



Globe Theatre Visit - Page 9



Oldbury Wells Journal

October 2023



Welcome to our end of half term newsletter. Can I start by saying a huge thank you to students, staff and families for what has been an extremely positive start to the new academic year. We have had so much happening across the school in terms of trips, visits, charity work and much more that sits alongside our core curriculum which is part of all lessons. Alongside these activities, it has been a privilege to welcome so many visitors into school throughout our open events and have received some wonderful feedback from those who have visited our school. Can I particularly thank all students who supported our open evening, alongside staff, giving talks or being involved with tours and activities; our biggest advocates are our students and they were all amazing.

This week our Year 8 students have been out on their 'BIG PIT' adventure as part of their History experiences, students had a great time and I know how much they, alongside students involved with the range of events highlighted in this Journal, have gained so much from their visits.

At the start of term, I spoke to all students about beginning the next phase of their journey. We are now 8 weeks into that phase and are proud of everyone's achievements to date, in particular our Year 7 students who are showing such confidence in all they do - well done to all. After half term

we have some students involved with formal examinations and begin the run up towards mock examinations for Year 11; this is such an important time for all those involved so keep working hard and good luck in all you do.

As always, we will be using the half term break to review all aspects of the school's work moving forward. We have circulated to parents' information with reminders about school uniform and will soon be sharing updates regarding communication between home and school. You will also be aware of the updates about our Bridgnorth 6th form, alongside some exciting partnership developments, for which there is further information on the school website.

Can I use this opportunity to wish everyone a restful half term. With Halloween and Bonfire night taking place over the week, a reminder to all students to be responsible and safe - you will see some important messages later in this journal which have also been shared on our social media pages.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the holiday and will continue to support progress for all.

Mr Tristham

Money raised for charity

Jeans for Genes and Macmillan



The Jeans for Genes UK campaign spreads awareness of the daily challenges faced by those living with a genetic condition and raises money to fund projects that make a difference to the lives of those affected by genetic disease.

In total we raised £536!



We held a coffee morning and bake sale back in September to raised money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Overall, we raised £182 for the cause!

Thank you to those who donated on either charity day.

Outstanding behaviour in the Community!

Year 10 Fabio Pace & Ethan Greenfield commended as local heros

On Friday 20th October, we received contact from a member of the public praising two OWS students for the care they provided to a member of the public that had collapsed in Bridgnorth Town Centre. Fabio Pace and Ethan Greenfield administered first aid, contacted 999 and sought help from nurses of a nearby medical practise, to help a man that was alone and had fallen ill.

The two boys were described as an “asset to the school” in how they “remained calm and level headed” despite the serious nature of what had happened.

Mr Cook, who received the message, outlined “We are enormously proud of how both boys handled the situation and with the care and compassion their actions demonstrated whilst supporting a member of the public.”

When spoken to regarding the incident Ethan explained “I felt proud to be able to help someone using the first aid training I had learnt from Cadets.” Both boys expressed their concern for the man and wished that he gets well soon.

Well done boys, we are extremely proud of your actions!

A meeting with the Stars

Lucy Courtman



On 24th October, Lucy Courtman was selected to take part in a Future Lionesses Goalkeeping day where she was able to visit St. Georges Park, the home of England's Mens and Womens football teams.

Lucy was able to meet her hero, England Lionesses goalkeeper, Mary Earps. Lucy received a signed shirt from all the England Goalkeepers, experienced a tour of the training base and was able to take part in a training session with other future Lionesses.

When reporting back to Mr Cook, Lucy explained "It was amazing to meet Mary, a world cup finalist. The whole day was a fantastic experience and I feel inspired to one day be a future lioness.



Mr Cook commented "I am extremely jealous of what Lucy was able to experience and hope she continues to pursue her passion in Football. Good luck Lucy and keep up the hard work!"

Meet our School Council!

Where all things OWS are spoken about.

Over the last few weeks, year groups have been voting in their tutor groups for students to represent them as part of our school council.

Many students had to prepare a speech that outlined why they would be a suitable representative and then pitch it to their form group.

It has been fantastic to see so many students across all Years 7-11 who were keen to be a part of the school council and take on such a proactive responsibility within school.

Our aim will be to raise and discuss important issues about school and its community with a vision of creating a positive community for all.

Our first meeting will take place after half term!

Thank you to all the students that have volunteered to be involved - I look forward to working with you all.

Miss Morgan



UPDATES

Extra-Curricular Clubs!

	Monday	Staff	Room	Tuesday	Staff	Room	Wednesday	Staff	Room	Thursday	Staff	Room	Friday	Staff	Room
Lunch time 13:40 -	Chess Club	Mr Williams	W67	RC club	Mr Smith	West Gym	Volleyball	Miss Joiner	Sports Hall	LGBT club	Miss Silverstone	E9	Dodgeball	Miss Loewnau	Sports Hall
	Lego club	John Prockter	W24	Homework Club		W55	creative writing/poetry/literature club	Miss Roberts	E10	Y11 French - Foundation intervention	Miss Dijoux	W34	Homework Club	Mrs Hermes-Sharpe	W52
	Basketball	Mr Cowburn	Sports Hall				Homework Club		W55	Y11 Spanish intervention	Mrs Harvey	W32			
	Homework Club	Mrs Hermes-Sharpe	W52							Year 11 small groups GCSE History intervention	Mr Grainger (Invitation only)	E61			
										Homework Club		W55			
										Vocal Group (Encore)	Miss Dangerfield	W23			
After School 3:15 - 4:20	KS3 Girls Football	Mr Smith		Y7 football	Mr Smith	East PE	Y7-9 Handball	Miss Loewnau	Sports Hall	Y8/9 football (Week 2)	Mr Smith	East PE	Y10/11 Handball	Miss Loewnau	Sports Hall
				Y11 French - Higher intervention	Miss Dijoux	W34	GCSE Music Coursework	Miss Dangerfield	W23	Y 8/9 Rugby (Week 1)	Mr Cowburn	East PE			
				revision year 11 Health and Social Care	Mrs Hermes-Sharpe	W52	Year 10 higher set 2 revision maths	Mr Parmar	W66	Year 11 higher set 3 revision maths					

- Opportunity for all students to learn to receive instrumental or vocal tuition from our visiting tutors. Please see Miss Dangerfield for detailed information.
- Options available to watch film in West Hall for KS3 every Lunchtime

Upcoming Charity Events...



CHARITY FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

Tickets on sale from:
6th November – 30th November

£1 per strip of raffle tickets

PRIZE DRAW: Friday 1st December

Prizes up for grabs.

Family cinema tickets
Barbers No.6 Vouchers
Mental health awareness merchandise

SEE MISS SILVERSTONE E10 For details.

We are raising money for Mind!

We are having a raffle where students can win some great prizes! To purchase raffle tickets, students can see Miss Silverstone in E10.

Tickets on sale from 6th - 30th November with prize draws taking place on the 1st December.

All proceeds will go to Mind.

Good luck!

ART & DESIGN

The wait is over...

Summer Photography winners!

Back in the summer we opened up our annual photography competition for students to take part in. There were three themes: Summertime Vibe, Four Legged Friends and The Seaside. Students got snapping over the summer holidays and the results are now in, well done to:

Seb Powell - Year 8 with Sunflower field;

Niamh Oliver Walton - Year 9 with Seascape sunset;

Evie Evans - Year 10 with River walks; and

Harry Brazier - Year 11 with Catch!



A shoutout also to our runners up:

Emilia Cole - Year 8 with Monkeying around!;

Esther Smith - Year 9 with Seascape;

Merab Walker - Year 10 with Wild Horse; and

Ellie Strevens - Year 11 with Man's best friend.

You can find all entries on our school's [Facebook](#) page.

Artist of the Month!

Some great skills shown

Year 7: Some Year 7 groups have been working on an Architecture project and were given the task of creating an imaginative scene to create a title page. Georgina Harman produced an amazing study, also using fine liner experimentally, to design her fantastic picture. An amazing start to the topic!

Year 8: Last year in the summer term Year 8 worked on a project based on the GCSE exam title of Signs and Symbols. Students chose a personal theme and designed a 2D or 3D final piece representing their theme. We then set a competition at the end where students could enter their final pieces. The following students were chosen as the overall winners with amazing detailed and imaginative 2D and 3D designs. Well done to all students who took part and prizes will be awarded. Any entries can now be collected from Art. Pictured are winners and Josh Wyke with his fantastic customised skateboard.

Other 8 Winners:

- Thomas McGettrick - Harry Potter cup.
- Ellis Williams - Sword in the Stone sculpture.
- Amelia Maddison - Star signs 3D design.
- Leila Ward - intricate Twilight poster

Year 10: Congratulations to the Year 10 Art & Design group for such a great start to GCSE! There were many commendations awarded for a recent homework to create a double page of imagery linked to their theme to show off their Art skills with a range of media. Merab Walker illustrated 2 double pages and showed confidence with fine detailed pen and pencil work but also experimented with collage, mixed media and stencils so she is awarded the first Artist of the Month for Year 10 this year.



Georgina Harman



Josh Wyke



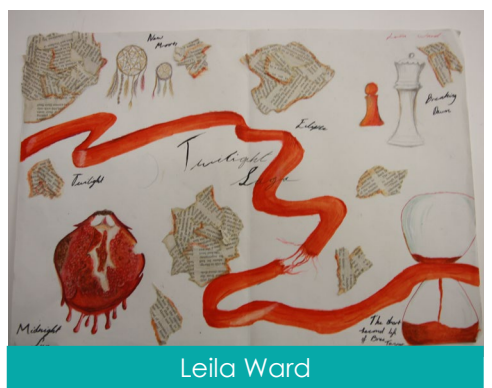
Merab Walker



Amelia Maddison



Thomas McGettrick & Ellis Williams



Leila Ward

Artist of the Month Continued...

Some great skills shown

Year 11 Artist of the Month goes to 2 students who have worked very hard on both homework and in class tasks to develop strong contextual research, great experimentation with media and techniques and effective observation to make great progress. Pictured here in class working on their Art coursework portfolio of 'Hot weather' and 'Aquatic Life' are Denise Appiatu and Delta Farrington-Hyrons.



Staff photography Competition!

You can also check out some of our staff entries. The votes are in and our winners are...



Left to Right:

1st Place - Miss Roden (DT)
2nd & 3rd Place - Miss Docker (Admin)

You can view all other entries [here](#).

APPLIED STUDIES

Year 11 Business

Important information!



Year 11 Business students have just completed their unit 2.4. Well done on some fabulous unit test results – a number of commendations have been sent out.

A reminder that the Mock exam for Paper 1 is on 22nd November and Paper 2 is on 29th November. Links for revision have been put onto SatchelOne and revision guides can be purchased via ParentPay.

Students have started their final unit and will need to be revising for their Mock exams in November.

Health & Social Care

Important information!

Year 11 Health & Social Care pupils are completing their PSA. This Pearson Set Assignment has to be completed in class time under exam conditions over this term and will be sent to the exam board.

This is a mandatory element to the course which need to be passed in order to claim a grade.

Computing

Important Information!

Year 7 Computing have been planning and creating their collaborative presentations on Cyber Bullying. They have been learning about meeting the needs of their audience and how to use images effectively in their work.



Year 8 Computing have been developing their web design skills, using Trinket to code in HTML. They are currently building their final websites ready for assessment.

Year 9 are on rotations with two groups currently working on Media Graphics and using Inscape to create vector drawings and shapes.

Year 11 OCR Creative Media pupils will be working on their Comic NEA assessment this term.

Globe Theatre Trip



On October 5th, I took thirteen Year 10s to London. We were given the opportunity to visit the Globe Theatre to celebrate National Poetry Day and be at the launch of a nationwide competition created by 'Poetry by Heart'. Furthermore, the students were invited to see William Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' brought to life at the Globe Theatre after the initial poetry celebration. The following paragraphs are contributions about the day from three of the Year 10s:

'Going to London was a long day, but such a great opportunity and definitely worth it! We caught a

direct train in the morning, so we then had the whole day to explore. The place we were going to actually had two theatres: one was the newer side called the 'Sam Wanamaker Playhouse' and then the older one (that was rebuilt and opened in the 1990s and is a replica of what a Shakespearean theatre would have looked like) called the 'Globe Theatre'. When we arrived, we entered the newest building first, which was where the introduction and opening of the 'Poetry By Heart' competition was held. Here, a few poems were read out by students, from a range of different schools, who took part last year. This took a lot of courage, as they spoke before a multiple of different schools and quite a large audience. We heard how this competition can benefit us in many ways and build our self-confidence significantly. After this finished, we had our lunch outside overlooking the Thames and in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral. We then entered the Globe Theatre, where a performance of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' was going to play...surprisingly, it was really entertaining and funny! Unfortunately, we had to head back home soon after, but it was a truly enjoyable experience.

Nicole Burrows (10MKE)

On my trip to London, I learnt a lot. This does vary on relevance because I could talk about how I only recently figured out how train maps work, but I won't focus on this! Instead, my true learning began when I watched the 'Poetry By Heart' performances by a range of different aged students. The first lesson of the trip really resonated with me: how diverse the audience of poetry really is. Age groups from young primary children to people later in life were all enjoying the same thing, and this really surprised me, as I didn't realise until now how many people, despite our differences, all find entertainment, relatability, and comfort in the art of poetry. Furthermore, in London, our group watched a performance of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It'. I learnt so much from watching this play, not only about the history of the Globe Theatre and the experience of it, but also the knowledge of stage performance and craft. I've personally not seen many real-life performances, but now that I have, I can say that it has enabled me to expand my understanding just from watching: the importance of projecting your voice loudly; how to express your feelings with your tone and the richness of Shakespeare's language and how it is still significant today. It was fascinating to see how actors worked in real time, especially when hearing Shakespearean language come from their mouth and I was able to understand it due to their performance. I think this links well with the poetry we watched too because the students (and adults who also performed poems) used similar skills, when reciting, and they had to be clear with how

they spoke their words to express the emotions of their chosen poem. This has given me ideas for how to perform my own chosen poems for this year's competition. Ultimately, the whole day was fantastic!

Aggie Thompson (10MKE)

Unexpectedly, I liked the Globe Theatre trip because it meant I had the chance to hear a range of poems from different eras in time and to see how a variety of students could perform and present them. It was also inspirational, as these students had learned their poem by heart and them in an emotional way. Likewise, the Shakespeare 'As You Like It' performance was a great experience and helped me to learn more about a Shakespeare play in a fun and interactive way, then just reading and learning about it in the classroom. The play was set in a mostly modern way, making the plot and characters more understandable, intriguing, and comical. This day in London, set up by 'Poetry By Heart', was worth visiting and highly enjoyable. I'm looking forward to being part of the competition this year!



Dylan Williams (10JP)

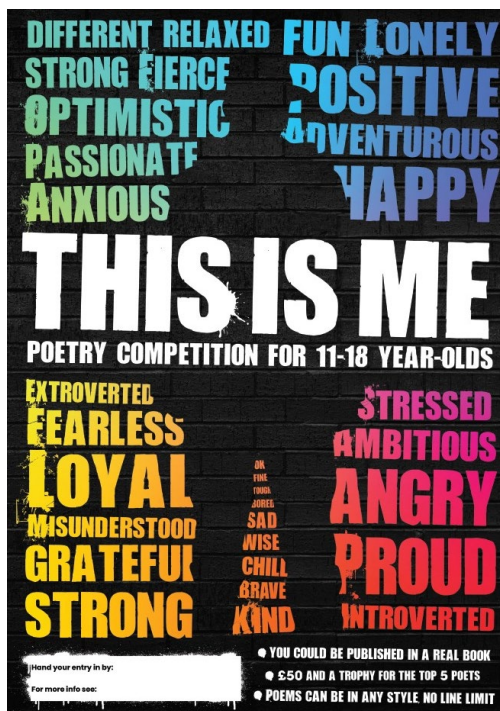
Overall, the trip was a brilliant success, and I was extremely proud of my students. It was a fantastic opportunity and I'm excited for the 'Poetry By Heart' competition, which the school is taking part in this school year. My thirteen Year 10s are now the experts to help train and motivate the other students, who have chosen to be involved. This trip was a joy to be a part of and I would like to thank the students and Mr Broadhouse, who accompanied us, for that.

Miss Roberts

Young writer in the making!

Talia Wood 9SF

Our most recent Young Writers Competition was based on the theme "This is Me!", check out this fabulous poem written by Talia Wood which has been submitted and we can't wait to see how she does!



Skin by Talia Wood

*This thick layer,
There to hide my weak and worn bones.
That is my skin.
The skin you bruise with your words,
The Skin that's rough to your touch,
That is my skin.*

*The skin with scars and memories,
The skin you call gross and dirty,
That is my skin.*

*That is my skin.
Hated and hurt,
Yet I wear it proudly.*

That is my skin.

There will be many more competitions from [Young Writers](#) so keep a look out!

On the topic of Poetry...

Check out this poem by Dylan Williams!

Engine Light

Bang!
The engine is started,
All 8 cylinders are racing,
The car has departed.

Off it goes, gliding around twists and turns,
Soon finding the open roads,
The world races by, leaving all concerns,
When all of sudden, a warning light glows.

It is ignored, the thrill too great to stop,
Thrashing down the road, but something is
off,
It comes to a halt, panic is non-stop,
It will never start again, but then, a cough.

Slowly, the engine regains power,
The wheels turn, the speed starts to gain,
Joy is returned, but then, a feeling of sour,
The warning light glows, surely this isn't
happening again?

READDIT

READDIT - Autumn 2023

Creepy books turned into films

Can you match the film and the year the book was written with the book's writer? Answers at the end of READDIT!

<i>TITLE</i>	<i>YEAR BOOK WAS PUBLISHED</i>
THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW	1820
THE BIRDS	1952
GOOSEBUMPS	1992-1997
THE WITCHES	1983
DRACULA	1897
FRANKENSTEIN	1818
JAWS	1974
HAMLET	1599-1601
THE TELL TALE HEART	1843
THE WOMAN IN BLACK	1983

<i>WRITERS</i>
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
SUSAN HILL
EDGAR ALLEN POE
WASHINGTON IRVING
DAPHNE DU MAURIER
ROALD DAHL
BRAM STOKER
MARY SHELLEY
R L STINE
PETER BENCHLEY

T W B A P V F P S C T P M T I
X I Z H H J W I J L V B K K D
D B P J R C A N D Y M A N B R
C L U E J A P T K Z F B P Z V
Z O U P K I B N E J C B Y U O
G O R C U J K M C D F V V W D
E D O G D W A Y N B Q O K K C
X Y A W U K D W Y O Q M E L N
D M Y Q B E E T L E J U I C E
E A E Q T P R T F H F V T G W
Z R Z N M I B V X E D T Y P V
R Y P V H D G J L S F S E W X
Q P Y Q T F C G Q Z M B M L Z
I Q A Y L I M V E K B Y M I C
G P T Y E F H J I A R C Y F F

Three is a magic number – and can sometimes have mysterious power. Can you find the three films? If you call out the name in the title three times, the evil spirit will appear...

YOUR CHANCE TO GET YOUR NAME IN PRINT!

FINISH THE SCARY STORY in 100 words, USING CREEPY VOCABULARY. GIVE IT TO YOUR ENGLISH TEACHER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN SOME HALLOWE'EN CHOCOLATES!

It was a dark and stormy night in the middle of a freezing country forest. In the distance, thunder rumbled and beasts shivered; trees shook; people hid in their houses. But along the woodland road, ...

INTERESTED IN CREATIVE WRITING? Send in your work!

OWLS

Oldbury Wells Literature Society

This is a new group for people who want to write – from poetry, to narrative, to journalism. Whether you're interested in one of these or all of them, come along to Miss Roberts' room on Wednesday lunch times.

Ten Hallowe'en questions... how many can you answer?

1. What kills a zombie?
2. How can you protect yourself against a Vampire? – if you can name three different ways, have a bonus mark!
3. What is a group of witches called?
4. What is the name of the Jake Gyllenhaal film which contains a man in a rabbit suit?
5. What is the name for the day after Hallowe'en – and for a bonus point, what is supposed to happen?
6. In the Wallace and Gromit film about a Were-Rabbit, how can the rabbit be killed?
7. What time of the day is called "the Witching Hour"?
8. How many heads does Cerberus have?
9. What's the name of the doctor in Nightmare Before Christmas?
10. What is ET dressed as (for Hallowe'en) in the film ET?

1. You have to destroy its brain.
2. With garlic, a cross or sunlight (or a stake through the heart)
3. A coven
4. Donnie Darko
5. All Saints Day – we are supposed to celebrate all the saints
6. A 24 carrot bullet!
7. The hour immediately after midnight
8. Three
9. Dr Finkelstein
10. A ghost

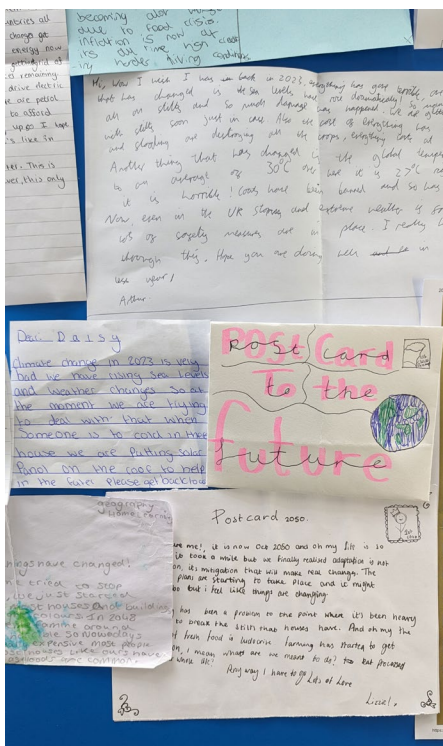
Answers - Ten Hallowe'en questions

TITLE	AUTHOR
THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW	WASHINGTON IRVING
THE BIRDS	DAPHNE DU MAURIER
GOOSEBUMPS	R L STINE
THE WITCHES	ROALD DAHL
DRACULA	BRAM STOKER
FRANKENSTEIN	MARY SHELLY
JAWS	PETER BENCHLEY
HAMLET	SHAKESPEARE
THE TELL TALE HEART	EDGAR ALLEN POE
THE WOMAN IN BLACK	SUSAN HILL

Answers - Creepy Books turned into films

GEOGRAPHY

Year 9 tackling the Climate Crisis Geography work Autumn 2023



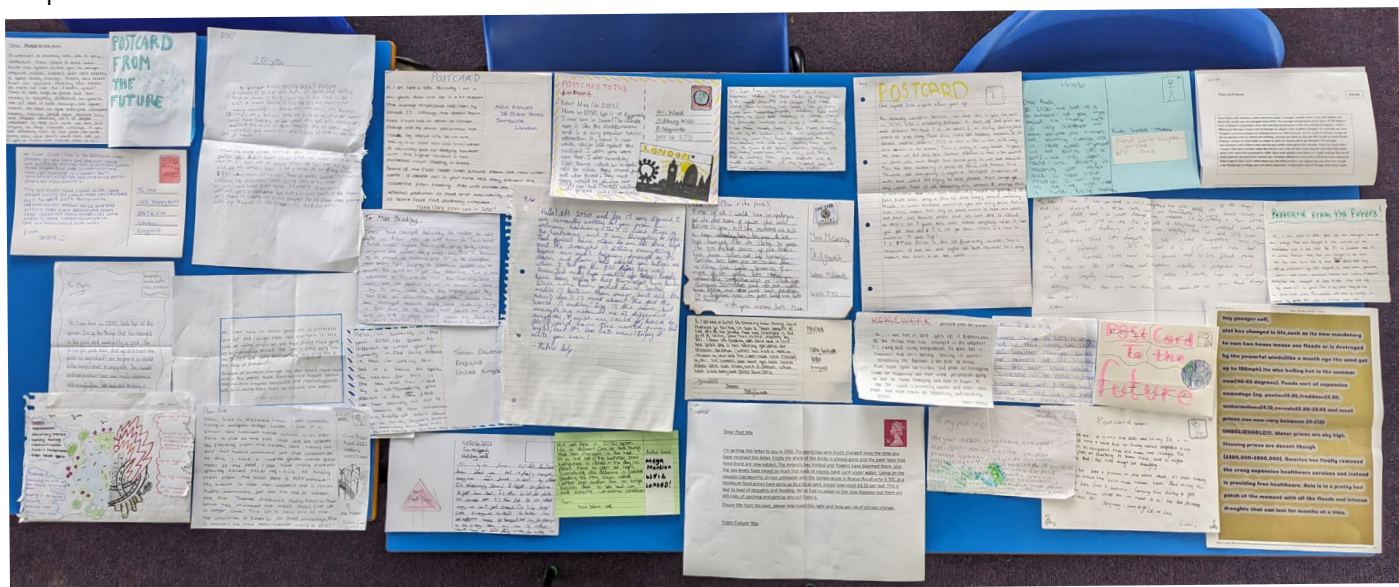
In Year 9 Geography, the pupils have been learning about causes, consequences, and responses to the Climate Crisis. They have seen how climate change can be a gradual and natural process over thousands of years, but also how humans are currently causing rapid climate change, leading to the Climate Crisis.

Year 9s imagined what life will be like in the UK in 2050 and described it from their future selves in a postcard.

Many Geographers described negative impacts of the Climate Crisis in the UK, for example, the increasing prices and decreasing availability of some foods and how hot and unbearable summer temperatures are getting. Some talked about the issue of flooding becoming increasingly worse due to sea level rise and the intensity of storms.

Positively, a few postcards did realise a lot of Britons would be able to go to southern England for Mediterranean style holidays as temperatures get warmer, which does help to reduce the number of flights!

These postcards are going to be proudly displayed in the Geography classrooms to educate students about the Climate Crisis and showcase the amazing work Year 9 are continuing to produce!



HISTORY

Black History Month (October)

Learning more about those that made a difference...



KeyStage 3 have been working hard learning about those that made a difference during Black History Month. Year 7 have been investigating the life of African prince, British soldier, enslaved person and anti-slavery campaigner James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw; whilst Year 8 and 9 have found out more about the life of Georgian boxer and celebrity Bill Richmond.

Big Pit Mining Museum

Year 8 go underground!

During the last week of term, 98 Year 8 students travelled to Wales to find out more about the work of miners at the Big Pit museum. After being fully kitted up, students descended in the cage to pit bottom before exploring the workings of the mine, led by former miners. This serves as an introduction to the work they will be doing next term on the Industrial Revolution. A great time was had!



MATHS

Hold the frontpage – WE WANT MORE MATHS!!

Maths Revision sessions

Our Year 11 students have demanded more maths after school to support them in the challenge of beating last year's outstanding results of 78% pass rate.

So, with the support of parents and staff, we have been offering after-school support for all ability groups in maths. Initially, we planned to start with just three classes and gradually build up from there. However, we were overwhelmed by the incredible turnout. Luckily two staff were on standby.

Since September 14th, the maths team has been running these after-school revision sessions (with the exception of a one-week when staff were on a school trip – we all need a break), and we have been thrilled to see over 80 students per week on average. But what truly captivates us about these sessions is the unwavering motivation and active participation of students. They are eagerly diving into topics taught a year or even two years ago, demonstrating a genuine appreciation for the extra support provided by their teachers, who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Here are just a few quotes from our students when they were asked to reflect on their experience with the revision sessions:

"If you haven't attended these after-school revision sessions yet, don't waste another moment! Hurry before it's too late!"

"The maths sessions after school are great because they are convenient and I am able to ask for help whenever I need it. I wouldn't have done as much maths revision if the maths department didn't offer the sessions - they are a massive help!"

"It's really helpful how they've started the sessions so soon! It's made me feel more prepared for my mocks."

"These maths sessions have really helped my confidence build, and I think they're securing my knowledge."



MUSIC

Rocking it out!

Year 10 Band 'Headlock'



Back in August, three of our Year 10 students performed at Farmer Phil's Music Festival in Ratlinghope, near Shrewsbury.

'Headlock' was formed by Morgan, Camren and Ben when they started Oldbury Wells together in Year 7. A true love of music, enthusiasm and self-discipline to jam and practice together most break and lunchtimes over the past three years, lead to this: their first big public performance.

And what a show - on the main stage at a music festival, with a crew of sound engineers and an audience of over 250 people! An incredible experience.

So, what's next for 'Headlock'? Along with their rhythm guitarist, Ethan, who unfortunately, couldn't make the festival gig, the boys have started writing their own songs, two of the members are embarking on a GCSE in Music, and, who knows... perhaps they'll be on the Pyramid stage at Glastonbury one day?



Shropshire Music Service 'Riffs Workshop'

Fill out an [application form](#) to take part in this brilliant opportunity!

The Shropshire Music Service 'Riffs Workshop' which takes place once a month on a Saturday at Bayston Hill near Shrewsbury was attended on 7th October by Dylan Williams and Morgan Rodgers in Year 10 and Hugo Fowler-Rolls in Year 8.

These band-building sessions focus on rock and pop music and are open to students who play electric guitar, bass and drums and who are of ideally a standard of at least Grade 1 or equivalent and above.

Students do not have to be receiving instrumental tuition from the Music Service to take part. Available to anyone under the age of 18.

Remaining dates for the Autumn term are 11th November and 2nd December, 10am-1pm

Workshops will continue to run throughout the school year.

The cost for each workshop is £15

Siblings discount: £10 per participant for 2 or more children in the same family.

Encore Vocal Group

Every Thursday lunchtime

Vocal Group 'Encore' rehearsals have moved to Thursday lunchtimes at 1.30pm in the music room which means more students can now attend. Rehearsals are going well and we look forward to welcoming more new members of this fabulous group across all year groups. The only requirement is that you enjoy singing!

Bring your lunch with you so that we can make a prompt start to rehearsals.

Key Stage 3 lessons so far...

Year 7 - The Language of Music

Year 7 students have embarked on their journey of learning to understand the language of music since they arrived in September. They have been learning the fundamental symbols of music and relating those symbols to sound through performance and composition. They have enjoyed lots of whole class performance work as well as composing with partners.

Year 8 - Hooks and Riffs

Year 8 music students have been learning all about Hooks, Riffs and repeated patterns in music across a range of genres. It has been great to see so many of our drummers and guitarists using their own instruments and sharing their skills during class lessons.

Year 9 - Soundtracks

Year 9 are exploring the impact of music in films and learning about compositional devices that film music composers use to create their scores. Students have been composing character Leitmotifs and performing to their peers as well as analysing famous Leitmotifs using GCSE style analysis.

Welcome new Instrumental and Vocal Students!

Congratulations to all of our new instrumental and vocal students who have signed up and started their tuition this half term. An exciting time lies ahead for them all. They are:

Violin: Mia Heeley and Isabelle Bradley; Year 7

Vocal: Lizzie Dower; Year 9 and Delta Farrington-Hyrons; Year 11

Guitar: Caleb Veal and Seth Green; Year 7

Piano: Douglas Gray and Bradley Masefield; Year 7

Drumkit: Holly Rickwood and Jacob Nixon; Year 7

They join a fabulous number of students across the school who are enjoying learning to play an instrument, receiving their tuition at OWS across the school week.

Are you interested in learning to play a musical instrument or have singing lessons?

We offer a broad array of tuition opportunities here at Oldbury Wells. All Year 7's have had introductory talks about tuition and some students have already got started which is fantastic.

We offer tuition on Brass, Wind, and String instruments, Piano, Drumkit, Guitar and Vocal tuition.

Please contact jo.dangerfield@oldburywells.com for all the information you need and how we can get you started. It is never too late to start playing a musical instrument!

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Día de los Muertos

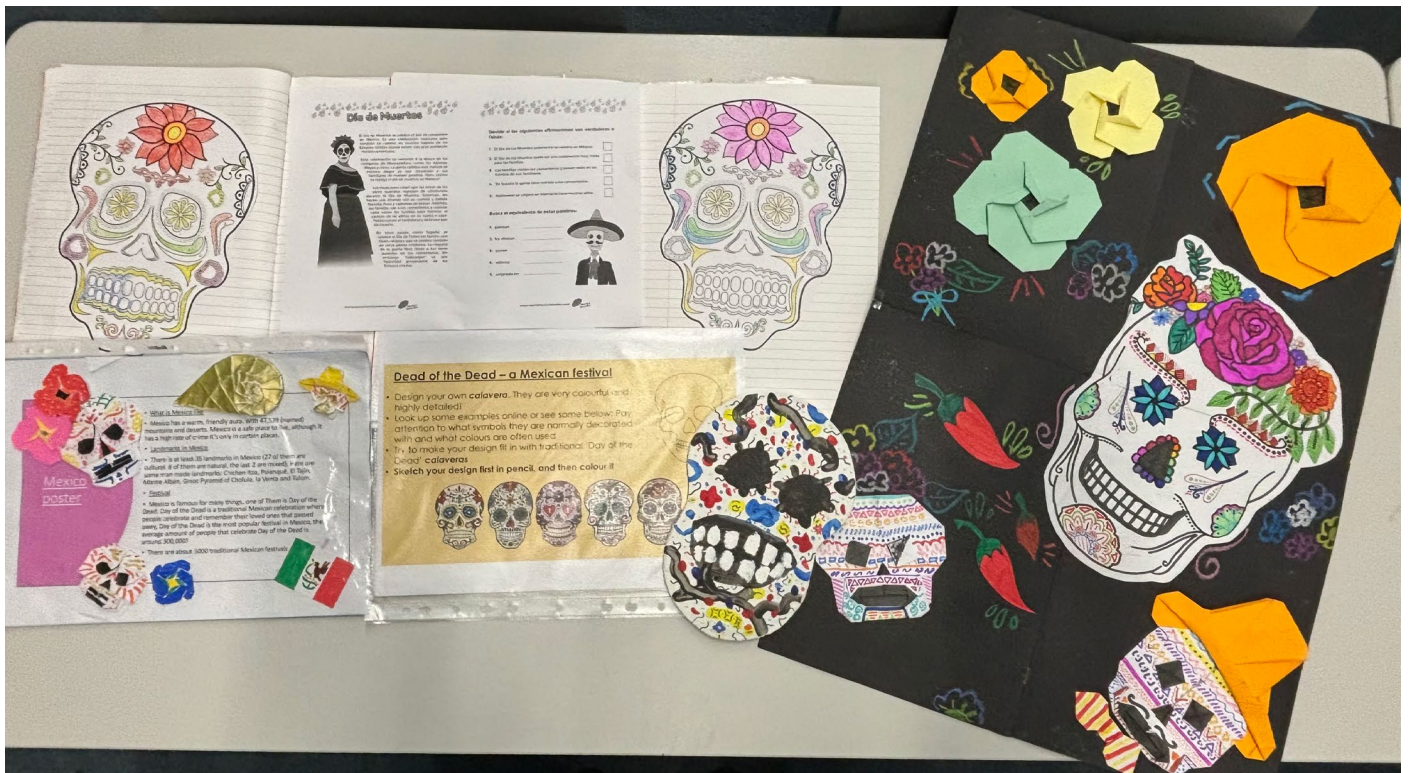
Day of the Dead

Students for their GCSE course need to know about different Hispanic festivals that are celebrated around the world. It is so important that pupils appreciate the cultural importance of festivals as part of Hispanic culture which includes their music, food, religion and dance, etc. Some pupils have already had an insight into the Mexican world from seeing the film *Coco* which follows a 12-year old boy who travels to the Land of the Dead. This is where he seeks the help of his deceased musician great-great-grandfather to return him to his family among the living and to reverse his family's ban on music.

Día de los Muertos is a Mexican Festival that comes from the Aztec tradition over 3000 years ago. The Aztecs would honour the goddess of the underworld "Michecacihuati" for 1 month. There is a lot of art involved in this festival. Pupils have been decorating skulls in lessons this week to demonstrate how important death and rebirth are in the Mexican culture. They believe that as long as they are remembered after death, they are not dead, they live on in our minds and in our souls.

Nowadays people also remember their loved ones, "the departed", by having an altar and putting food they liked on it and giving offerings to celebrate their life.

Some of our pupils find this topic so interesting that they will choose to speak about festivals in their speaking exams at the end of Year 11.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Undefeated Oldbury march on to round 2

Year 8 Boys Football



Oldbury Wells u13s stormed into the second round of the Presidents County Trophy with a strong performance against Shrewsbury Academy.

It was a fantastic start for team Oldbury when Harry Ryan, playing in a more forward position to normal, rose to head home a Jack Bill cross within the first couple of minutes. This really set the tone for the opening half as Oldbury scored twice more through captain Joe Griffiths and Henry Rollings. As the half went on Shrewsbury came more into the game and grabbed two well worked goals back, to leave the score at half time 3-2 to Oldbury.

After some words of wisdom at half time, Oldbury came out again with real desire and purpose to finish the job. Super sub Austin Wood speeding away down the wing to cut in and finish well past the goalkeeper. But again, Shrewsbury wouldn't give up, making sure Oldbury really dug deep to secure the pathway to the next round. Shrewsbury scored an excellent third before Harry Ryan fired in a rebound from 15 yards to put the icing on the cake.

Well played to all involved and we look forward to Lakelands in round two.

Netball

Competitions underway!



As usual, we kick off the academic year with a number of District Netball Competitions, with all OWS teams showing their fierce, friendly rivalry with the other schools in the area! Year 7, 9 and 11 have so far competed against schools including Bridgnorth Endowed, William Brookes, Ludlow, Church Stretton and Lacon Childe and all 3 year groups have come out with a podium finish. The 3 teams all finished in 3rd place overall with a series of wins and some narrow losses.

Then last week we hosted KS3 matches versus Bridgnorth Endowed School. The OWS Year 8 and 9 teams had a really close battle with the BES team, but finished each quarter just ahead of their opponents. The first quarter finish 4-3, then 7-5, 11-7 and the final score was 14-10 to Oldbury. There was great determination shown throughout and also really good teamwork for the 2 year groups to gel together so well and support each other through the match. The Year 7 team also battled really well and didn't give up at any point in the game despite falling behind their opponents early in the game. They stuck together and had their most successful quarter right at the end, scoring both of their goals in the final few minutes.

Well done to all those who took part!

Pictured are our Year 8 and 9 teams: Back left to right: Jess Jones, Tamsin Cawthorn, Macey Hand, Leila Ward, Phoebe Duffy-Lashley, Lucy Courtman, Millie Fretwell and Kitty Stokes. Front: Amelia Maddison, Isla Loveridge, Annabelle Stringer, Grace Faulkner and Lola Moore

Sports Awards 2022-2023

Celebrating Students' Sporting Achievements!

Just before we broke up for the summer holidays in July, the PE department held their annual Sports Awards presentation to recognise the successes of all of our young people who demonstrated outstanding contribution to school sports in the last academic year. Over 100 students were part of the event and awards included:

- Sports Day Captains
- Victor and Victrix Ludorum
- Inter house winners across the year
- Team and individual success mentions
- Sports Leadership
- Sports Colours
- Star of the future awards
- Legacy Awards

The event was really well received and pupils are now seen to be proudly wearing their school colour badges and new ties in Year 11. There is a plan to move back to the larger, more formal Sports Awards Evening in the Summer of 2024, so watch this space!

Well done to all of our winners!



A star on the horizon

Emma Merrick - Year 8



Congratulations to Year 8 student Emma Merrick who has made it into the Shropshire County Football team.

Emma complete the county trial and was selected to represent at county level, we are immensely proud of Emma who also plays for the school girls team. As a defender Emma always shows great determination and natural flair in all training sessions and matches.

Emma played for the U14 Girls county team recently against Staffordshire and has been chosen again in their upcoming fixture, this time travelling south to take on Northamptonshire. Good Luck Emma and enjoy the game!

Our new Handball Club!

Every Wednesday after school

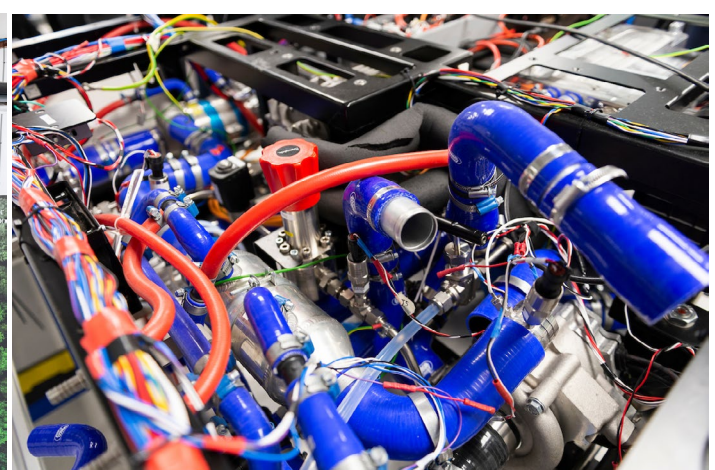
This academic year, we have started our first Handball after-school club for KS3 students which runs on a Wednesday. Handball is an invasion game and can be described as Football with hands with similarities to Basketball due to dribbling and rugby due to the tackling skills. We've had great interest from the students so far and it's been fabulous to see them enjoying Handball. We have entered U13 boys and girls into the National School Competition so if any students are interested in making the team, please attend the club for your chance of selection. We will also be arranging friendly matches with other local schools.

SCIENCE

Aerospace visit!

Year 11

This month a group of Year 11 aerospace enthusiasts got the chance to visit ZeroAvia, a cutting edge research facility based at Cotswold airport that are retro fitting hydrogen fuel cells into aircraft. During the day the students got a tour of a Boeing 737, the hydrogen generation plant, the fuel cell design station and got to talk to an ex-RAF and current ZeroAvia test pilot. They then saw how the team have fitted a Dornier 228 with fuel tanks, fuel cells and an electric engine which gave their first zero emissions flight in 2023. The students are currently undertaking a research project with ZeroAvia and IRIS, The Institute for Research in Schools, to assess the viability of large scale hydrogen powered passenger aircraft. This would be the first steps to achieve zero emission commercial flight.



TEXTILES

Year 7 Hat Making!

Year 7's first term in Textiles consisted of them making their own hats. A great effort shown by all. Well done to Year 7!

Pictured here are class 7x/Te4.





Charity Work!

Doing our bit for local charities

Sixth Form have been getting involved in supporting local charity events this half term. We held our annual coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer support and raised over £170. A team of Year 12 and 13 students along with Miss Silverstone and Mrs Bishell took part in the Bridgnorth Steps Walk raising over £200 for local charities.



Careers

Follow our Twitter Career's Page: [@owscareers](https://twitter.com/owscareers)



The careers team have also been busy this term. We have welcomed in guest speakers from the Army, and car and construction industries. We are also supporting our Year 11 students make their next steps by having hosted speakers from Shrewsbury Colleges Group and Telford College. If you want to find out more about post-16 choices, please join us for our information evening which will take place on the 9th November, 6-8pm in the school Sports Hall.

USEFUL INFORMATION



STAY SAFE THIS BONFIRE NIGHT

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

GO TO AN ORGANISED AND LICENSED EVENT



HALLOWEEN

DON'T GET TRICKED INTO BEING UNSAFE

www.shropshirefire.gov.uk



STAY SAFE THIS BONFIRE NIGHT

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

When using sparklers:

- Always wear gloves
- Only hold one sparkler at a time
- Don't give sparklers to children under 5-years-old
- Put them in a bucket of cold water when finished with

www.anchorpoint.co.uk

ANCHORED

BRIDGNORTH

Thursday 2nd November • 9:30 - 2PM

St James' Hall Church

Lodge Lane, The Grove, Bridgnorth, WV15 5DD

Years 3 - 5

£3 inc Lunch & Goodie Bag

Featuring: **Sarah Hechery** **Lucy Tyle** **The Open The Book Team**

AN EXCITING HOLIDAY CLUB FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH GAMES, WORKSHOPS, SONGS, FOOD & COMPETITIONS.

**FSM attend for free. Prices listed on website*

Essential items for my school bag:

<input type="checkbox"/> Pencil Case	<input type="checkbox"/> 150mm Ruler
<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific Calculator	<input type="checkbox"/> Glue Stick
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Dictionary	<input type="checkbox"/> Compass
or	<input type="checkbox"/> Protractor
<input type="checkbox"/> French Dictionary	<input type="checkbox"/> Pencil Sharpener
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Black Pens	<input type="checkbox"/> Rubber
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Green Pens	<input type="checkbox"/> Colouring Pencils
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Highlighter Pen	<input type="checkbox"/> Earphones (Music lessons)
<input type="checkbox"/> HB Pencil	

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Iraq, right now children across the globe can so easily go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

- FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS**
There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the news, both online and offline. Before answering their questions, show them you're interested in what they know to help practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.
- RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE**
Starting a conversation about upsetting content shouldn't be the last thing your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking. To make sure you have good communication, remember, empathise, to choose a conversation your child feels safe and comfortable.
- KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE**
With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid using technical words. You can go through images and videos with them, making sure they don't see anything that's too scary. You can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happened, as long as they're ready for that.
- EMPHASISE HOPE**
Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared and/or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and kindness. Encourage your child to think about how they can help, even if it's just through activities which make them feel like they're contributing to the world.
- MONITOR REACTIONS**
All children react differently to stories, and young people might not directly say that they're scared or worried. Watch for signs of emotional distress, such as changes in eating and sleeping patterns, or if they seem to be avoiding certain topics. Allow them to express their feelings in a safe, judgement-free way.
- CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS**
It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process. Adults often find it hard to deal with the news, so it's important to regulate your emotions on the outside in order to support your child through worrying times.
- MEET OUR EXPERT**
Claire Campbell is the director of Focus Up South Africa, which has developed a system that currently helps identify victims and companies to fight bullying around the world. Focus Up helps to ensure that victims are supported through their struggles and get the help they need, not just when it's needed.
- SET LIMITS**
Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, let alone in times of crisis. Make the discussion one step at a time. It's important to keep children away from news and social media, but it's also important to try to limit exposure by using software to restrict content and enforcing screen-time limits.
- TAKE THINGS SLOWLY**
Try not to overwhelm your child with information or to force them to watch the news. Offer a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting topic and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to this conversation can be a big step, so it's important to take it one step at a time.
- ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS**
Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are often shared on social media. Encourage your child to ask questions about what they see. It's important to be honest and to focus on positive events and stories of hope and kindness.
- FIND A BALANCE**
There's often a tremendous temptation to stay right up to date with events. Our advice is to take a step back and view the most recent video on social media. It's important to take a step back and view the most recent video on social media. It's important to take a step back and view the most recent video on social media.
- BUILD RESILIENCE**
News has never been so accessible, while our children's lives are so different. Encourage them to use the tools to manage their current and future experiences. Encourage them to use the tools to manage their current and future experiences.
- IDENTIFY HELP**
It's hugely important that children know where to go for support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to talk to a trusted adult or to a professional who has trained adults are, if it's essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

Twitter: @nationalonline_safety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram: @nationalonline_safety LinkedIn: /national_online_safety

Follow our socials to keep updated:

Facebook: [Oldbury Wells School](#)

Instagram: [@oldburywellsschool](#)

Twitter: [@oldburywells](#)

Twitter (Careers): [@owscareers](#)

Our [website](#) also includes a lot of useful information!

NOTICEBOARD

Shropshire Council SEND Partnership Self-Evaluation Framework

PACC has been asked to coproduce the review of the Shropshire Self Evaluation Framework, where the local area is asked to consider the effectiveness of local systems in a range of areas.

PACC has some existing feedback about Parent Carer experience in these areas but we want to understand if this has changed, so we can share the most current feedback.

We would be very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete a short survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/93CyGCKcBE>

Equipment Reminder

- Black pens
- Green Pens
- Red Pens
- HB Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Scientific calculator
- Spanish or French Dictionary
- Highlighter pens
- Glue Stick
- Colouring Pencils
- Compass
- Protractor
- Earphones

Can we remind all students to bring a refillable water bottle to school.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2023

Starts:

Year 7 & 12 ONLY - Tuesday 5 September 2023

All Students - Wednesday 6 September 2023

Half-term - Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November 2023 inclusive

Ends - Thursday 21 December 2023

PD Days - Monday 4 September, Friday 27 October 2023

Spring Term 2024

Starts - Tuesday 9 January 2024

Half-term - Monday 12 - Friday 16 February 2024 inclusive

Ends - Friday 22 March 2024

PD Days - Monday 8 January 2024

Stay safe this Bonfire Night

Shropshire fire and Rescue service is helping parents and young people deal with fire setting behaviours. If your worried you child is starting to show signs of fire setting behaviours which may include:




- Small burn holes in clothes and carpet
- Charred paper in sinks or the bins
- Matches and lighters hidden in cupboards or under the bed.
- Unusual fascination with fire
- Unexpected burnt objects in the home or garden
- Burnt windowsills.
- Smell of smoke on the child's clothes or home

The fire service has a fire education scheme for children and young people who have developed fire starting behaviours called lLearn. Any young person under the age of 16 can be referred to the scheme which aims to raise awareness of the dangers of setting fires and consequences. The programme offers two to one fire safety education, usually delivered in the home, by advisors employed by SFRS that are fully DRB checked.

For more information on the scheme or to make a referral please contact the Service on 01743 260475 or email:

fire.setters@shropshirefire.gov.uk

Follow us on social media:

-  Oldbury Wells School
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-  oldburywellsschool

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