

# newsletter

September 2023



## From the Headteacher

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Welcome to our monthly newsletter. September has been a hugely productive and positive month for us at SMRT. I hope you find the information below helpful.

### Open Evening/Mornings and Admissions

Our open evening and mornings for entry into Year 7 in September 2024 were extremely well attended. Our students did an excellent job of talking about their experiences of life at SMRT, and I've been in touch with them to thank them individually. We are very proud of them all and are proud of our School. Thank you to parents and carers who have taken the time to share positive feedback.

If any of your friends who may be considering applying to SMRT have any queries about the Governors' Admissions Policy, please suggest that they contact Mrs Botting, our Admissions Secretary ([bottingg@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:bottingg@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)) who is more than happy to support..

For those of you applying for siblings, it is very important that you **complete the Local Authority application form** (<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/secondary-apply>). **In addition, complete the school supplementary form**, which is available online via our website ([link](#)) – scroll to the bottom of the admissions page and use the 'click here to apply' button. Our closing date is matched with the Local Authority, i.e., **Tuesday 31 October 2023**. It is best to contact Mrs Botting with any queries before **Friday 20 October** as the school will be closed then for the holiday for a week. She will be available again on the first day of term, Monday 30 October.

We also have the first of our Sixth Form Open Evenings for entry into Year 12 in September 2024 on 19 October.

### Community Languages

We are seeking to translate our key letters into several languages to develop communication with as many families as possible. We are initially using Google Translate for this task and there is the chance that some meaning may be lost in translation. The original correspondence in English will be the definitive version and if you have any queries, please do contact your child's tutor who will be able to help or direct you to support. We thank you for your patience and feedback as we work to develop this feature of our practice.

Please follow [this](#) for guidance on how to change our website text from English to other languages and how to download and translate documents from our website to other languages.

## **New Pastoral Structure**

In July we introduced our new pastoral structure, and we are very pleased with how our community has engaged with this and the impact to date. Although there is no significant difference for the current Year 8 and the new Year 7 it has been a big change for Years 9-11. The structure has enabled the implementation of our revised aged specific pastoral curriculum which includes tutor group whole class reading. We are particularly noticing the capacity that this structure has provided as we support Year 11 as they prepare for the summer examinations.

In this new structure each year group has a non-teaching Learning Mentor in addition to a tutor, Head of Year and Deputy Head of Year who you or your child can speak to if there any questions, concerns, or feedback. Please follow [this](#) link for more information on our pastoral system.

## **Attendance**

Whenever a child is absent from school our attendance administration team will make contact with parents/carers on that day if we have not been provided with a reason for the absence. This contact will be repeated throughout the day so that we can account for the absence. This is an important aspect of our safeguarding measures. Please do ensure that you respond to the request for information and better still notify the school in the morning if your child is going to be absent due to an unplanned situation e.g., illness. Please follow [this](#) link for an explanation of our procedures for notifying the school of absence for unplanned reasons e.g., illness.

## **Fire Drill and Lockdown Drill**

An important aspect of our safeguarding measures are fire drills and lockdown drills. We held both drills in September across both the main school site and the sixth form site. I have been impressed with our students every time a lockdown drill has taken place (and the real event last year). However, I was particularly pleased with our students during our most recent fire drill. The year group based pastoral structure has been helpful in supporting this process. Well done to our students.

## **Senior Students (Year 13)**

Our Senior Students this year are Lucy, Esther, Alpha, Jeremiah, Tia, Marlen, Rufus, Jasmine, Josh, Lou, Sid, Johnnie, Amelia, Amber, and JJ. Some will have been at SMRT throughout Y7-11, but many were not, and come from many different schools across Bristol. I'm sure they will all be able to contribute to the sixth form in their own unique way. I thank them all for their commitment to this important role.

## **Year 11 Mock Exams**

Year 11 students will be having assessments between Monday 6 November and Friday 17 November. We are planning for these assessments to take place in the hall and gym, and some

smaller rooms. As in previous years, it is important that students revise for these assessments as they will help us to make decisions about predicted grades and, in some subjects, tiers of entry for exams. A revision topic list will be sent out in early October. There will be a further round of Year 11 assessment at the end of February 2024. Students will receive more detailed information about the arrangements for the November assessments in due course. Please contact your Child's tutor or a member of the Year 11 team if you have any queries. Please follow [this](#) link for the names of key staff in the Year 11 team.

## Free School Meals

We know that the circumstances of many parents and carers change, and if you are not already registered for free school meals and think you may be entitled, please do register. This helps the school as some of our funding is allocated on the percentage of students on free school meals. This helps your family and the wider school community. Even if your child prefers to bring in a packed lunch, you can register for free school meals and have the occasional morning free from the chore of sandwich making! You can apply for free school meals from Year 3 onwards (including Secondary Schools) if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit: if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get. This is also called the 'minimum income floor'.) If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will be eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they are in on 31 March 2025.

The Local Authority [website](#), has all the information you need and you can apply '[on line](#)'. Please contact Mr Morris (School Business Manager) if you need more information ([morrissi@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:morrisi@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)).

## Community News

We said goodbye to one of our Cover Supervisor team, Mr Rice, who has moved to a teaching job in London, and Mrs Miles (Head of MFL) has started her maternity leave. Mr Rice has been replaced with Ms Maddix who started her new post at the start of term. Mrs Miles' leadership role is being covered by one of the existing team.

*Del Planter, Headteacher*

## MFL Department News

September is always a busy time of the school year but in MFL, it is even busier!

First of all, we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made a cake or some biscuits for the “European Day of Languages” Müller House Cake Sale.

We had so many entries this year that we had to double up on tables and in a little less than 40 minutes, Year 7 had raised just over £100!



We are also very grateful to Rex and Russell in Year 8 who did such a fantastic job running our Tapas Bar for the Open Evening. They were very good at insisting that the password “por favor” was used by their customers, before handing out any snacks!



Finally, we would like to thank Mrs Jordan in D.T. for allowing Year 8 to make Spanish paellas after school. This was another lovely event with everyone working hard to create very tasty Spanish dishes. The judging by Joe and Yedidya was very intense as all the paellas not only looked delicious but were also very tasty. Well done to everyone.



This Friday sees our Year 9 Pétanque Competition and we will share news and pictures of this next month.



*Mrs Clapson*

Merci et au revoir!



Congratulations to our wonderful caterers, who have achieved another 5-star hygiene and best practices award.

Well done!!

*Mr Morris*

## Ourfest: Embrace, Educate, Empower

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21st October at Engine Shed in Bristol  
From their description: "OurFest is a festival designed by young people, allowing access to an often-unheard perspective on mental health, targeting an audience of both young people and professionals."

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ourfest-embrace-educate-empower-tickets-684880986467?aff=oddtcreator>

*Miss Tiplady*



## Dates for the diary

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[Click here](#) to visit our website calendar for up to the minute dates.

October 2023	
Tue 3 Oct	Senior Mathematical Challenge
Wed 4 Oct	Y13 Biology Field Trip
Thu 5 Oct	Poetry Event -National Poetry Day -Refuge
Tue 10 Oct	Y12 Settling into A -Level Gradesheet Home
	Y8 Art & Science Trip
	Y8 Parents/Carers Evening 4 pm - 6:30 pm
Wed 11 Oct	Johnson House Eucharist 8:30 am – 10:00 am
Thu 12 Oct	Second Hand Uniform Sale 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
	Y8 Parents/Carers Evening 4 pm – 6:30 pm
Mon 16 Oct	UCAS Deadline – Early Entry
	Y13 Drama Exam
Wed 18 Oct	Music Event 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Thu 19 Oct	Y7 Settling in Gradesheet home
	Post 16 Open Evening 6 pm - 9 pm
Fri 20 Oct	Late Start (Students arrive 9:45 am)
	Last day of Term 1

The full school calendar will be available [Click here](#) on the school website (School Life, Calendar). While correct at the time of publication there are occasional changes to the dates above, so for the latest information please refer to Options Form In the calendar on the website. If you don't have computer access and would like to receive a paper copy of the Newsletter, please contact Mrs Chaibi [chaibih@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:chaibih@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)  
St Mary Redcliffe & Temple School, Somerset Square, Bristol BS1 6RT T: 0117 3772100 | [enquiries@smrt.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@smrt.bristol.sch.uk)

Bristol Parent Carers are excited to invite you to three fantastic, no-cost events happening over the next few weeks. These sessions are all about providing you with the knowledge and support you need to champion your child's and family's well-being.

Discover digital solutions for supporting mental well-being, seek support for children with needs connected to Tic and Tourette's and come to our in-person to find out more about managing extreme behaviour.

Take that positive step today and reserve your free space.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/01-webinars-support-advice-for-parent-carers-1457019>

Bristol Parent Carers

St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School Newsletter – September 2023



## Digital solutions to supporting mental wellbeing


WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS & KOOOTH




## Tics and Tourettes

WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS AND CORRINA WOOD FROM PLATYPUS TRAINING AND CONSULTANCY




**HOME START**  
Bristol

### Do you want to build your skills? Volunteer with us

Home-Start Bristol works with families with children under 5 in Bristol & South Glos who are going through tough times. We welcome volunteers from the diverse communities we serve.

Volunteers provide support for 2 - 3 hours a week either at a group or visiting a family in their home.

Contact us today to find out more.  
[homestartbristol.org.uk](http://homestartbristol.org.uk)  
0117 950 1170



**Greenway Centre**  
Doncaster Road  
Southmead, Bristol  
BS10 5PY

Thursdays  
21/09/2023  
19/10/2023  
9.30 - 2.30

Charity no. 1116207  
Unit 11, Greenway Business Centre, Doncaster Road, BRISTOL, BS10 5PY

**When?**

20th Sept - 29th Nov.  
Wednesdays 5-7pm

**Where?**

Kingswood Estate,  
Britannia Road,  
BS15 8DB

**FOR AGES 11-16**

Take part in this  
10-week course, whether  
you're into rap, singing,  
spoken word, playing an  
instrument or want to try  
lyric writing.

**Want to write your own songs?**

Song Writing  
CREATIVE COURSE

**GET IN TOUCH:**

Kathleen - call/text/WhatsApp - 07741 660260 or  
email: [creative.dept@creativeyouthnetwork.org.uk](mailto:creative.dept@creativeyouthnetwork.org.uk)

**SIGN UP:** [www.creativeyouthnetwork.org.uk/creative-courses-song-writing](http://www.creativeyouthnetwork.org.uk/creative-courses-song-writing)



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