



SOMERVALE SCHOOL

Newsletter Term 3



M N Midsomer Norton
S P Schools Partnership

Tel: [01761 414276](tel:01761414276) Email: enquiries@somervaleschool.com Web: www.somervaleschool.com

Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Half Term! It has been another jam packed term with lots of fantastic events taking place as you will see throughout the newsletter. Last night was the last performance of Grease, which has been sold out for all nights, and it was amazing. I am always blown away but how incredibly talented and confident our students are. There wasn't a dry eye in the house last night, especially when Mrs Bendrey announced to the audience what our show will be next year. I would recommend setting a reminder to be ready when the tickets go on sale as I think 'Beauty and The Beast' is going to be another sell out!



The students have been working hard in lessons all term focusing on developing their oracy and literacy skills. A lot of this has focused on increasing their confidence in reading aloud and developing their debating and discussion skills.

Year 11 are preparing for their second set of internal exams when we return after half term. We are really impressed with the numbers of students attending the after school intervention sessions and choosing to practice the skills we taught them during the revision conference last week.

Visiting lessons and walking the school during social time is a real pleasure. Our students are engaged with learning, confident to challenge themselves, hardworking and diligent with their work and most importantly always looking for ways to make further progress.

As we have reported to you over the last few months, all external reviews of the school have been overwhelmingly positive. We continue to have excellent attendance, and for which we are extremely grateful for your ongoing support with our mission to ensure all students are in school and learning. The recent behaviour and attitudes review stated that behaviour of students at the school was exemplary. As you can imagine we are rightly very proud of both of those facts.

However, we also acknowledge that there are always things that we can improve and I would like to remind you that if you ever have any concerns relating to your child in anyway please make contact with their tutor so that we can work together to ensure that every child is happy and successful.

I would like to wish you all a lovely relaxing and hopefully snow free half term and look forward to welcoming the students back next term.

Best wishes

Joanna Stethwaite



Attendance

Celebrating Attendance Success

We are thrilled to see our school attendance continue to shine this academic year! Somervale School currently boasts the second-best attendance in our trust and ranks as the top school for boys' attendance across the trust. Our overall attendance rate stands at an impressive 94.1%, which is over 3% higher than the national average.

We are especially proud to celebrate the 385 students who achieved an attendance rate of over 97% this term—an incredible accomplishment! Additionally, 156 students have shown remarkable progress by improving their attendance from Term 2 to Term 3.

At Somervale, promoting consistent attendance is a core part of our school culture. We emphasise to students how regular attendance supports their education, overall well-being, and personal development. Being in school allows children to build meaningful friendships, enjoy social interactions, and engage in enriching learning experiences—all of which are crucial for their mental and emotional health, as well as their academic success.

We value your partnership as parents and carers in supporting attendance. While we understand that factors like illness, medical appointments, or unforeseen circumstances can occasionally impact attendance, we kindly ask that you inform us as soon as possible if you're unsure whether your child should stay home or come to school, please don't hesitate to contact us—we're here to help!

For further guidance on student illness and school attendance, visit the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Uniform Reminder

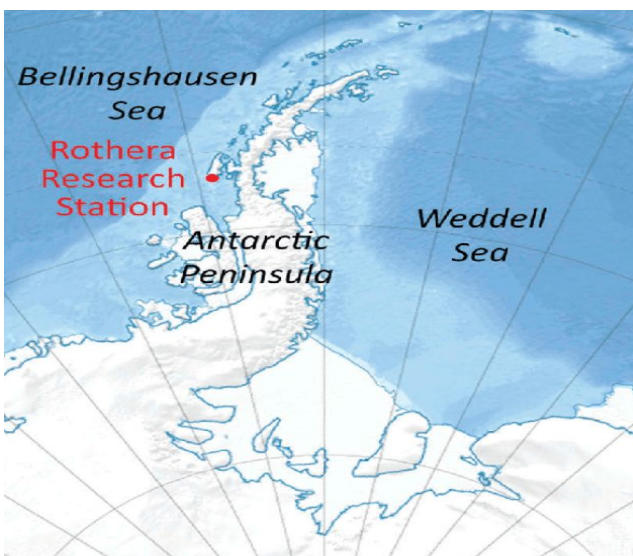
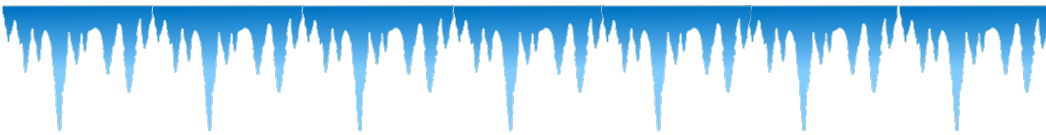
We are incredibly proud of how our students represent themselves both in school and in our community. Thank you for supporting our uniform policy changes this term, including the move to black socks as part of our dress code. The vast majority of students have embraced this change, and we've had positive conversations with those still adjusting to the new expectations.

As we approach Term 4, we'd like to remind all students and families that black socks are required as part of the uniform every day.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and commitment to our school values!

Science Department

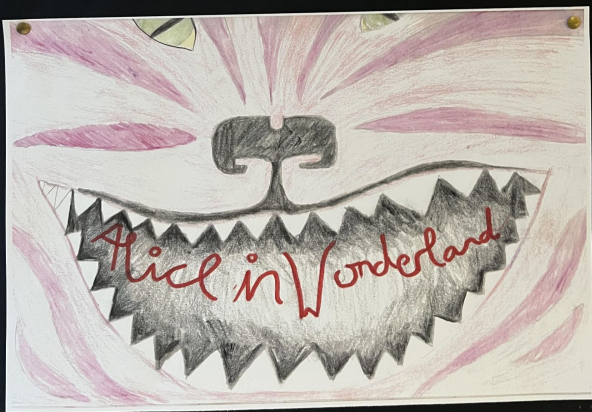
Our Y8 had a very interesting call with Aurelia Reichardt, she is Team Leader at the British Antarctic Survey Rothera base in Antarctica. Below is also some pictures of the base and its location. Aurelia told us all about her life and work in Antarctica and answered lots of enthusiastic questions from our students on topics as wide ranging from climate change and the highest-lowest temperatures she has experienced to whether or not she has cuddled a penguin.



Art & Design

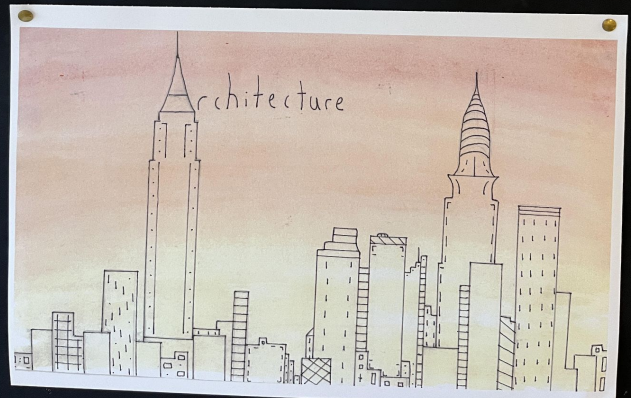
ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Kodi R - Year 9



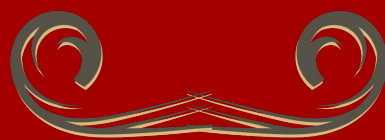
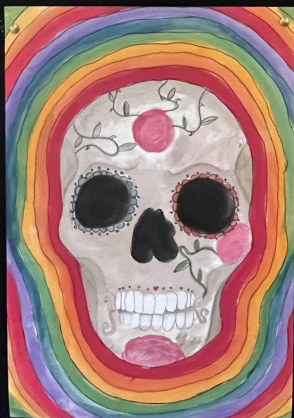
ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Freddie.D year 8



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Minnie P Year 8



Artist
Of The
Week



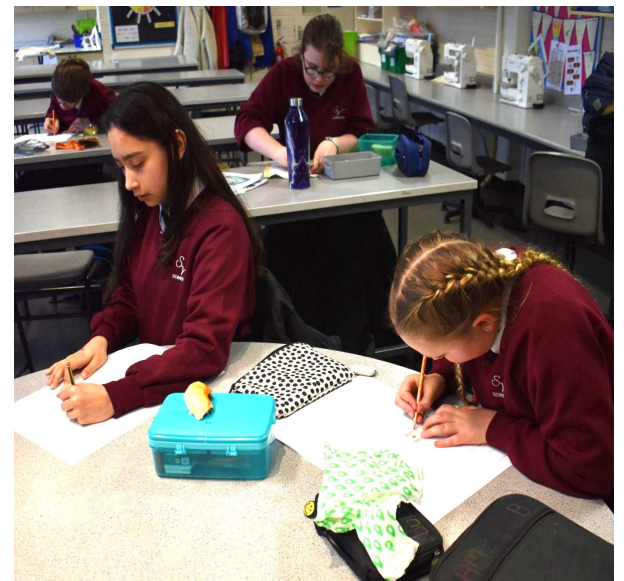
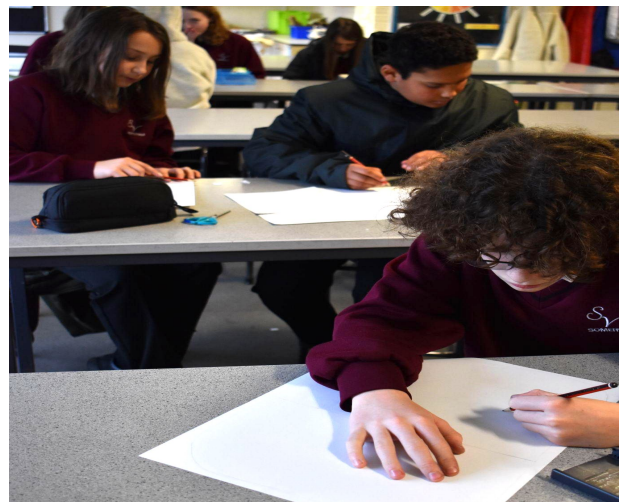
Art & Design

Our talented KS3 students have been putting their artistic skills to the test during lunchtime sessions with Ms. Alexander. They have been creating art works to enter into the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show. This is an amazing opportunity and winners will have their work displayed at the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

We wish them the best of luck in the competition! Stay tuned for updates on their progress.



<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>



Library News

Somervale Book Donation Drive

During the last week of term 2, we held our annual Book Donation Drive.

Students in years 7 & 8 came along to choose a free donated book to read over the festive break, with a lovely hot chocolate gift too!

Thank you to all our students, parents/carers, and the wider local community for donating some fabulous books - amazing support!



Student Librarian of the Year Nomination

Year 9 student, Christine, was recently nominated for the national School Library Association (UK) 'Student Librarian of the Year' Award.

Despite being unsuccessful this year, we're super proud of Christine who received a special Nominee Award Certificate from the School Library Association (UK) in recognition of her achievement and volunteering work at Somervale School Library!



Library News

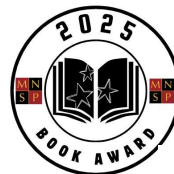
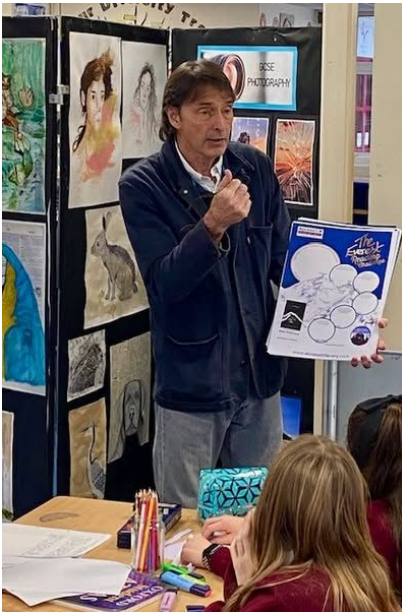
Author Visit with Matt Dickinson

Some of our students in years 7 & 8 took part in a fabulous author event on this term.

Local author, cameraman and Mount Everest mountaineer, Matt Dickinson, visited Somervale School to share his love of travel, exploration, and of course, reading and writing.

Matt had some amazing tales to tell, with video clips of his hazardous visits to climb Mount Everest! Students then took part in writing their own travel articles about the effects of tourism in Nepal.

Well done to everyone for taking part, and thank you to Matt for such a great day!



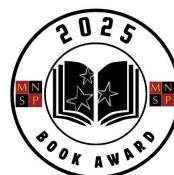
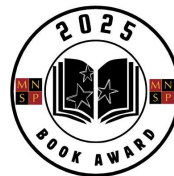
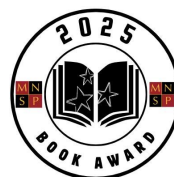
Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership Library Book Awards

We are so excited to announce that we have recently launched our inaugural **'MNSP Library Book Awards 2025'**

There are 9 schools across the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership taking part in this new book award.

Our selected Student Panels at each school will read this year's nominated shortlist of 6 books. Students will have the opportunity to discuss, give feedback, and vote on their favourite titles; with an overall Winner being announced at our Award Ceremony at Frome College in May.

We hope all our participating students enjoy taking part in this new exciting joint venture, and good luck to the authors and their nominated books!



A promotional poster for the MNSP Library Book Awards 2025. The poster is purple and gold, featuring the text 'INTRODUCING The School Library Book Awards 2025'. It displays six nominated book covers: 'Bird Boy', 'The Curse of the Heart', 'Keedie', 'Murder on Waterloo', 'The List', and 'Sisters of Sword and Shadow'. The poster also includes the MNSP logo and the text 'NOMINATED TITLES'. At the bottom, it says 'Sponsorship for this event: Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership' and provides the website 'kcornick@somervaleschool.com'.

Somervale Grease Production



Somervale School Proudly Presents **GREASE**

This term we are proud to have performed our school musical, Grease.

Staff and students have been working hard on the show all year in rehearsals and choir practice and we have loved showcasing our talented cast and crew!

Auditions were held in September after a trip to the Bristol Hippodrome to watch the professional cast. Competition for the big parts was stiff and all students that auditioned really blew us away with their preparation and enthusiasm. Eventually, we decided on an amazing cast led by Daisy D as Sandy and Reuben R as Danny.

Dance rehearsals with Miss Wilkinson began in term 5 last year and a dance troupe of nearly 60 students have learned some challenging choreography to our big chorus songs; Born to Hand Jive, Shaking at the High School Hop and Grease. Stand-out dancers were cast to back Greased Lightnin' and Beauty School Dropout. We also have a fantastic group of year 8 girls, who play cheerleaders, who have learned to stunt especially for the show. A shout out to Hannah R as our top girl!

Somervale Grease Production


In choir, students have perfected harmonies, backing vocals and chorus numbers.

Soloists have been in private sessions with Mr Kehoe and Mrs Jones. Doody (played by Sam M) even plays guitar live on-stage during his solo. Mrs Bendrey and Miss Kirby have held drama and characterisation sessions throughout the year. Each Pink Lady and T Bird has found their individual personality which really shines through on stage.

Aside from our fantastic cast, chorus and dancers, we have an extensive backstage team made up of students from all year groups. Phoebe W takes charge of staging and set placement, supported by props and costume teams. We have student sound and lighting technicians who have stayed calm and professional throughout any technical difficulty!

As staff, a real highlight was our dress rehearsal day and seeing the costumes on stage. This gave students a huge boost and really brought the show to life. We have lots of quiffs, hair gel and some great wigs on Rizzo (Isabella P) and Frenchy (Elsie S). They all looked amazing.

Thank you to all who have bought tickets, costumes and props to support the show. We are looking forward to next year, when we plan to perform....

Beauty and the Beast. 



Somervale Grease Production



Somervale Grease Production



Somervale Grease Production



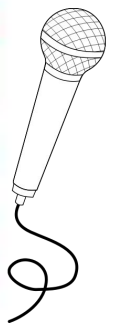
English Department

Poetry Live 2025

On the 5th February, fifty year 10 and 11 students attended the Poetry Live event in Bath. They watched a number of living poets read and talk about their work. This included the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage and the wonderful John Agard. The students had a really good day and year 11 are now ready to tackle the poetry on their Literature mock exam in term 4.



gcse poetry
live!



English Department

Poetry by Heart

Congratulations to all of our amazing year 8 students who took part in their class **Poetry by Heart** competition. The final was held in school on the 4th February. Students delivered their poems to an expert judging panel and the standard of performance was very high.

Congratulations to the winners:

1st: Callum

2nd: Minnie and G

3rd: Lily, Hannah, Aowyn, Cerys and Isla.

Our winners are now getting ready to film their winning entries and these will be submitted to the national competition.



House News

Ammerdown Charity Week:

The Ammerdown charity week was a huge success with lots of money raised! It was great to see so many students getting stuck in and involving themselves throughout the week. The money that has been raised over the charity week will be given to Ammerdown's charity, Happy Landings rescue centre. This money will go towards animal care, volunteers, dog food, equipment and so on. Thank you to all students and staff who supported and donated money to this special charity.

Special mentions to all the students who represented their tutor group in the rowathon! The attendance of the football afternoon was also brilliant and the cake sale and raffle were really successful too!

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Break time	Match the pet to member of staff! Hall Rowathon	Guess the sweet number in the jar Hall	Raffle! Hall	Cake Sale! Hall 🍰	
Lunch time	Rowathon Gym	Teacher & student creme egg & spoon race! Astro	Ammerdown Tutor Quiz! Large box of chocs for tutor group!	Wikipedia race MG1	
Afternoon	Rowathon				Year 7, 8 & 9 Football games P5&6 Sign ups needed! £1 to play!

Below are some of the winners of the events that happened during the charity week:

Creme egg and spoon race: Miss Dury, Miss Low and Miss Kidd.

Guess the Sweets Number in the Jar: Jeannie M and Isla H (YR10)

Wikipedia Race: George H (YR10)

Ammerdown Quiz winners: 8MFI

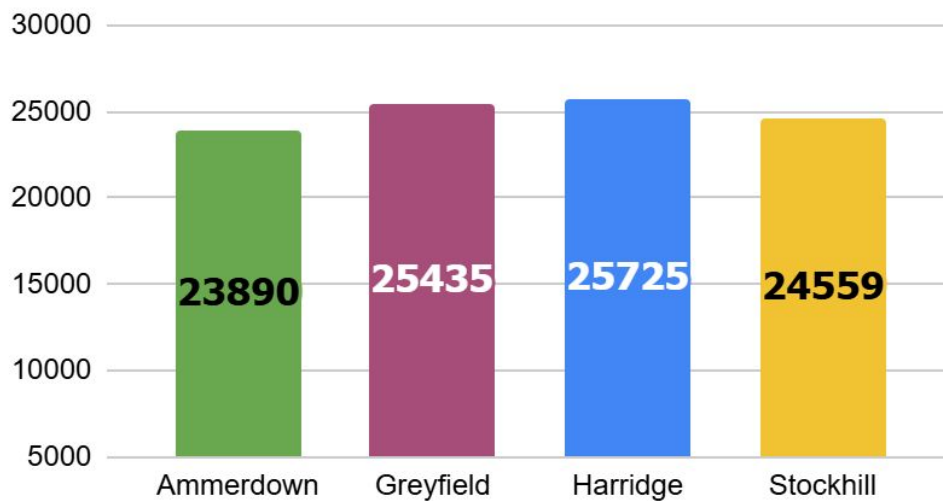


House News

House Point Totals:

Despite an amazing turnaround for Stockhill on charities and Ammerdown hosting a fantastic charity week, Harridge have still managed to cling onto the lead due to their brilliant participation and success in the house competitions!

Overall House Points Total



LGBT+ History month: To celebrate LGBT+ History month, students participated in a quiz in tutor groups. Well done to Harridge for giving the most correct answers overall, but well done to all houses for participating in order to learn more about LGBT+ history!

Things to look out for next term include more competitions, Harridge charity week and new House Captain elections!

House News



Competitions:

The last week of term we hosted a table tennis intrahouse competition. At lunchtime, students played as many games as they can to gain points for their house and to work their way up the leaderboard. The KS3 students had Lucas H (YR8) in first place, Arthur A (YR8) in second place and Sam B (YR8). More results to come after half term!



Careers Event

A number of our Somervale School Year 8 students participated in our first careers event of 2025.

Students worked with ambassadors from Bath Spa University exploring courses that are available in Higher Education.

Students worked in teams to explore courses from Architecture to Zoology!

Thank you to Bath Spa University!



Physical Education

Girls' Football

The U14 Girls made it to the third round of the U14 Somerset Cup, losing out to Hayesfield who progressed onto the next round. The girls showed 100% effort and determination throughout the game and it was lovely to have some new faces join the team as well!



Boy's Football

The boys football season has started with some local friendly tournaments. In Term 4 Years 7-10 will be competing against Wellsway, Norton Hill, Writhlington and Chew Valley in the BANES league.



Physical Education

This term saw the KS4 B&NES Football tournament with 9 schools entering, showcasing some great competition. In their pool, the girls came out with 1 win, 2 draws and 1 loss which left them joint 3rd in the pool. Due to goal difference Somervale got put into the 7/8th place play off which they won impressively, giving them the 7th place overall. Well done to all to all the girls who put on a really strong performance and a special shout out to our Year 10 Sports Leaders Isla, Ben, Zac and Charlie for referring!



We also hosted a triangular this term with Norton Hill and Writhlington for our mixed Year 7 & 8 team, and mixed Year 9 & 10 team. Some great team performances saw our Year 7&8 team beat Norton Hill 1-0 and come away with a 0-0 draw against Writhlington. Our Year 9 & 10 also came out with a 1-1 draw against Writhlington and a 1-0 controversial win against Norton Hill after a VAR checked goal. Well done all!

Year 11 Health & Fitness

A big well done to most of our Year 11 Health & Fitness students that have worked so hard to lead fitness sessions as part of their controlled assessment.

Physical Education

Avon Cross Country

Congratulations to Isla & Nakitta for a brilliant run in Avon Cross Country at Kingswood School, Bath in January.



Cricket

It's been lovely playing some indoor cricket against local schools this term.

Looking forward to putting our skills into practice in the summer leagues.



Basketball

We entered the U16 BANES basketball tournament for the first time in a number of years this year and these boys did us proud. Looking forward to next year already!

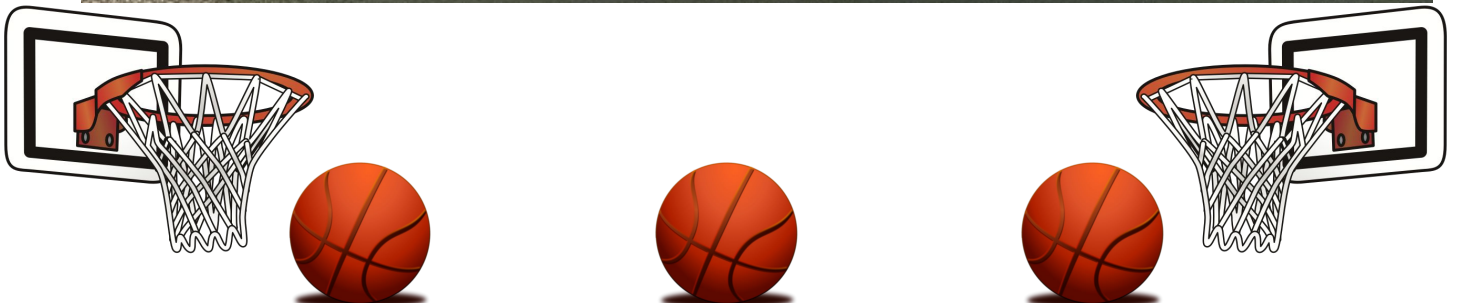


Physical Education

Netball

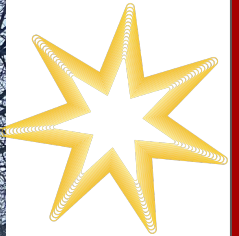
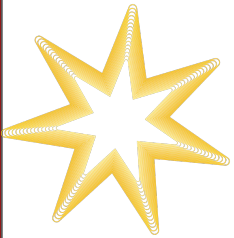
The Netball students of this term have been brilliant this term! A highlight this term was the KS3 Netball games against Writhlington. The YR10's achieved a strong win with some of our younger students playing up which was brilliant!

Tyler L also did a fabulous job of umpiring and coaching too. We also had some excellent triangular fixtures against Writhlington and Norton Hill which is also equated to some wins too! Well done to Gracie T (Year 7), Summer G (Year 8) and Christine (Year 9) for getting player of the matches!



Physical Education

Recently, our Year 7 & 8 team also took part in a friendly match against St Marks. The students played exceptionally well and intercepted lots of balls! Well done to our top interceptor and player of the match, Summer G (Year 8)!



Communication with Home

All information about our clubs and fixtures can be found on our Extra-Curricular **Google Classroom: j37g7zg**. Prior to a fixture, we always hold a meeting to disseminate information to students. As secondary school students, we hope they are able to then communicate this with home.

Physical Education

Year 10 Health & Fitness

Our Year 10 students Health & Fitness have taken delivery of their smart new PE kit.



PE Kit Reminder

As we are in the depths of the winter cold and rain, please can we remind students to be fully prepared for PE lessons. We are a school with amazing outdoor facilities and we use them all year round, regardless of the weather. With this in mind, please can all students make sure they have a second layer for their top half and long trousers to keep them comfortable in the cold and rain. I have attached the Somervale PE Kit policy so you know what is acceptable. Woolly hats, gloves and spare socks are also encouraged.

[P.E Kit Policy](#)



OR



Celebration



Mackenzie competed at the Trampoline League Finals in Derby late last year.

Qualification took place on Saturday, Mackenzie finished in 4th place, guaranteeing his place in the final the next day.

On Saturday he scored 45.15 for the routine.

On the Sunday, he managed a new PB and 1st place.

Congratulations to Mackenzie



Congratulations to Olly for finishing 1st in the South of England School's Trampoline earlier this term. We wish him the best of luck in the nationals.





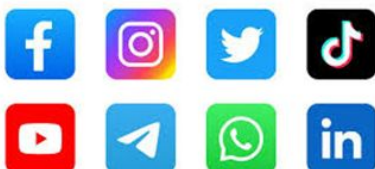
School Event



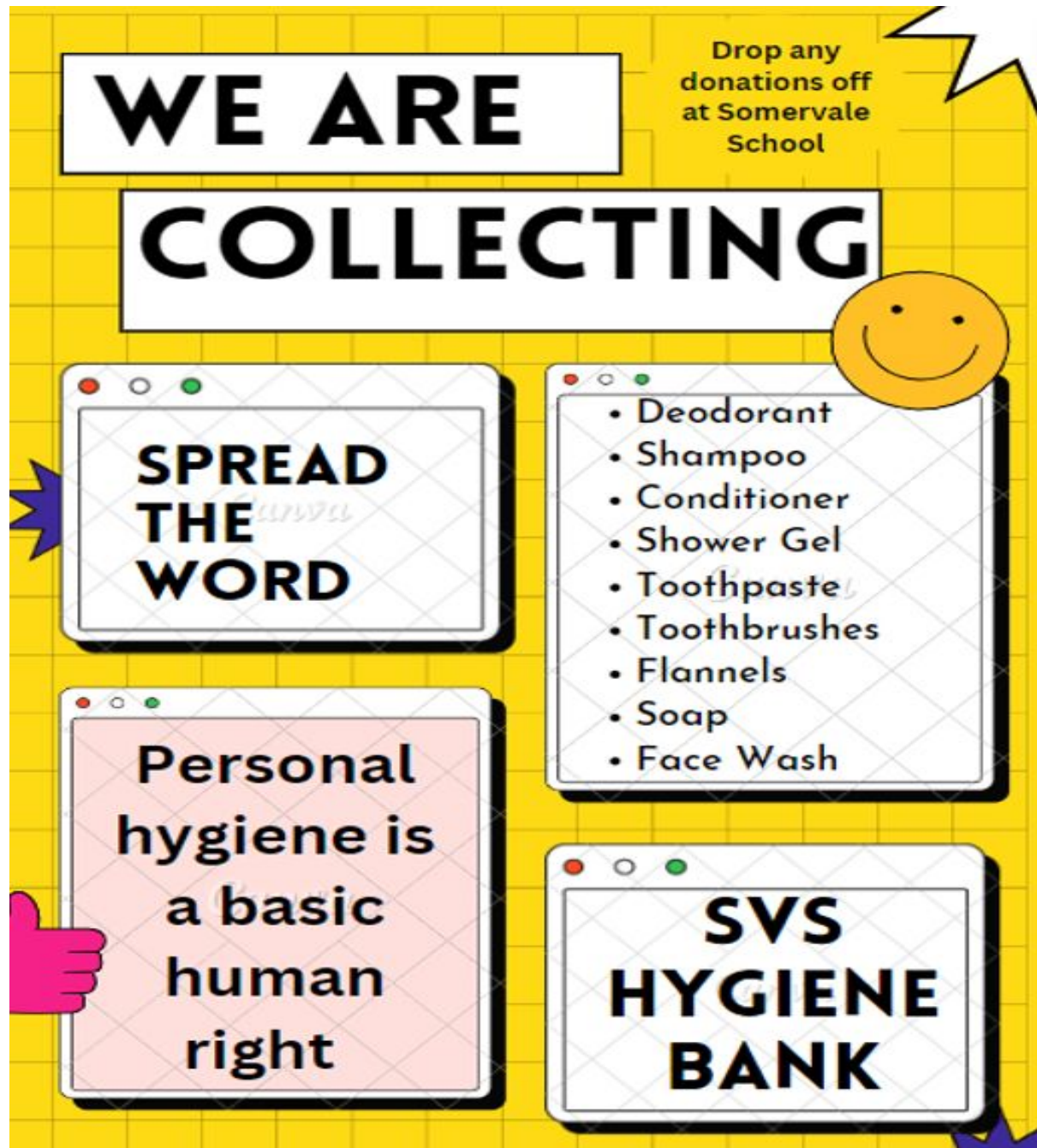
Somervale was very excited to host the 'Entitled Sons' band this term. The band members not only performed some of their hits for the pupils, but also discussed their experiences of learning with diagnoses such as Dyslexia and ADHD. They shared the strengths and benefits of having these diagnoses, which not only rose further awareness of these SEN needs but empowered those students who have Dyslexia and/or ADHD in school.

The band also shared how they help, support and manage their Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) by limiting time of social media and gaming platforms. Pupils shared their hobbies with the band, which didn't include screens, such as skateboarding, playing musical instruments, rock climbing etc.

We wish to thank the band for raising awareness of SEN needs with first-hand examples, as well as reiterating online safety to the impressionable audience.



School Office



Lost Property Information

Please ensure that school clothing is labelled with your child's name and tutor group. We have a large amount of unnamed school jumpers in our lost property, plus lots of other unnamed items. If your child has lost anything, please ask them to check the lost property cupboard in the library. Thank you!



School News



03 458 686 688

WHG

We are looking for welcoming

Host Families

Earn up to £350 per week per student
full support from Local Guardian
access to free safeguarding course
all families DBS checked



For more information contact Sue

☎ 0 7 939 211 193 ✉ avon@localguardians.co.uk

or visit <https://whitehouseguardians.co.uk/host-family>



White House Guardians

Important Dates

Return to School Monday 24th February (week B)

Parents Evening

Year 10 - Thursday 27th March

Year 9 Options Evening - Thursday 3rd April

Events

World Book Week - Monday 3rd March

World Book Day - Thursday 6th March

Term Dates 2024-25



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
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Silver Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Somerset BA3 2UD
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www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Term Dates Academic Year 2024/2025

Term 1

Monday 2nd September 2024
Friday 25th October 2024

Term 2

Monday 4th November 2024
Friday 20th December 2024

Term 3

Monday 6th January 2025
Friday 14th February 2025

Term 4

Monday 24th February 2025
Friday 4th April 2025

Term 5

Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Friday 23rd May 2025

Term 6

Monday 2nd June 2025
Tuesday 22nd July 2025
(Friday 18th July last day for students)

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Monday 2nd September 2024

Inset day 2

Friday 25th October 2024

Inset day 3

Monday 6th January 2025

Inset day 4

Monday 21st July 2025

Inset day 5

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

National Bank Holidays:

Wednesday 25th December 2024

Thursday 26th December 2024

Wednesday 1st January 2025

Friday 18th April 2025

Monday 21st April 2025

Monday 5th May 2025

Monday 26th May 2025

Monday 25th August 2025

Term Dates 2025-26



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
Norton Hill Primary School,
Silver Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Somerset BA3 2UD
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www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Term Dates Academic Year 2025/2026

Term 1

Monday 1st September 2025
Friday 24th October 2025

Term 2

Monday 3rd November 2025
Friday 19th December 2025

Term 3

Monday 5th January 2026
Friday 13th February 2026

Term 4

Monday 23rd February 2026
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Term 5

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Term 6

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Inset day 5

Monday 20th July 2026

Inset day 6

Tuesday 21st July 2026

National Bank Holidays:

Thursday 25th December 2025

Friday 26th December 2025

Thursday 1st January 2026

Friday 3rd April 2026

Monday 6th April 2026

Monday 4th May 2026

Monday 25th May 2026

Monday 31st August 2026