Students across our five schools are invited to enter our first Athelstan Trust Christmas Card Competition.

Winners will receive a £20 book token *plus* £100 for their school's Art Department! *Prizes will also be awarded to 2nd and 3rd place.*

Designs must be A5, include King Athelstan and feature our priorities: **equality, diversity and inclusion.**

Email entries to Jennifer Purcell at purcellj@bradonforest.wilts.sch.uk

