



SOMERVALE SCHOOL

Newsletters - Term Two



MN Midsomer Norton
SP Schools Partnership

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Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot believe that it is finally the end of what seems like two incredibly long terms. As always it has been a very busy term. We have had the fabulous book fair in the library, Year 7 went of the Forest of Dean residential, Year 11 were amazing in their first set of mock exams, all students have completed their preference forms for next summer's activities week, we held Christmas jumper Day, Christmas Lunch and just today we have had the book drive with books being issued to KS3 and lunchtime today has been accompanied by the students rock band performances. We have received our provisional numbers for next September and I can confirm that yet again we are oversubscribed but that we will be sticking to 5 tutor groups.

As you know we have introduced a new House system this academic year and the students have enjoyed numerous activities and competitions including basketball, Christmas card designs, animal noises (??), dodgeball and of course the fabulous Stockhill Charity Week. Students have been awarded house points for taking part in these various activities as well as receiving 'raffle tickets' from staff when they have been observed doing something that demonstrates our school values. Staff members can be clearly identified by their house lanyards and the students have been keen to have something that shows their house membership. After working with the Heads of House and House Captains we have recently launched our new House Ties. These are due to be available for purchase hopefully from Term 4 with all students being expected to wear the new house ties by September 2025.

As always these ties will be available from Norton Sports and Camping and we will send out further information on these closer to the time when they become available.



With the cold weather set to continue after Christmas, please can I request that the students all return to school in appropriate clothing. We are still getting large numbers of students coming to school without coats in the cold and often wet weather. As per my previous letter please can I remind you all that from January the expectation is that students only wear black socks or tights to school with no branding or logo's. With some many of our students growing at great rates since September please can you also check over the holidays that skirt length are still appropriate and just on or above the knee.

It is a challenging time for all at the moment and we recognise that many of our families are struggling. Please contact your child's tutor if there is anything that we need to be aware of or if there is anything that we can do to help.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support over the last two terms and would like to wish you and your family a happy and safe break over the holidays and look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Joanna Bethwaite



Certificate Evening

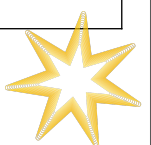
Earlier this month we had the opportunity to welcome back last year's Yr 11 students and issue their GCSE exam certificates alongside some special awards that they were nominated for by their teachers. As a year group they showed amazing resilience and we are so proud of what they achieved. It was so lovely to see them all and hear about Sixth Form, College and their apprenticeships are going.



Certificate Evening



Subject	Nomination	Citations
English Literature	Kate F	Kate worked so hard in all aspects of English, but she particularly excelled in Literature. She was so thoughtful in her responses and her knowledge of the texts was exceptional. It's no surprise that Katie achieved full marks on one of her papers; her attitude and efforts were always above and beyond. She is a total star!
English Language	Oliver A	Oliver is an inspirational student. He worked incredibly hard and his enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication were clear throughout the entire GCSE course. Oliver achieved a grade 9, which was thoroughly deserved and a testament to his inquisitive mind and critical thinking skills. He is awesome!
Mathematics	Ethan D	Ethan is naturally gifted at maths and continually challenged himself to maximise his potential.
Biology	Ryan P	Ryan excelled in Biology, achieving grades well above his targets. This was because he always applied himself in lessons, producing brilliant book work that reflected his understanding of the subject.
Chemistry	Riley H	Riley's effort and consistent hard work in Chemistry were great to see. He was always the first to raise his hand and tackle a question. If he continues with the same effort he demonstrated in Chemistry lessons, he is bound to be successful.
Physics	Charlie D	Charlie demonstrated that hard work and resilience lead to success. Although Science didn't always come easily to him, he consistently asked questions whenever he didn't understand and listened carefully to the advice given. His modesty about the significant effort he put into his studies was admirable, and it resulted in excellent progress across all areas of Science. Charlie's determination and ability to act on feedback were key to his success. Well done Charlie!
Art	Ella C	Ella is a talented artist who continued to make progress throughout the course. Her final exam piece was outstanding and was selected by AQA to be used for standardising other exam pieces.



Certificate Evening



French	Maisie D	Maisie showed hard work, maturity and dedication throughout her GCSE French course. She excelled in reading and listening tasks thanks to her thorough vocabulary revision. She was a model student, and I loved teaching her during her time at Somervale. I hope she is as proud of her result as we are!
Geography	George B	George worked extremely hard over the two years and exceeded his target grade through effort and determination (even with his arm in a sling).
History	Cailyn V	Cailyn showed outstanding academic interest in History throughout her time at Somervale School. She consistently demonstrated real interest and empathy for the eras she studied — and achieved a great grade at the end too!
Hospitality and Catering	Lucy R	Lucy demonstrated excellent application to all tasks presented to her. She had great involvement and success in the Future Chef competition. A confident and imaginative chef. Well done, Lucy!
Music	Alfie S	Alfie showed unlimited commitment to music during his time at Somervale. He was an enthusiastic performer who took to the stage countless times as part of his band, <i>The Last Revival</i> , winning multiple awards at Battle of the Bands along the way. He worked incredibly hard on his performance and composition at GCSE and should be proud of his achievements.
Philosophy & Belief	Ellie M	Ellie worked extremely hard over the two years and exceeded her target grade through effort and a very mature, resilient work ethic.
Physical Education	Lucie H	Lucie worked determinedly in Year 11 to achieve her potential. Subsequently, her coursework was completed to an extremely high standard showing an excellent understanding of all elements of the course. She has been an asset to the PE department since Year 7 and we wish her every success in the future.
Child Development	George A	George worked extremely hard in every element of the course. He was a real team player and supported others in many ways. He made sure to revisit content regularly and did extra work behind the scenes, such as securing his placement at a primary school to support his NEA work. I wish him well for his future studies and employment. Keep aiming high, George!
Enterprise	Riley B	Riley demonstrated a natural aptitude for business with excellent commitment to his coursework and a strong application of key knowledge required for the exam. He clearly has what it takes to run a successful business and I wish him every success in his future enterprises.

Certificate Evening

Photography	Jenette F	Jenette worked tirelessly throughout the two-year course, producing creative and imaginative photographic work. She coped well with the no-internet term, which was particularly hard for an IT-based subject. We have used her sketchbook as exemplar work for the current GCSE students. Well done, Jenette!
Spanish	Ashleigh E	Ashleigh always worked with a smile and dedication. Her unwavering ability to keep pushing forward to achieve amazing results, balanced with smart, witty comments during our lessons, made teaching Ashleigh an absolute delight. I hope she continues to move forward like this in her life.
3D Design	Charlie C	During what was a challenging period with staff changes and no IT, Charlie not only demonstrated great resilience but also a strong work ethic, which paid off when the results came in. Charlie has some fantastic creative ideas and worked hard to bring them to fruition.
Callum Stewart Award	Oliver A	Oliver's commitment to school sport and physical activity is unrivalled. His motivation to train before and after school led to significant improvement in his performance as a runner. He continued this throughout Year 11 while maintaining the highest standards for his studies, leading to him achieving the highest grade in his PE course. Well done, Oliver!
Headteacher's Award	Kate F	Kate has been a consistently fantastic role model for both students and staff during her time at Somervale. She has approached her education with passion and curiosity, whether translating texts, debating in English, trying out DJing, or using her voice to champion others. We have no doubt that she is going to achieve great things and remain incredibly proud of her.



Celebrating Students



Celebrating Our Top Performing Students!



We are thrilled to announce and celebrate the exceptional achievements of our top-performing students across all year groups. These students have demonstrated outstanding progress and attainment, setting an inspiring example for their peers. Their hard work, dedication, and resilience have been truly remarkable, and we couldn't be more proud of their accomplishments!

Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10		Year 11	
Attainment	Progress	Attainment	Progress	Attainment	Progress	Attainment	Progress	Attainment	Progress
Sienna W	Ameia B	Freddie D	Caleb B	Thomas F	Melissa E	Isla H	Cameron L	Oscar R	Hope K
Kane M	Yutsu T P	Olivia M	Senuja D	Albie S	Willow W-K	Sam M	Dianne G	Filip K	Kelly B
Ava B	Anya H	Hollie S	Freddie A	Christine M	Sonny F	Cara W	James C	Abigail P	Maisie S
Isabelle C	Josh C	Thomas A	Marcie N	Liza C	Lacey P	Phoebe W	James H	Ben T	Meah C
Erin B	Nikita F	Summer G	Minnie P	Dylan C	Liza C	Isabella P	Lewis P	Maisie S	Alfie C
Calley P	Isla M	Tytus G	Nathan S	Jacob B	Marley C	Millie B	Ava K	Joscelin M	Annalise B
Josh C	Calley P	Adam K	Arthur A	Imogen R	Evie-Rose D	Joel M	Jessica L	Laura B	Nenad P
Jay H	Keira M	Holly H	Liv Y	Martha A	Neve C	Ruby Leigh A	Isla H	Ellis P	Sofia S
Edie S	Alissia R	Corey B	Mia-Rose S	Maisie W	William B	Isla H	Akasha C	Chloe U	Evan G
Eli S	Lucas R	Lucas H	Layla L		Lyra-Leigh G	Akasha C	Isabella C	Archie W	Maxinne N
Flo A	Bow H		Lily S			Azura L			
			Thomas H			Alice B			

Year 7: A huge congratulations to **Sienna W** who has consistently excelled across all subjects. We also celebrate the fantastic progress of **Ameia B**, especially in Spanish and Music. Their commitment and enthusiasm are truly commendable.

Year 8: Congratulations to **Freddie D**, **Olivia M** whose remarkable progress in Mathematics, History in French have impressed both their teachers and peers. In addition **Caleb B**'s determination to improve in Science, French and Music has led to exceptional progress this term.

Year 9: We are delighted to recognise **Thomas F** for his outstanding achievements across all subjects. Also, **Melissa E**'s continued commitment to learning has contributed to her excellent performance.

Year 10: A special mention goes to **Isla H**, who has shown tremendous dedication across all her GCSE courses. Furthermore, **Cameron L**'s effort in Maths, Science and Geography has been inspiring.

Year 11: We celebrate the achievements of **Oscar R**, whose effort in balancing academics with extracurricular activities has been inspiring. **Hope K**'s consistently strong results also reflect her tireless commitment to excellence.

These students represent the very best of our school community. We look forward to watching them continue to grow and excel in the coming terms. Keep up the great work!



Mr Herron

Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum & Standards



Physical Education

Netball

We have had another brilliant term of Netball this year! A true highlight was the Year 9 Netball Tournament that took place at Ralph Allen where lots of our Year 8 students played up a year group. Some of these Year 8 students (Poppy C & Lily P) managed to even get player of the matches! The Year 8 team also played in the B&NES netball tournament at Wellsway and played some brilliant netball. Big shout out to Maisie, our sixth former who has been doing some great coaching with our KS3 girls on Wednesdays. We have more netball fixtures in term 3 so please come along and train with us all on Wednesday; it is never too late to join!

Year 10 Girls Netball Tour

An exciting opportunity has also arisen for the Year 10 girls netball team. The students who have been a part of the Year 10 netball team have been incredibly successful throughout their time at Somervale School and therefore, have been invited onto a Netball Tour. This tour is an invitation-only tour and is taking place at the end of April at Liddington PGL. Please make sure consent forms are completed by the 8th January.

Girls Football



Footwear in PE

Polite reminder: as per our school policy, students are required to have running style trainers for PE. Fashionable trainers are not appropriate for PE and will not be permitted. If you are unsure, please feel free to contact me before purchasing a new pair on jkelly@somervaleschool.com. Many thanks for your continued support.

Club & Fixture Reminder

Students need to add themselves to the Extra Curricular Google Classroom using the code **j37g7zg** to receive all information about what is on during term 3.

Physical Education

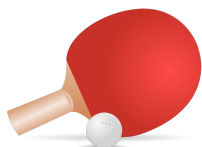
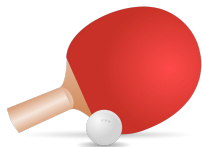
This Girl Can Workshop - Bath University

On the 9th December, 12 students were invited to the This Girl Can Workshop where it had a focus on leadership and engaging girls in Sport and Physical activity. The students engaged in lots of practical activities like sprint tests, circuits, ball skills, team building and so on. Students also took part in a theory seminar where they could delve into barriers that may prevent girls from being physically active but then looked at solutions to stop these barriers. Well done to all the students who participated in this day out, they represented the school extremely well and seemed to have gained a lot from the day.



Table Tennis

For the first time, our Year 8 boys entered the B&NES table tennis schools competition this term. They played extremely well and finished 7th. Lucas won all but one match in a very competitive competition. We look forward to entering again next year. Well done boys!



Physical Education



Bath University - A level Trip



Some Year 11 Health & Fitness students from Norton Hill & Somervale School attended a testing day at Bath University earlier in the term. They took part in a variety of fitness tests, including a lab experience to test their power and aerobic endurance.



Physical Education



Students of the Term in PE

Class & Teacher	Student & Reason
7Ya Mr Kelly	Bailey M for excellent demonstrations in basketball
7Yb Miss Dury	Isla for her amazing Gymnastics routine!
7Yc Miss Tanner	Harry G for his super rugby skills
7Xa Miss Tanner	Poppy T for always giving 100% effort in lessons
7Xb Mr Pearce	Izzy F for continuously great effort in every lesson
8Ya Mr Kelly	Poppy G for 100% effort every lesson
8Yb Miss Dury	Jovana for her amazing Trampolining routine!
8Yc Miss Tanner	Nathan S for his amazing rugby skills
8Xa Mr Kelly	Lily P for excellent leadership in netball
8Xb Miss Dury	Blake V for making a huge progress in trampolining!
8Xc Miss Tanner	Liv T for her amazing modelling in rugby
9Ya Mr Kelly	Max N for excellent demonstrations in basketball
9Yb Miss Dury	Naomi for her amazing Trampolining routine
9Yc Miss Tanner	Lauren G for her amazing attitude to learning
9Xa Miss Dury	Sonny for his amazing progress in Trampolining!
9Xb Miss Tanner	Henry G for his leadership and coaching skills in rugby
9Xc Mr Pearce	Liza C for showing courage and determination in Trampolining
10Y	Aiden N for his resilience in all lessons
10X	Tom B for excellent leadership during American football
11Y	Arda for his continued effort in PE
11X	All students for their continued 100% commitment to physical activity!

Physical Education



Term 3



Extra Curricular Clubs

Term 3

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1pm-1.25pm	Table Tennis	-	Table Tennis	-	Table Tennis
	Astro Turf: open to all year groups. Studded boots or astro boots required.				
3.25-4.30 pm	Girls Football Year 7 boys Football	Child Development Catch Up Year 8&9 Football	Netball Training for all Year 10&11 Football	Dance	NCFE PE Catch Up



Club & Fixture Reminder

Students need to add themselves to the Extra Curricular Google Classroom using the code **j37g7zg** to receive all information about what is on during term 3.



Art & Design Department



Congratulations



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Martha A Year 9



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Olle B - Year 11



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

James A - Year 11 photography



ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Verity Year 9



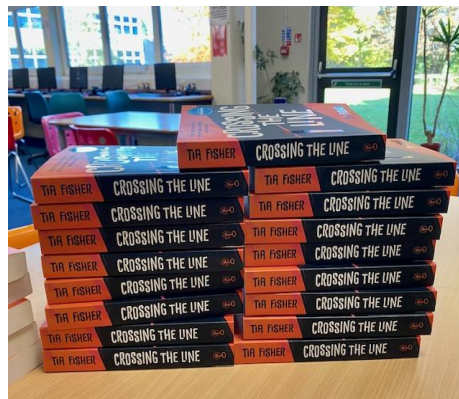
Library News



Author Visit

On Friday, 15th November, year 9 students had the fantastic opportunity to meet Carnegie Award Shadowers Choice winner, Tia Fisher, who visited to talk about her hard-hitting and award-winning novel, 'Crossing The Line'

Students listened as Tia explained the sad circumstances behind the inspiration for her novel and how students can keep themselves as safe as possible and make informed choices. The presentation ended with a Q&A session and book prizes.

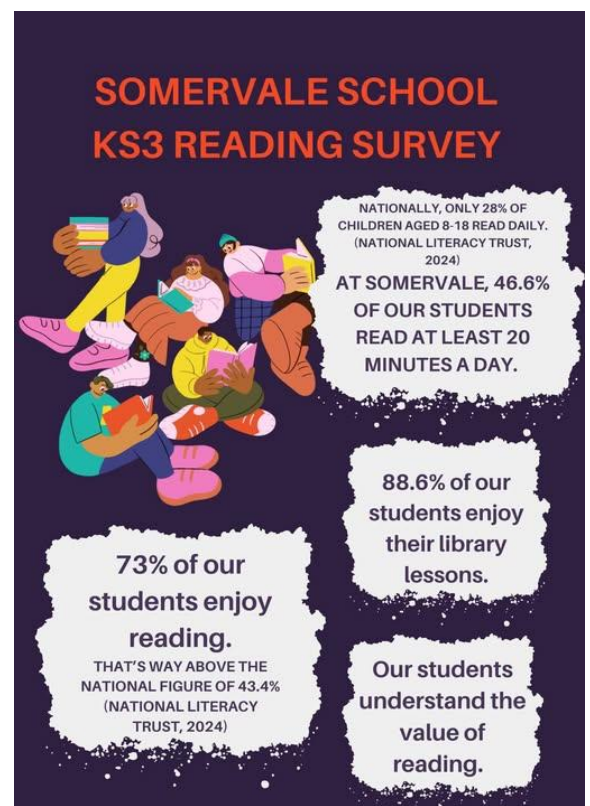


This term students in KS3 were asked to complete a reading survey. We wanted to know about whether they read for pleasure, whether they enjoy our library lessons, and about their reading habits.

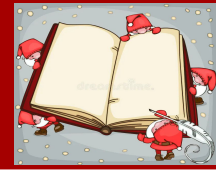
What we have found out has impressed us: not only do our students enjoy reading and using the library in general, as a school we are doing much better than the national figures released by the National Literacy Trust*.

We are super grateful to have such aspirational students, and we understand the challenge and responsibility that comes with it. We will keep working hard to make reading one of the key features in our students' experience at Somervale.

Thanks to all who answered the survey! And thanks to all the families for your support with your child's reading.



Library News



Virtual Author Visit with Frank Cottrell-Boyce

This term, a group of our year 7 students took part in the [BookTrust](#) virtual author event with this year's Children's Laureate, Frank Cottrell-Boyce!

Frank shared his love of reading, and gave hints and tips to students of how to read more; building on their reading skills, and explore their own creative writing. Students also had the opportunity to explore the history of the [#childrenslaureate](#) and take a look at some of Frank Cottrell-Boyce's fantastic books in the library



Somervale Reading Ambassadors

This term Mrs Vale and Mrs Thompson had the pleasure of presenting badges and certificates to our newly appointed [Somervale School](#) Library Reading Ambassadors

Our Reading Ambassadors are involved in a variety of tasks within their role. The most important is projecting their own love of reading to other students (and staff!) by discussing and recommending new books and recommending book stock to the librarian based on popular texts and current interests – as well as monitoring book requests by other students within the school.



Library News



Christmas Book Fair

Our annual Christmas Book Fair took place at the start of December, and we had fantastic support from of students and staff buying books! It's always so wonderful to still see the enthusiasm for a new book to read!

Thank you to everyone who supported us by purchasing books, and a huge thanks to our wonderful 'Takeover Team' of students who worked tirelessly to help run the fair!



Update:

We had our best year ever for sales of books - thank you for all your amazing support!

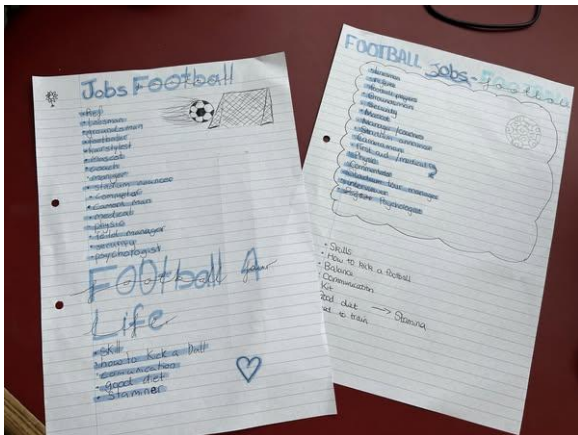
Library News



National Literacy Trust - Virtual Event with Dan Freedman

On the 4th December, students from years 8 and 9 part in a 'Careers in Sport' virtual event hosted by National Literacy Trust as part of their Premier League Starts programme, with authors Dan Freedman and Emma Juhasz

A group of students selected by our PE department took part in a live interactive event exploring a variety of roles within football, from ground person to mascot to club psychologist!



Charity Week 'pyjama reading'

As part of our Stockhill House Charity Week, students were invited to wear their pj's for a day...and some of our lovely year 9 students took the opportunity to focus on their group reading in the library

UPDATE

Library Opening Hours

Please note our library opening hours are changing from Term 3 onward...

Open for students:

Mon-Thurs
8:30am - 4:00pm

Fridays
8:30am - 3:30pm



English Department



Somervale School welcomed back the fantastic Box Clever Theatre Company

They performed A Christmas Carol to years 10 and 11. The students loved the shows and it was a brilliant opportunity for them to revise their GCSE text.

Thank you to all the parents who supported this special event and enabled us to provide such a unique theatre experience for our students.



Photography

YEAR 11 PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP TO BRISTOL - THURSDAY 24/10/24

Photography Yr 11 students visited 3 different Bristol venues to take photographs for their mock

WAKE THE TIGER



VARNOS VALE CEMETERY



PAINTWORKS (Martin Parr Foundation and Royal Photographic Society)



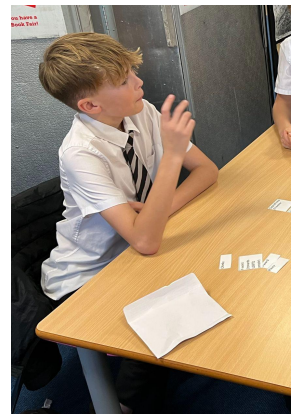
PSHE



PSHE - Celebrating Differences Day!



On Monday 2nd December, Year 8 enjoyed a really fun day taking part in multiple workshops to celebrate differences; whether this be personal differences or cultural. They had a lot of fun African Drumming, Carnival Mask making and learning sign language amongst many other fun activities!



Year 8
Celebrating
Differences
Day



PSHE

PSHE - Anti-Bullying Week 11th-15th November

As a school, students completed activities dedicated to Anti-Bullying Week. On the Friday, Tutor groups were asked to send a compliment anonymously to another member of their class who is not in their immediate friendship group. This activity demonstrated what kind and wonderful students we have here at Somervale School.



As a school, we are going to do something to improve the day of someone else.

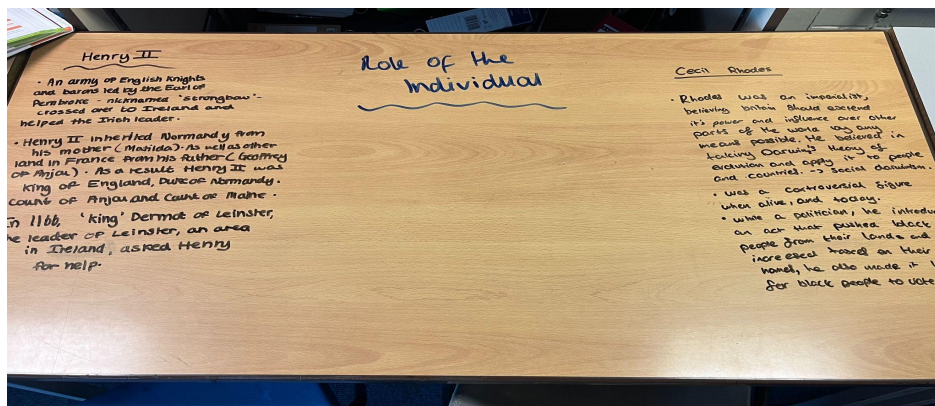
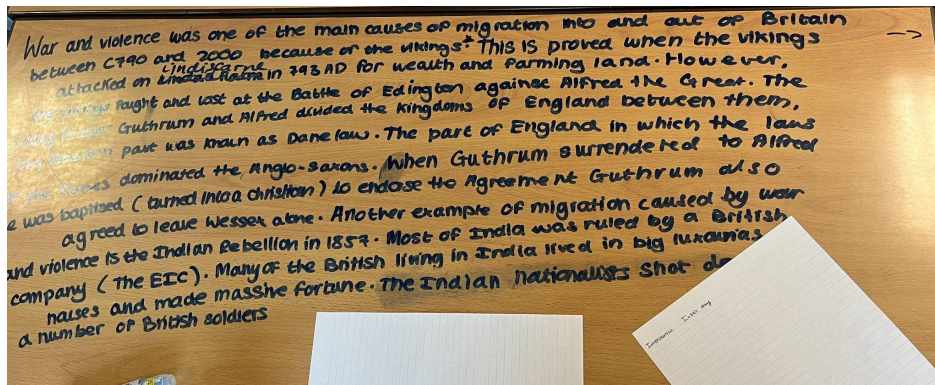
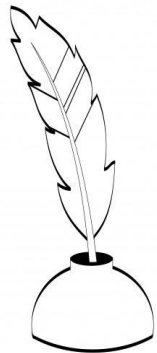
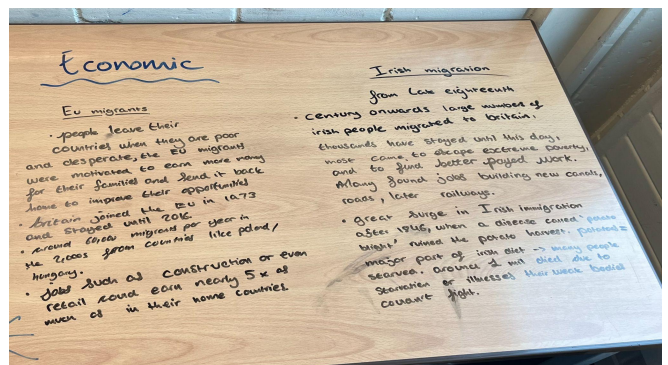
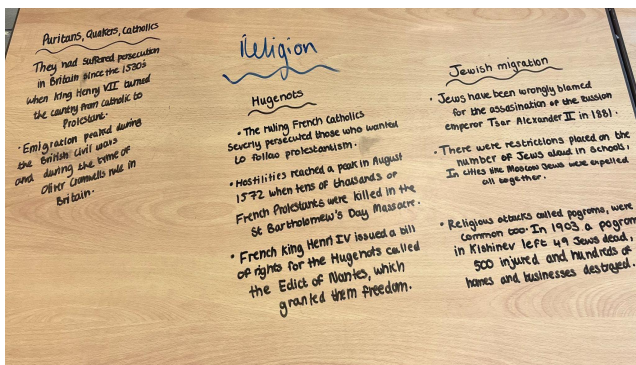
You will be given a compliments postcard during tutor time. You are going to write an anonymous compliment to someone else in your tutor group that you wouldn't normally speak to or compliment - this might be someone you know but are not in your immediate friendship group. Once completed, you must hand your post card to your tutor who will ensure it goes to the correct person.



History

History - Year 11 Revision

Some of our wonderful Year 11's came in during the inset day to complete some additional revision with Mrs Bendrey. They did an incredible job and the hard work is paying off. A huge well done to them.



Design & Technology



Year 9 MNSP Young Chef Competition



This term we have been running the Somervale heats for the MSNP Young Chef of the year competition. We have been extremely proud of those who entered and gave it their all. They all did so well in creating their dish for two people.

It was tough competition and a difficult decision. However we felt that Ethan created a unique dish with finesse. He will now represent Somervale at the final in February.

Congratulations to Ethan and all those that took part.



Year 7 Product Design



This term in DT year 7 students have been learning about materials, their working properties and sustainability. They then designed their own pine phone holder and made a prototype in the workshop!



Design & Technology



Design and Technology. Yr 10 Catering



Year 10 were given the challenge of making a chocolate log and present it in a 'Christmassy Fashion' they did not disappoint! Well Done all!



MERRY
Christmas



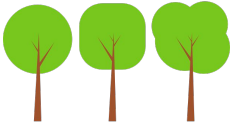
School Production

Our School show/Performance hoodies have now arrived and our cast of students are working hard with their rehearsals.

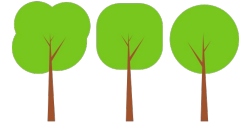
Performances will take place 12th-13th February 2025.
Tickets Released next term.



School Trips



Year 7 Forest of Dean Trip



Some of our Year 7 Students headed to the Forest of Dean for Camp, they took part in lots of activities including archery, team building tunnel maze, high zip wire and leap of faith!



School Trips



School Trips



School Trips



School Trips



Careers Information

We have been busy with careers events this term, with an initial focus on Green Careers as part of National Green Careers Week in November. Students undertook various activities linked to the jobs for the future, along with the variety of careers sectors that focus specifically on Green Careers.

KS3 students also enjoyed a morning workshop that was being run virtually across the country, which focused on Sport and Literacy. Students worked well in their groups to explore different roles within a football club, from a ground person to a psychologist!



Years 10 and 11 have continued to have their appointments with Ros Windsor, in preparation for their Post 16 choices and beyond. Year 11 students are reminded that they can “drop in” at lunchtimes on a Wednesday to see Ros if there is a chat needed.

Mrs S Davis

Green Careers

<https://www.greencareershub.com/>

Support for parents/carers

Please see the links below for further details on Post 16 opportunities

Apprenticeships

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/support-for-parents-and-guardians#>

MSN Sixth

<https://www.mnspsixthform.org.uk/>

Bath College

<https://www.bathcollege.ac.uk/>

T-Levels

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>

Support for students

Careers Support

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Career Pilot - quizzes to help with Option choices

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

Ros Windsor - Independent Careers Advisor

Ros is in school on a Wednesday in Meeting Room 2 for appointments with Year 10/11.

However, if there are any specific queries from other year groups, please contact via email:

rwindsor@nortonhillsschool.com

House News

House Captains and Year Reps joined the Remembrance Service in Midsomer Norton

Our Heads of Houses and House Year Representatives went into town on Remembrance Day to pay tribute to members of the armed forces that have protected us and fought for our freedoms. The students were great representatives of the school, and it was lovely to see the students partaking in such an important memorial in the local community.



House News

Stockhill Charity Week:

Thank you to everyone who took part in Somervale's first ever Charity Week from the 2nd-6th December. We had a jam-packed schedule of events to try and raise as much money for a local charity, Southside, who supports local families through tough times. This included a bingo event, paying to sponge teachers, arriving to school in PJs and throwing eggs! Thanks to all the generous donations, we managed to raise **£570.31**!

We are looking forward to seeing what Ammerdown can do for their charity week next term!

**STOCKHILL'S
CHARITY
WEEK**

Thanks to everyone's support, we raised...

£570.31

For Southside!

southside

Ammerdown's charity week is also fast approaching!

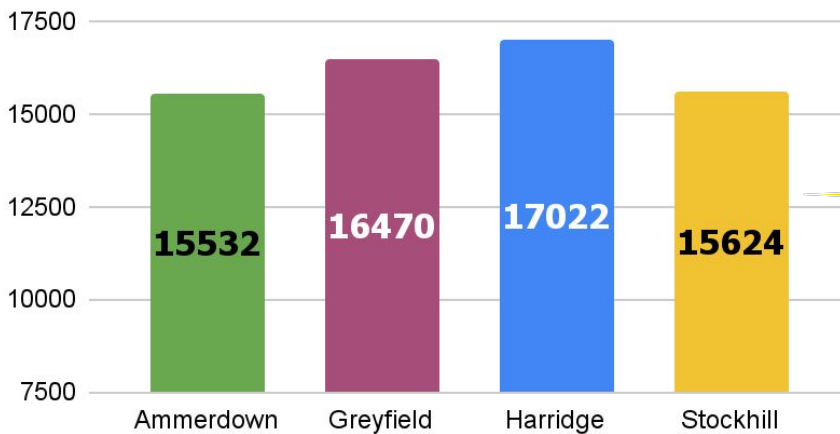
This will be happening at the end of January and all members of the Ammerdown council are extremely excited to raise some money for Happy Landings.

House News

House Point Totals:

Harridge has managed the unthinkable and has leapfrogged everyone to go from last to first place! Thanks to **Harridge's** fantastic contributions to House competitions, they have replaced **Greyfield** as the current winning house.

Overall House Points Total



Ammerdown Dog Shoe Box Appeal

It has been lovely to receive so many donations for the dog shoe box appeal! Students and staff have been collecting new and old treats, blankets and toys for dogs for the dogs at Happy Landings. The volunteers and the dogs receiving these will certainly bring some Christmas cheer. Thanks to all that donated!



Basketball tournament:

Students in the last week of term took part in their termly sports competition. This term, basketball was the chosen sport and so many students showed some great performances! The students took part in their year groups in tutor time and were able to compete against every house. Scores to come in term 3!



Christmas Card Competition

Thank you for everyone who participated in **Harridge's** Christmas card and decorations competitions and **Greyfield's** Animal Noises, won by Quinn for his monkey impression, and chess competitions, won by Oliver H! Also a huge congratulations to our Christmas card winner, Melissa from **Greyfield**, for designing this year's Somervale Christmas card!



SEN Department

This term, our SEN Team has attended online training to 'Support Dyslexic Pupils in Secondary Schools'.

This has been shared with teaching staff to raise awareness of dyslexic-friendly strategies that can be used in the classroom, including use of laptops to record work and multi-sensory approaches to learning.

The webinar is appropriate for parents and carers too, please follow the YouTube link below, should you wish to learn more about Dyslexia:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4i6qxC-XUc>

The British Dyslexia Association also shared a helpful guide to be shared for parents. The PDF can be found on the following link:

<https://cdn.bdadyslexia.org.uk/uploads/documents/Downloadable-Guides/British-Dyslexia-Association-Guide-for-Parents.pdf?v=1697025276>



British
Dyslexia
Association

School Office

We are setting up a school community hygiene bank for all students & are collecting donations of any of the items listed.

If you are able to help, please drop items into our school reception.

Thank you! 🙏

WE ARE

Drop any donations off at Somervale School

COLLECTING

SPREAD THE WORD

- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Shower Gel
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Flannels
- Soap
- Face Wash

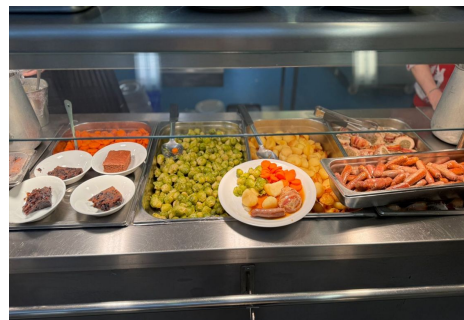
Personal hygiene is a basic human right

SVS HYGIENE BANK

School News

Christmas Dinner

Students and Staff were in the festive spirit on Wednesday 18th for our school Christmas dinner.



School News

Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to all our parents and carers, and of course students who supported this years Christmas Jumper day.

We raised a fantastic **£214** for Save the Children UK



School News

We have had some special new students in December, let's see what they've been up to...



Scout – The Reception Elf Starting the week strong with his training in preparation for three weeks of mischief making!



Scout – The Reception Elf Did you bring an umbrella?

Lectio Star – The Library Elf 'Star' for short... has sledged his way through 'snow' to the Somervale library... what will he find during his visit?..



Lectio Star – The Library Elf...

'Star' has followed his nose and found himself amongst the library lost property items.



Scout – Busy wrapping in MM4! The Reception Elf



Scout – Slightly overcooked his marshmallow



Lectio Star – The Library Elf 'Star' has found his first library book...not sure if it's his 'thing' though...he's going to keep looking..



'Star' has found his perfect read - he's a huge fan of 'Nick & Charlie'

School News



Scout - The Reception Elf
'Cups of 'T' for everyone!



Scout made an escape bid and
tried to get home to Lapland
this weekend!



Look at all
these
colours...
something to
brighten a
winter's day!

What else will
he find?...



Star has always been a fan of McFly...which
book of Tom's should they read though?



Scout has been busy
bringing the snow to
Somervale!



Scout- 2 weeks today it's
CHRISTMAS DAY!!!



Star is 'helping' at the library desk today.
Let's hope the books get returned properly!



Star has
been
'hanging'
around the
library to
see if they
can find
their way
to Narnia

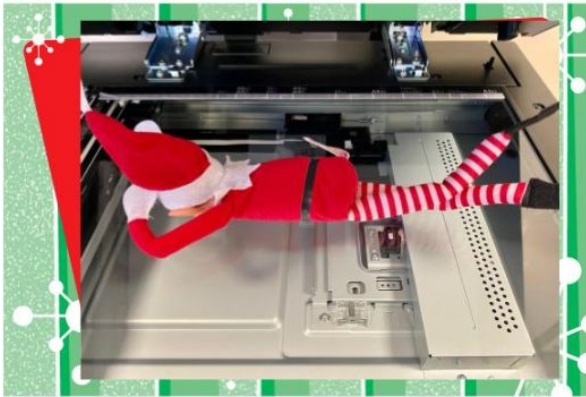
School News



Scout needs a little rest - back tomorrow!



Scout - The Reception Elf



Star is becoming bored looking for their way out to Narnia, so is just going to lie here for a while!



Lectio Star - The Library Elf



Scout is in training ready to lift all those presents on Christmas eve.



In training for Christmas lunch.

Scout - The Reception Elf



Star is enjoying their time in the library...wonder what they'll find in the Arctic circle?

Lectio Star - The Library Elf



Might need a first-aid! Star has fallen from the library Christmas tree!

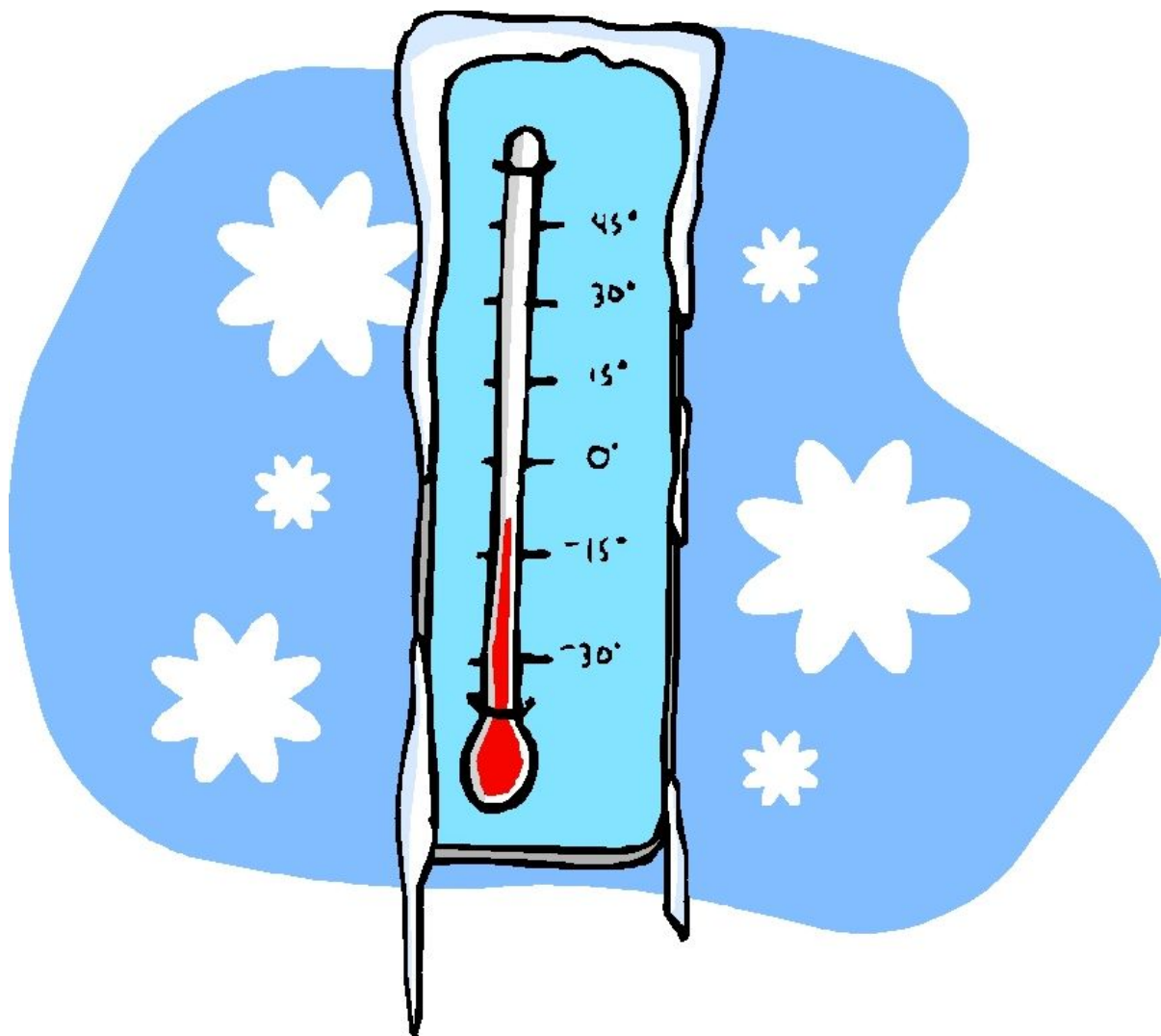
Lectio Star - The Library Elf

School News

With the colder weather likely to remain with us until at least March please can we ask that all students have a school jumper and an appropriate warm, waterproof school coat (preferably with a hood) as students will be outside during social time and when moving between blocks.

Please note that no jumpers other than school jumpers are to be worn.

Please also ensure that ALL school uniform is labelled with names where possible - especially school jumpers and coats, as this helps to return any lost property items to the correct student.



School News



THANK YOU

FOR SUPPORTING THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION'S
POPPY APPEAL 2024

Certificate of Appreciation awarded to:

Somervale School

Amount raised

£86.20

Alison Wilson

Alison Wilson

Midsomer Norton & Radstock Branch (BR2512)

Your contribution helps us to support the Armed Forces community,
past and present

EVERY **POPPY** COUNTS

School News

Polite Parking Notice

Please can we ask that you consider our neighbours and do NOT park on the double yellow lines and/or block any driveways when dropping off and picking up students in St Chads Avenue.

Thank you!



School News

November 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

We are writing to you to let you know that after many years of dedication to keeping the students of both Somervale and St John's schools safe before and after school, Sharon Pritchard has decided to hang up her high vis jacket and is taking on a new challenge.

I am sure that many of you will want to say a personal thank you to her before she stops at the end of this term.

As you may be aware, since the other previous car park attendant retired a couple of years ago and despite numerous adverts we have been unable to recruit to this position and it has been covered by the site staff (and sometimes SLT) from Somervale School.

With two members of staff now needed to cover this area, it is sadly no longer feasible to carry out this additional service. As a result in discussions with the Trust we have decided that unfortunately we have no option than to remove this service.

As a result, when we return to school on the 6th January 2025 there will be no members of staff providing the additional service of monitoring this car park.

We will be speaking to all students over the next few weeks to ensure that they are aware and to remind them of the need for clear and safe road awareness when walking down the school drive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support as parents in ensuring that all of our students remain safe and well on their journey into school and ask that you also speak to your children about the need for excellent road awareness on their journeys to and from school.

I would also like to remind all users of the car park that the primary purpose of this car park is for the safe delivery of students to school from both parents and public transport and request that all members of our community continue to treat everyone with the respect and courtesy that is appropriate for our school site.

Please can I also clarify that your car is parked at your own risk and the school can take no responsibility for any damage to vehicles.

Yours faithfully



Ms J Postlethwaite
Headteacher

School News



SOMERVALE ... SCHOOL

WE ARE HIRING.....

- **COVER SUPERVISOR**
- **TEACHING ASSISTANT**
- **ASSISTANT HEAD OF KEY STAGE THREE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.SOMERVALESCHOOL.COM

Important Dates

IMPORTANT DATES



Parents' Evening

Year 8 - Thursday 14th November 2024

Year 7 - Thursday 21st November 2024

Year 9 - Thursday 23rd January 2025

Year 11 - Thursday 6th February 2025

Year 10 - Thursday 27th March 2025



Wednesday 22nd January 2025 - Year 8 HPV Immunisation

Monday 6th January 2025 - Inset Day

Tuesday 7th January 2025 - Return to school (Week B)

Term Dates 2024-25



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
Norton Hill Primary School,
Silver Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Somerset BA3 2UD
headoffice@msnpartnership.com
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

Extra Date Added

Wednesday 27th November 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



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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
Thursday 2nd April 2026

Term 5

Monday 20th April 2026
Friday 22nd May 2026

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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