

# BRADON FOREST SCHOOL

## TERMLY NEWS

Term 5 - May 2026



## GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK, YEAR 11

In the final assembly for our Year 11 cohort, we focused very much on the theme of 'good luck'! Students were shown a montage of clips from staff members all wishing them luck - some had even gone to the effort of dressing up for the occasion (Mr D!). In addition, every student was presented with a hand written card from Mrs Lister, with a message of support and encouragement. Mrs Lister said: *"Seeing the looks on their faces and the lovely words of thanks, made the task of writing nearly 180 cards all worthwhile! From all the staff at Bradon we wish them every success in their GCSE exams!"*



The 'big send off' for this lovely year group was on Friday 22 May, the last day of term, after this newsletter went to print. See our socials for lots of photos from the shirt signing. Year 11, we wish you all the best with the rest of your GCSE's - keep revising!



Mrs Lister has been incorporating German revision in a lovely way with her exam classes: *"My Year 11 German students have been working really hard with their revision and by way of a bit of encouragement and support, I gave every student in my class a pen with a motivational phrase such as "Du schaffst*



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das!" (you can do it!), "Gib nicht auf" ("don't give up") and a Glückschwein (a lucky pig). These were really gratefully received and I've seen several little piggies attached to pencil cases heading off into the exams this week. Let's hope they bring them lots of luck!"

## HALF TERM MOTIVATION

If you're looking for some motivation this half term, look no further! Over the Easter break, Year 8 student, Ted M, climbed Yr Wyddfa (pronounced uh-with-va, the mountain formally known as Snowdon). The highest mountain in Wales and England, it stands at 1,085 metres (3,560 feet) in the heart of Eryri National Park, North Wales. Ted embraced the challenge with his dad, and dog Betsy, taking 5½ hours, with incredible determination and resilience throughout the climb - as you can see from the photo, it wasn't exactly ideal conditions! Well done for an amazing achievement. The trio are now considering taking on Ben Nevis this summer - we're not sure if Betsy gets a say though...



We'd also like to give a huge shout out to Year 10 student, Josh H. He's a brilliant kayaker and spent a bright April weekend in Exeter completing his Paddlesport Instructor Course. At just 14, he can now teach beginner kayaking - that's pretty amazing to have that qualification by Year 10! Where do we sign up, Josh?

On Saturday 18 April, the Puttick brothers: Jude, Year 11 and Noah, Year 8, took part in the first-ever 'Mens Walk to Support'. Hundreds of men walked eight miles from Prospect Hospice in Wroughton to the County Ground - a wonderful opportunity to walk side by side, talk if they wanted to, and support the local community. Sadly, Swindon conceded a last second equaliser but all in all the day was a real success! At the last count the total raised was £70,000.00, plus more was collected along the way... Mrs Loxton said: "It was so lovely to speak to both Jude and Noah about the event. Such an awesome example of going the extra mile for others!" Noah said: "I am proud to support Prospect Hospice, our local charity providing specialist end-of-life care for people across Swindon, Marlborough, north Wiltshire, Lechlade and



Fairford. Whatever you are able to give, thank you. Your support means a lot to me, and to the people Prospect Hospice cares for." If you would like to donate the link is still active for now: <https://prospecthospice.enthuse.com/pf/noah-puttick>

Inspired by Noah and Jude, we launched the staff Walk this May challenge for the second year running - a national challenge to encourage regular activity. Last year, Miss Carriero topped the leaderboard with 391,138 steps! Could you beat that? Let us know if you're planning any May walking challenges with your family - we'd love to

hear about them. There are a few virtual challenges available to join, for example, Prostate Cancer have set the challenge to raise money by walking 100 miles. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.prostate-cancer-research.org.uk/..walk-100../>

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

On Thursday 23 April, The National Archives and Bradon Forest came together for a History workshop called "Right to Rebel" with an actress playing Annie Kenney, a suffragette activist. We listened to her introduction and then asked her a series of questions ranging from "How did you cope with the force



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feeding in prison?", "How much are you paid?" to Who inspired you to protest?" Mrs Loxton said: "*Annie Kenney' gave us such amazing answers that truly allowed us to engage with her feelings and beliefs. I was so proud of the respect shown and the thoughtful questions Year 9 asked. Florrie M asked the final question "What advice would you give to people campaigning in the future" and we all were*



*overwhelmed by the amazing emotion and passion given in Annie's response."* Elspeth from the National Archives thanked the group for their thought provoking and in depth questions. As Annie disappeared they gave her a huge round of applause.

Here are a few comments from the students:

Isobel: "*It was incredibly interesting and fun to be involved with, I would definitely do a workshop again with the National Archives.*"

Ella Gaid: "*I felt like I was in the actual time period.*"

Jess: "*It helped me learn so much about them and what they went through.*"

Tabitha: "*It was very informative.*"

Jenson: "*It was an amazing experience and she was a phenomenal actress, She knew so much!*"

We are really looking forward to booking in more opportunities with the National Archives in the future.



## PERSUASIVE WRITING IN ENGLISH LESSONS

*"Donut eat all that junk food!"* Year 9 English students have been flexing their persuasive writing skills this term by producing articles on why people should cut down on unhealthy fast food. Do you have any quick snack suggestions? We love a boiled egg!

## EXTENDED ART PROJECTS

Friday 15 May saw an extended project day in our Art Department, giving a selection of Year 10 students the opportunity to complete their projects which they have been working on at Art Club since February. Mrs Holmes said: *"We have a wonderful exhibition of their completed artworks at the North Swindon Library at the Orbital centre and the work is being displayed until Friday 10 June. Make sure you head down to check it out!"*



Students involved were:

Daniel G	Grace A	Sharvel S	Liv W
Owen B	Alba P	Ethan C	Emma V
Izzy N	Zara N	Phoebe C	Ruby T
Erin S	Jack F	Tiarna S	Lola B

Tiarna S is producing a mural at Oaktree School over the next term. She designed this as part of her extended project. Watch this space!

## YEAR 7 MUSIC

Our Year 7 musicians have started Term 5 strong, learning chords and strum patterns on the ukuleles. They've been playing along to The Lion Sleeps Tonight in a class ensemble, before breaking off in to



smaller groups to compose together using the chord formations they've learnt. Mr Koniarski said: *"It's been really good fun to hear the variety of compositions. Well done to those students who took the lead as 'composer', and it was brilliant to see students all helping and supporting each other. Keep it up!"*

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## THE BIG QUESTION



Mrs Clark reports: "Once a week in tutor time, students discuss and debate a topical 'Big Question'. This term, students have discussed whether unhealthy foods should be removed from school canteen menus following government plans to ban deep-fried food and restrict high-sugar items. Students read a news article about the topic, discussed and debated their opinions and then all tutor groups voted on the question. We share the weekly debate topics via our social media feed, so please get involved and extend the discussions at home!" <https://bradonforest.org.uk/.../2026/04/TBQ-Canteens.pdf>



We also explored "Should Shakespeare still be taught in schools?" and we've already seen some enthusiastic discussions from students and staff (especially the English department!). Whilst some students have argued that the language is difficult and there are more modern writers worth studying, others have recognised that the themes are still

relevant today and particularly enjoyed studying Romeo and Juliet! What do you think, should Shakespeare still be on the curriculum? **See our discussions points here:** <https://bradonforest.org.uk/.../22/the-big-question-22-4-26/>

The British Council has a great range of resources for exploring different themes from Shakespeares plays: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/.../clas.../shakespeare-lives>

Inspired by the news story that CrossSense has been awarded a £1million prize for AI powered glasses to help people with dementia, we discussed AI and whether it is more helpful or harmful to society. See our discussion points here: <https://wp.me/pdCXD8-8Ns> and the article here: <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/.../longitude-prize-awarded...>

## HORTICULTURE GARDEN

Our Horticulture garden is looking fine in the Spring sunshine this morning! What's your favourite thing to grow in your garden? Do any of our families grow their own veg?

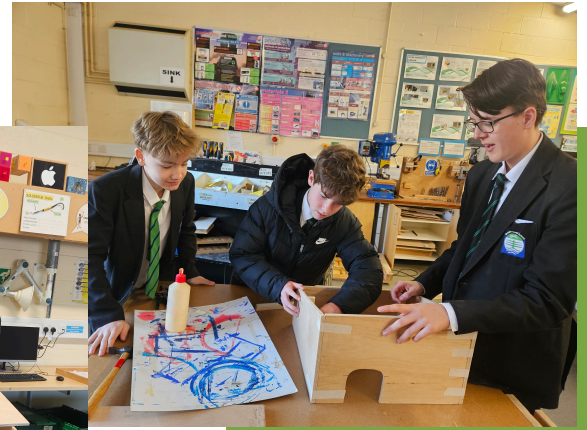


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## HEDGEHOG HOUSES

This term in DT club the students have been making hedgehog houses! Mrs Johnson said: "They have shown excellent team work in order to produce suitable houses to encourage wildlife around the school fields." Thank you to Mr Sturla and Mrs Johnson for facilitating this great activity.



## FRENCH BREAKFAST FUN 🇫🇷

This term, our Year 7 & 8 students have been learning all about French food and how to order it confidently. To finish the topic, Ms Picquart's class celebrated with a French breakfast together! "Students enjoyed a selection of pain au chocolat, brioche, croissants, and baguette with jam. The challenge? Everything had to be ordered in French using "je voudrais..." (I would like...) and the students rose to it brilliantly. It was a fantastic way to bring learning to life, with great energy, enthusiasm and engagement from all involved. A lovely way to end the term. Well done Year 7 & 8." This work is excellent

preparation for our upcoming French trip to Boulogne in June, where Year 7 students will have the opportunity to use their language skills in real-life scenarios. Ms Picquart added: "Bravo to all the students for their enthusiasm and hard work - we are very proud of you!"

## THANK A TEACHER DAY

National Thank a Teacher Day is Back on 17 June 2026! The UK-wide celebration of all teaching and support staff is back.



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National Thank a Teacher Day will be celebrated on **Wednesday 17 June 2026**, and this year there is more to get involved with than ever. As always, we will be celebrating every single person who makes school life special, from classroom assistants and librarians to dinner helpers and everyone who keeps things running. They all deserve that special thank you.

Want to make someone's day? Send a **free limited edition e-card** to a special teacher, support staff member or even a whole school team before National Thank a Teacher Day. Just visit the [Thank a Teacher website](#) to send yours. It is free, only takes a moment and can mean so much.

## YOUNG CARERS

A huge thank you to Amy and Danielle from Wiltshire Council who met with our Young Carers on this term to complete the Young Carer Voice Survey and discuss ways we can offer more support inside and outside of school. If you think your child(ren) may be considered Young Carers, please email the relevant Head of Year or a member of our pastoral team.

# Am I a Young Carer?


### What is a Young Carer?

A Young Carer is someone aged 18 and under who cares for a family member or friend due to illness, disability, mental health condition or substance addiction. Without your help, this person may not be able to cope.


A Young Adult Carer (YAC) is someone aged between 18 and 24 who cares for a family member or friend due to the reasons above.

### Do You....

- Find it hard to concentrate at school because I am worried about a family member




- Help a family member get out of bed




- Miss school or turn up late because I look after a family member


- Remind a family member to take their medication



- Find it hard to do my homework because I look after a family member


- Have to say 'no' to doing things I want to because I am caring for someone in my family





Reach out for support

It is okay to feel worried, embarrassed or guilty for asking for support, the team are here to help you get the support you are entitled to and very much deserve!



It's okay to ask for help

# REWARDS NEWS

## IN IT TO WIN IT!

Well done to our 'In It To Win It' prize draw winners from Term 4.

Isabelle N - Year 7

Ethan N - Year 8

Lola T - Year 9

Charlie P - Year 10

Keira C - Year 11

We hope you enjoy your £20 Amazon voucher!



## HOUSE CHESS TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the following students on their success in the Year 10 House Chess Tournament this term:

George S took Gold for Peatree.

Alex OS and Alex W won the Silver and Bronze medals

respectively, both for Ringsbury. Also congratulations to Jonathan O who made the finals. Ten house points have been awarded for winning, and all who entered won 3 house points.

Thanks to Mr Duncan for organising the Chess House competition. The Key Stage 3 tournament is currently underway. He said: *"Both the Gold and Bronze Medal matches were closely contested and played in the hall with great support from the school, which was great to see! Thank you to all participants for playing - get ready for next years tournament (cue Rocky style training montage)."*



## REWARDS INFORMATION

We believe that success for our students is achieved both inside and outside of the classroom. A holistic experience of education involves access to a positive learning environment and participation in extra-curricular activities.

[Click here for our 2025/26 Rewards Brochure.](#)

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# SPORTS NEWS

## ATHLETICS

The annual District Athletics Trials were held at the University of Bath on Thursday 14 May, where our elite track and field students competed against other schools in North Wiltshire. A great effort from all despite the wind and rain! Well done to the following students on qualifying for the County round on Saturday 13 June in Swindon:

Elsie S (800m)

James M (300m)

Alex Leak (800m)

Adam G (Long J)

Jaliel J (100m)

Jonny M-H (800m)

Corey C (1500m)

Max J (1500m)



## BASKETBALL



Bradon Forest Girls Basketball Team delivered a superb performance to be crowned Swindon Schools Champions overcoming strong challenges from Lawn Manor and Lydiard Park Academy in a thrilling competition at the start of term. Bradon Forest opened their campaign against a determined LPA side. From the tip-off, Bradon set the tone with high defensive intensity, forcing turnovers and converting quickly on the fast break. Excellent shooting from MVP, Jenna B resulted in a Bradon win 20-8. Next up was an equally competitive Lawn Manor team. Fast passing, composure under pressure,

# SPORTS NEWS

and brilliant teamwork saw Bradon Forest overcome a strong defence from Lawn Manor winning 18-10, securing the Swindon Schools title. MVP was Layla H for her vision and composure on the court.

Mrs Evans said: "A massive well done to all three schools for reaching the final. A great display of commitment, tenacity, teamwork and resilience was on show from all girls on court. Congratulations to Kayleigh C, Ceira W, Layla H, Jenna B, Rosie O, Inaaya M and Myesha A. Well-deserved Champions!"



What a fantastic effort from our Year 9 basketball team on Tuesday 21 April at the Swindon Schools Tournament. The squad demonstrated real determination and teamwork throughout the competition, securing a strong 2nd place finish and being runners up in Swindon Schools basketball. After delivering an excellent performance and a well-deserved victory against Ridgeway in the semi-final, the team progressed to the final where they faced a very competitive LPA side. Despite a committed and hard-fought game, we narrowly missed out on the top spot. Mrs Wilson said: "I'm incredibly proud of the resilience, sportsmanship

and progress shown by every player. A brilliant achievement and a reflection of the hard work they've put in the last few games. Well done to Ruby S who was awarded overall MVP."

The end of April saw the Year 7 Swindon Schools' Basketball tournament. Despite the Bradon Forest Year 7 basketball team losing out on their first match against overall winners Royal Wootton Bassett 6-2, they bounced back to beat Swindon Academy 14-8 and Kingsdown 18-0, finishing the tournament in second place but with top baskets scored. The team comprised of Ayla K (MVP), Olivia K, Alba M, Elizabeth H, Sienna K, Hannah



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M and Mylie D. Mrs Evans said: *"I'm so pleased with the way they've played all season. Let's hope next year we can raise that trophy! Well done girls"*.

Well done to our Year 8 basketball team for reaching the final of the Swindon

School's Competition this term. Sadly, it was not to be our day with two defeats from Abbey Park and Dorcan. Mrs Wilson said: *"We've seen lots of great basketball on display over the course of the term. Let's aim for runners up next year!"*

## CRICKET



We saw a great game of cricket after school yesterday as our U13s put in a determined performance against Swindon Academy. Mr Payne reports: *"Strong bowling and energetic fielding kept the match tight throughout, but we fell just short in the chase, finishing 31:38. There are plenty of positives; great teamwork, and brilliant spirit from the whole squad. Well played, everyone!"*

## FOOTBALL

On Wednesday 15 April, our Year 7 football team produced a fantastic comeback to beat Ridgeway School 3-1 in the Swindon Schools semi-final! Mr Payne said: *"After going 1-0 down early on, the team showed great character and determination to turn the game around. They responded brilliantly, equalising with a well-worked goal before taking control of the match. Bradon continued to press forward, adding two more goals to secure a deserved victory. Their*

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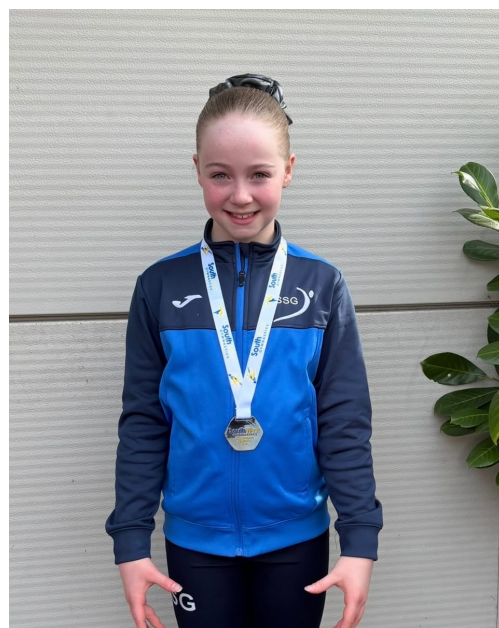
*teamwork, resilience, and positive attitude were clear throughout the game.*" The team should be proud of an excellent performance from the whole squad, and the win sends Bradon through to the final with real momentum.



Our Year 7 boys represented Bradon Forest brilliantly in this term's Swindon Schools Football Final. Despite a 2-0 defeat to a strong Lydiard Park Academy side, the team showed outstanding determination, discipline, and teamwork from the first whistle to the last. Mr Payne added: *"Reaching a final at this stage is a fantastic achievement, and the boys should be incredibly proud of the way they played and the way they carried themselves throughout the competition."*

## GYMNASTICS

We are proud to share the great news that Year 7 student, Chloe M, recently finished 2nd in the South West qualifier for the English Silver Tumbling Championships! This means she will go on to compete against the best in England in the finals in May. A week later, Chloe passed her Women's Artistic Gymnastics Performance 2 Grading as well, competing with gymnasts across the South West! These are absolutely fantastic achievements and are a testament to Chloe's hard work and dedication to her sport. Well done, and best of luck for the finals. Make sure you check out the video on our Facebook page!



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# SPORTS NEWS

On Thursday 23 April, Mrs Wilson entered some of our students into the Annual Swindon School's Gymnastics competition held at Delta's brand new gymnastics centre.

*"What a day! Our students competed in two competitions based on ability; intermediates and advanced, where both groups had to perform on the vault plus a floor routine. There were some absolutely incredible performances across both, which saw Bradon take home over 20 awards! Well done to a brilliant squad."*

Below are our achievements:



## INTERMEDIATE

Year 7

Lily C B - overall 2nd in group 2

Helena M - 1st in floor group 1

Eva M: 1st on vault group 1

Year 8

Sophia H - 2nd for vault in group 1

Krystyna H - overall 1st in group 1

Year 9

Jess C - overall 1st in group B (Year 9 champion)

## ADVANCED

Year 7

Flo H - overall 1st (Year 7 champion) & award for standout floor routine

Milli N - overall 3rd in group 1

Storm - 2nd overall in group 2

Chloe M - 1st overall in group 2

Year 9

Lachlan D - Year 9 boys champion

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# SPORTS NEWS

## ROUNDERS

On Tuesday 12 May, our Year 7 rounders team gave an outstanding performance on their first fixture against LPA. Mrs Wilson said: *"There was some phenomenal power from the batting of Beatriz D -S & Lily C-B, with distances easily reaching 50m! Well done on a 19 1/2 draw and POM to Olivia C & Lily C-B."*



On the same day, Year 8 rounders team started the season off with a tough match

against a very strong LPA team. Mrs Evans reports: *"Captained by Brooke B, the team fielded very well for both innings, keeping LPA's batting score down to 13.5. Unfortunately, we could not find our batting rhythm and only managed to score 9. POM went to Maisie M for consistent good performances with the bat and as backstop. Practice this Thursday Year 8 - let's get some batting practice in!"*



## TENNIS

On Tuesday 28 April, Mrs Evans took a squad of girls to a tennis tournament at Kingstown School. This was a great opportunity to play their first matches of the year and for some, their first ever experience of competitive tennis. A huge well done to the girls for a great performance, bringing home 2nd place overall! Mrs Evans said: *"A massive shout-out to Jessica and Sienna Z, Year 7, who played out of their skins to come 2nd in their pool. They*



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really held their own against some tough competition. For an opening tournament, the energy and improvement across the whole team was amazing. Very well done to Ruby D, Maeher O, Jess and Sienna Z, Elle S, Harriet H, Jess C, Kelsey H, Brooke B, Sophie R, Ayla P and Maisie M!"

If you thought the last few days of April were windy, imagine trying to play tennis! Mrs Wilson commented: "Our KS4 girls team played competitively against Kingsdown on Wednesday 29 April, in some extreme wind conditions. This made for lots of fun and loopy tennis returns! Well done to Amy B & Izzy C on coming 3rd with Brigitta O & Emma V on coming 2nd out of 6 doubles pairs."






## MAY

## DEVELOPMENT

## CAMPS

26<sup>TH</sup> MAY TO 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY

THREE DAYS.  
REAL DEVELOPMENT.  
ONE COMMUNITY.

SESSIONS INCLUDE:

-  PRIMARY SCHOOLS AGED ONLY SESSION
-  FEMALE ONLY SESSION
-  TACKLING DEVELOPMENT
-  SPEED WORKSHOP
-  GAME BASED SESSION
-  KICKING & PASSING CLINIC



BOOK VIA THE QR CODE OR THE LINK BELOW

AM SESSION  
10AM - 12PM

PM SESSION  
1PM - 3PM

AT ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT RUGBY CLUB - SN4 8DS

BRINKWORTH ROAD, ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT, SN4 8DS

 DEVELOP SKILLS  
BUILD CONFIDENCE  
HAVE FUN

 EXPERT COACHING  
RFU QUALIFIED COACHES  
SAFE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

 ALL ABILITIES  
BOYS & GIRLS WELCOME  
AGED 6+

26<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
TO 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY

SEE LINK BELOW  
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!

## spokeswomen

Calling all cycling sisters...

Join other like-minded girls and women for a day of female-focussed riding, bike handling skills and a group ride.

Sunday 21 June

Moredon Sporting Hub

- 10am-11am Girls aged 10-14
- 11am-12pm Girls aged 14-18
- 12pm-1pm Indoor stretch & yoga
- 1pm-3pm Women 18+
- 1.30pm-3pm Breeze Ride

Join us afterwards for drinks and snacks, chat, connection and sharing stories.

Scan the QR code for more information and to sign up



£5 per person



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