



Weekly Parent Bulletin No 16: Week Commencing Monday 20 January 2025 Celebrating Student Achievements and Events

What a fantastic week for our boys' sports teams! It was wonderful to see so many parents supporting their children at both the football and rugby matches. The enthusiasm was truly appreciated by all involved. On Wednesday, we travelled to Forest High, where both Year 8 and Year 9 played. It was inspiring to see such a large number of students eager to represent the school. Both teams came away with well-deserved victories, and the sportsmanship and determination on display were remarkable.



Our Year 9 rugby team has shown incredible growth in strength and confidence this season. They put on a thrilling performance in the quarter-finals of the cup against Cirencester Kingshill. The match ended in a 19-19 draw but due to the laws of the U14 cup we are through to the semi-finals as we scored the first try. Throughout the season, it has been fantastic to watch this team come together as one, and Thursday's game was undoubtedly the best I have seen them play.



Holocaust Survivor Day – 27th January

We had the privilege of hosting a fantastic talk this morning by Melvyn Leach from the Generation2Generation programme. Melvyn shared the powerful story of his family member, Willy Halpert, a Belgian Jew who lived through the horrors of World War II. Willy's remarkable journey as one of the 'hidden children' of the Holocaust shed light on his survival, thanks to the kindness and courage of those who resisted the Nazi regime.

The session was incredibly thought-provoking and left a lasting impact on our Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE historians, as well as our A-Level students. It was a poignant reminder of the strength of the human spirit in the face of unspeakable adversity.

We are grateful to Melvyn for sharing this important part of history with us.



Year 11 Mock Interviews

Our Year 11 students also had an impressive day on Wednesday, as they participated in our annual mock interview event with 28 local employers. We are extremely grateful to all the employers who took time out of their busy schedules to help prepare our students for the future.

Employer Feedback:

- "The students were all fully engaged with the process and a credit to the school."
- "A joy to help such promising students."
- "Incredibly rewarding and a pleasure to meet and get to know some impressive students."
- "Met some fantastic students."
- "It has been lovely to help the students with their next steps. Would love to do it again."
- "It is very uplifting to see students so motivated and enthusiastic."
- "Inspiring to meet a range of young people with diverse skills and knowledge."
- "I think you do a great job organising this event every year. It must be such hard work to pull together. My children haven't had the opportunity at their schools – Denmark Road not in Y11 or Y13, and The Crypt not in Y11. I'm yet to see whether they'll do it when my son is in Y13 next year! It's a shame as I think it must be really beneficial for them – it's good to hear its helped boost your students' confidence. I wish all of them the best of luck for their upcoming GCSEs!"

Our students received valuable support and advice from these employers, which has undoubtedly boosted their confidence and provided them with useful insights for their futures.

Student Feedback:

- "Gave me amazing helpful advice."
- "Helpful and really beneficial."
- "Very enjoyable experience."
- "Brilliant experience and has helped my confidence."
- "Really enjoyed talking, made me more confident."
- "(Employer) created a friendly atmosphere and asked lots of engaging questions."
- "Felt like I was being listened to the whole time."
- "I feel I have gained more confidence and can speak to new people better."
- "Very helpful and reassuring for the future and future interviews!"



Year 11 GCSE Practical Food Exams

Our Year 11 students have also been busy producing outstanding dishes for their GCSE practical food exams. Once again, the quality of the food has been excellent in both presentation and taste. Their dedication and hard work will certainly pay off when results day comes around in the summer. Finally, Year 9 students are currently in the decision-making phase of their options process. If they need any guidance, please remind them they can reach out to tutors and teachers for support. The deadline for completing their online options is in two weeks.



Year 9 Options Process and Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening

Please can we remind you that the deadline for preference forms for the Year 9 Options Process is Monday 10th February. Preference forms have to be completed via the "My Child At School" app. If you are finding this difficult please do not hesitate to contact Reception.

The parents evening system – School Cloud opens on Monday 27th January at 9.00am for you to make your appointments for the Year 9 Parent/Carer evening being held on Thursday 6th February.

Thank you for your continued support

Declan Mooney
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary:

- 28/01/25 - Year 7 A & B Boys Football v Five Acres (home)
- 28/01/25 - Year 11 Handball Moderation with Five Acres (home)
- 05/02/25 - Famelab Final
- 06/02/25 - Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening