



Pastoral Update - May 2025

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of this unusually short term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on how much has been accomplished in such a short period. While the term has felt compact, our pupils have engaged in a wide range of enriching activities, academic endeavours and pushed themselves out of their comfort zones. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and resilience, and we look forward to what the remainder of the year holds as we continue to support our pupils' growth and successes.

PSHE and Enrichment

Pupils in Year 7 have been learning about the changes that occur during puberty, reproduction and fertility. In Year 8, pupils have consolidated their understanding of bullying and the importance of being an active bystander by learning how to recognise and challenge bullying, evaluating a range of effective and appropriate strategies and considering unhealthy attitudes towards bullying. Mental and Physical wellbeing has been the focus for Year 9 so far this term, addressing common misconceptions around mental health and exploring helpful coping strategies. Year 10 will commence their PSHE lessons after the May half term and will begin by learning how alcohol and other drugs affect decision making, assessing risk and exploring ways to keep themselves and others safe.

Year 12 students are continuing their enrichment curriculum this term, with sessions on Diversity and Inclusion, University preparation, producing a CV, expression of identity and Islamophobia, making informed food choices, personal safety whilst on a night out or on holiday, financial management, and methods of contraception. The enrichment curriculum is designed to support students in making informed life choices and set them up for life post-18. We are grateful to Mrs García (Assistant Headteacher) and Mr Marks (Head of Enrichment) for co-ordinating these provisions.

House Competitions

As we are soon to enter the final half term of the academic year, the Cock House Cup remains tightly contested. This week, pupils in KS3 have put their culinary skills to the test in House Cooking; a new addition to the competition. Mrs Phillips was very impressed by the standard of all entries and particularly enjoyed the Salmon Poke bowl presented by Newgate in Year 9. Pupils were tasked with putting together a nutritiously balanced lunchbox that displayed a range of skills. Westgate came out on top overall, with strong entries in all year groups. Overall, Northgate have taken a lead with 46 points, having come top in House Quiz, Netball and Football. Southgate and Eastgate tie for second place with 44 points, Westgate are in fourth place with 39 points and Newgate tail on 33.

Next half term will see pupils competing in Tennis, Cryptography, Languages, Athletics and Cricket to earn points for their House. With the scores as tight as they are, every contribution will count and could be the difference in who lifts the trophy in the final assembly.

Fundraising

For last week's non-uniform day, we are proud to have raised funds in support of the Gloucestershire branch of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity – a vital emergency service that plays a critical role in our region. This cause is especially close to our hearts. Last term, a crew from the Gloucestershire Midlands Air Ambulance Charity responded swiftly to support a member of our staff. Their expertise, speed and care made a real difference in a moment of urgency. In total we raised £500.86.

Extracurricular

The extracurricular Summer term timetable has been published, and it has been fantastic to see so many Year 12 students taking on the responsibility of leading a wide range of activities, such as The Female Lead Society, Eco Club and the Law society. Indeed, plans for our annual student-led Culture Day on Friday 27 June have already begun, with the launch of two exciting competitions and the chance to showcase an aspect of your culture. The day itself will provide an opportunity to share and sample food from a diverse range of cultures in celebration of the rich cultural heritage of our school, as well as promoting inclusion, respect and understanding. Pupils completed a Diversity Survey, which helped us in planning the event, and has given us some good ideas for future celebrations.

Junior NBA

Year 7 and 8 pupils have again competed in the junior NBA competition, representing the Atlanta Hawks in the West Midlands competition. Having topped their group, Year 8 beat St Peter's 37-9 in the first round of the playoffs, as well as winning against Nunnery Wood 47-37 in the second round. They are now through to Finals Day, where they will compete to retain their title of junior NBA Champions, having won the competition last year. Year 7 also topped their group and beat Nunnery Wood 27-15 in the first round of the playoffs. They are hoping to earn a place at Finals Day

and the chance to compete for the title of Junior NBA Champions.

Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival

As mentioned in Mr Lynch's recent email, Archie in Year 10 was shortlisted as one of the top six Drama Performers at last week's Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival. After his final performance on Friday evening, Archie was named Best Actor for the entire festival! This is an incredible achievement, and we are extremely proud of Archie's amazing talent.

Wellbeing

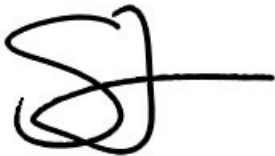
This term, Year 8 students have had an assembly written by one of our Year 13 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors related to LGBTQ+ and how to be an ally. We are grateful to Pranav for setting this up amidst revision for his A Levels.

We are also thankful to Young Minds Matter who came in to school to deliver an optional examination stress workshop to Year 13 students. The workshop featured key strategies to support students to manage their worries and focused on the biological and physical responses our bodies may feel in relation to stress.

This term's Mental Health and Wellbeing newsletter features information to support parents of young people who struggle with issues around food, as well as explore the benefits of journalling for wellbeing. Our regular 'Bitesize Safeguarding' section covers the difficult subject of gender-based violence; 'Signposts to Support' on the last page lists some organisations that parents may find helpful, including the Gloucestershire Youth Neurodiversity Project.

Please click [here](#) to access this term's issue.

We continue to wish our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils the very best of luck in their examinations, and I hope you and your family have a restful May break.



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