

# ORCHARD SCHOOL Newsletter

[www.orchardschoolbristol.co.uk](http://www.orchardschoolbristol.co.uk)

## Key dates

### October 2020

**Thursday 15th October** is our first Parent Forum of the year. All parents are welcome. It will be a virtual meeting, held on Microsoft Teams, from 5:00-5:45pm. Parents can email Mrs Beckie Shepherd for the link: [bshepherd@orchard.tila.school](mailto:bshepherd@orchard.tila.school)

**Friday 23rd October** is the last day of Term 1. This is a normal day for all students. All students start back for Term 2 on Tuesday 3rd November.

### November 2020

**Monday 2nd November** is an inset day for our Trust. All students are due back in to school on Tuesday 3rd November.

**Thursday 26th November** is Year 9 Parents Evening. This will take a different format this year. More

## Welcome

I feel very lucky that so far we have been able to keep the school open for all year groups and staff this term, which has provided our students with some continuity and routine to help them get back into learning. Your children are remarkable - and have stepped up to all the expectations we place on them (and extra ones due to Covid safe procedures) absolutely brilliantly. I am so proud of them.

As we near the end of term, and with the evening approaching earlier, children will be feeling more tired. This often can make everyone feel less tolerant and quicker to show their frustrations.

We have found in our Year 7 group, we have had more friendship fallouts over social media apps than ever before, particularly Snapchat. To access Snapchat, children must have a date of birth which shows they are 13 years or older. This means that all students in Year 7 and most in Year 8 will have put in a false date of birth to access the app. We are asking all parents to check their child's phone and for all Year 7s to delete this app. Within this newsletter is an article on Snapchat which will help you understand it further.

This newsletter also includes a focus on languages, Year 9 art, reading, our Rights Respecting work, and our Year 10 village. I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and I wish you a restful October half term.

**Julia Hinchliffe**, Headteacher

## An Orchard at Orchard

Not everybody knows that we have apple trees at Orchard. It is wonderful to connect our school name with our grounds. As you will know, we have also renamed our Houses to be named after Orchards. The students and staff voted for their favourite names: Avalon, Butterfield, Dorchester and Wisley.

**Pictured: Apples on our trees.**



## Year Group News

### Y7

The year group have been working hard on their tutor group boards, decorating them and giving their tutor groups some identity. We have also kicked off with our house competitions which the students are enjoying. A thank you from me for supporting the village and everyone's safety by sending your son/daughter to school with a mask.

I would like to bring to your attention that we are having to resolve several issues due to students use of social media when they are not on the school site. I will be delivering an assembly on social media use in the near future, have already planned a social media philosophy lesson and we request your support in monitoring your son's/daughter's social media usage. We would like all students ideally to leave the year 7 group chats and for them to delete Snapchat from their mobile devices. It can be a real problem for our younger years and we just want them to be able to enjoy their friendships with positivity. We'd really appreciate your support in asking that Year 7 delete Snapchat from their phones. Thank you - it's very much appreciated.

**Miss Carly Bryan, Head of Year**

### Y8

I am proud to say that Year 8 have adapted well to our new way of schooling. They have shown great pride in our village and conduct themselves with maturity both in lessons and in the corridor.

Students need to ensure they are organised and equipped for learning. To support students with this they all have a planner. Please encourage them to use this daily to help them keep track of their work and upcoming homework deadlines. Our homework club in the library is open to all Year 8 students on Tuesday and Friday after school.

This month we will be spending more time discussing the benefits and risks attached to using the internet. It has come to my attention that a number of students are using social media sites with age restrictions of 13. Working closely with students and parents will be vital in ensuring safe use of the internet, I appreciate your ongoing support with this.

**Miss Laura Evans, Head of Year**

### Y9

I am pleased with how Year 9 have now settled into the new year and the general atmosphere in lessons in our village is of focused and engaged learning. I am particularly impressed with the standard of discussion that Year 9 students are taking part in during lessons – they have lots of questions to ask and opinions to share about the issues of the day and the infamous 2020 that we are living through. We are addressing a lot of this and developing the skill of oracy through our Values Curriculum in tutor time; where we are currently exploring topics such – growth mindset, metacognition, turning setbacks into success, dealing with stress, showing gratitude and future career planning. It is great to see so many year 9 expressing an interest in the Duke of Edinburgh programme and I would encourage as many students as possible to apply for this fantastic opportunity which opens doors and minds for young people and is respected on CVs. I look forward to discussing further the students' subject interests and career planning over the next term towards the exciting milestone of GCSE option choices in 2021.

**Mr Pete Hurrn, Head of Year**

## Year Group News

### Y10

Students have acclimatised extremely well to the unusual school life in their village and have settled into their daily routines with maturity. Year 10 students have, by and large, met the high expectations set out at the beginning of the year. It is critical for the success of everybody that the highest standards of behaviour, attitude to learning and work are upheld consistently throughout the year.

To ensure a successful learning environment for all students, the Ready to Learn system exists. However, in Year 10 students are encouraged to take more responsibility for their behaviour and to reflect on the impact of their actions on other learners. Your support in reiterating our clear expectations is appreciated.

Finally, in helping to prepare our Year 10 students for the rigours of GCSE study and to become better independent learners, homework is routinely being set and students will see an increase on previous years. Whilst we certainly don't wish to overburden students, homework is necessary in supporting and consolidating learning done in school. Students are all instructed to record their daily homework inside their planners, enabling parents and carers to support where necessary.

Overall, Year 10s have continued their hugely impressive start, and I look forward to students maintaining these standards.

**Mr Chris Daniel, Head of Year**

### Y11

We are well into the term now and Year 11 are continuing to work hard towards their GCSE exams. We have been really impressed by the start they have made this term and many teaching staff have commented on the positive behaviour and attitude towards learning shown by our pupils.

This term and next are busy terms with mock exams approaching and post 16 choices to consider. It's important that students stay on top of their work and stay organised. That means checking homework is completed on time and to a good standard. By doing this, students are already helping with their revision and preparation for the mocks.

In the next few weeks, we will be adding top tips videos and advice from each of our faculty leaders onto the school website. This will be a great resource for students to access in the lead up to their mock exams and will help them prepare as effectively as possible. We are all conscious that Year 11 can be stressful for students. We will include some links to resources that promote positive mental health for students – it's more important than ever that they have good balance in their everyday life looking after healthy eating, exercise, good sleep and maintaining good relationships with friends and family.

**Mr Mat Grafton, Head of Year**

## European Day of Languages

We have been celebrating the European Day of Languages – all students have been involved in tutor group time. It has been a rewarding and enriching experience and wonderful to see the whole-school community participate in this together.



The European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year



on 26th of September, since 2001. The purpose of the day is to encourage understanding of the importance of language learning and to increase plurilingualism and inter-cultural understanding across Europe. It is also a day that promotes linguistic and cultural diversity and encourages lifelong language learning in and out of school.

### Languages at Orchard

The student population of Orchard School Bristol is fantastically diverse and one that is rich with linguistic abilities. As well as English and the French and Spanish that students learn in their MFL lessons,



students at Orchard speak 41 languages. These include languages that are spoken across Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. The top three most spoken languages by Orchard students are Somali, Polish and Arabic

In total, more than 1/5 of Orchard students speak at least one other language in addition to English. This means that between us,

we could communicate with around 2/3 of the population of the world in their native language - amazing!



### Ways to get involved

Students can submit a postcard design for the house competition



in school – tutors have all the details! We are also asking students if they already speaks another language in addition to English. They can volunteer to teach your tutor group a few words – for example, how to say their name and where they live, or what their favourite colour is.

Try out a tongue twister in another tongue! <http://www.tongue-twister.net/>

Listen to and have a go at singing a song or rhyme in another language: <https://www.mamalisa.com/?t=eh>

Students can design a T-Shirt that might be created and work around Europe on next year's European Day of Languages: <https://edl.ecml.at/Activities/EDLT-ShirtContest/tab-id/3147/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

Download the European Day of Languages Language Challenge app (**app icon pictured right**) to help you practise a language you are already learning and try out a something new!

Let us know what you have done to celebrate the European Day of Languages – we are looking forward to hearing all about it! Students can email their MFL teachers or let Ms Claire Jones know directly: [cljones@orchard.tila.school](mailto:cljones@orchard.tila.school)



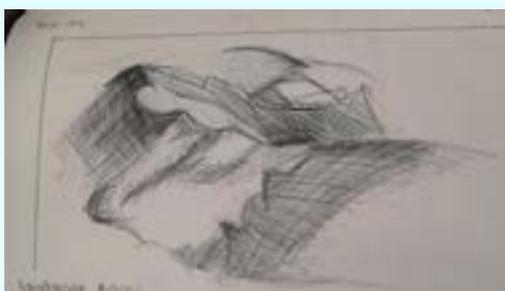
## Art Update

Our Year 9 Art students have been studying the work of David Bomberg and Dennis Creffield both British artists and have produced drawings in pen, charcoal and oil pastel with a focus on the use of line. Year 8 have also been learning pencil techniques.



Pictured on this page is work from these Y8 and Y9 students:

- Matthew F
- Mia F
- Kenieka H
- Finah FS
- Lara C
- Abi GS
- Krystal J
- Grace C
- Meena O
- Omar G
- Lyla R
- Oliwier R
- Malika U



## English News: Creative Writing Competitions

The Faculty of English are thrilled to announce THREE competitions running this term.

Here is a summary and a little bit more information. Students can ask their English teachers if they want to know more - and we'll be covering all of this in English lessons too.

### **Untold Stories - Closes 13th November 2020**

This autumn, English Heritage are inviting you to write your own poem. Your piece could be about your own experience, a historical figure that deserves more recognition, or an imagined character who has been left out of the history books.

The competition is for people to explore their heritage by capturing the people, places, and communities that have shaped them, and contribute to the heritage that will be handed down to future generations.

The competition is open to all year groups but split into a Year 7 category and a Years 8-11 category. Winners will be selected by English Heritage to be included in the Untold Stories digital poetry anthology. There will also be special Orchard prizes for the entries we think really capture the Orchard spirit - so don't hold back! Good efforts will be recognised.

Go to <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/untold-stories/poetry-competition/> where you will find the entry forms. Email your entry to [creativeprogramme@English-Heritage.org.uk](mailto:creativeprogramme@English-Heritage.org.uk) before midnight on **13th November 2020** using one of the entry forms on the site. You must also include your age category (5-8, 9-12, 13-16, 17+) in the subject of your email. Speak to your teacher, though - the English team will help you get it sent off correctly!

### **Tales of Horror - in three sentences! Closes 23rd October 2020**

Get your creative spook on by writing a horror story in only three sentences. The story could include suspense, creepy settings, blood curdling characters and a chilling twist.

The best stories will leave the judges jumping at shadows, looking over their shoulders and checking under their beds! Email your English teacher with your entries. This competition closes on Friday 23rd October 2020.

### **David Selwyn Prize for Social Satire in Fiction. Closes 16th December 2020**

Social satire is a comic genre that pokes fun at figures in society for their views. Writers exaggerate to expose and criticise people for their stupidity.

This is a longer competition, which allows entrants to write up to 2000 words. There is a prize of £100 for the winner and two runners-up will win £50.

For support and ideas, students can speak to their English teachers. You can also email Ms Laura Clash, Head of English, for further information on this one: [lclash@orchard.tila.school](mailto:lclash@orchard.tila.school)

## UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award

UNICEF is the **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund**. It provides humanitarian aid to children worldwide.

At Orchard, we have started on the path to bring human rights to the forefront of our minds. We have joined thousands of other schools from across the country by joining The Rights Respecting Schools Award. The award aims to put children's rights at the heart of schools in the UK by working alongside the expertise of UNICEF.

UNICEF works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is an award which started in 2004 and continues to grow – with new schools joining the movement every year. It is an award which recognises schools who embed these values in daily school life and who give children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.

Using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as a guide, we will be working with more UK schools from across the country in promoting Rights and Respect for all. Over 1.6 million children in the UK go to a Rights Respecting School and nearly 5,000 schools up and down the country are working through the Award. Schools work with us on a journey to become fully Rights Respecting.

The Award recognises a school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into practice within the school and beyond. Here at Orchard we are at the very beginning of our journey. Some students and staff will complete questionnaires so we can gauge the students and staff's understanding of UNCRC. This information will be used to inform an action plan so we can bring Rights and Respect to the forefront of conversations in school.

If you have any questions about our journey to achieving this award, please contact Mr Fergus O'Donovan: [fodonovan@orchard.tila.school](mailto:fodonovan@orchard.tila.school).

If you would like more information about the award generally, then please visit the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award site: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/about-the-rrsa/>



## House Team News

Over the past couple of weeks, tutor groups have been designing their Tutor Boards ready to be judged for the annual Tutor Board competition! There have been some excellent designs so far. We will post pictures of the winning boards in our November Newsletter.

We have also had the European Day of Languages challenge, which will ask for our students to design a postcard inspired by a different country, culture or language. They can include photos, flags, symbols, pictures, drawings and words, and the winning postcard will not only earn their house 10 points but will also be used as the reward postcard by the Languages Faculty for the whole year!

We have an exciting Console Competition this month, which students are taking part in after school, as well as some Physical Challenges which will also give students the chance to earn points for houses!

### House Score Updates

In the first two weeks of term, Dorchester House won the best attendance and Avalon House won best conduct. The totals are:

**Avalon** – 16

**Dorchester** - 16

**Butterfield** – 8

**Wisley** – 4

These are updated every 2 weeks. We will keep you updated in every Newsletter.

## Woodland Trust Trees at Orchard

We are so pleased to announce that our Gardening Club, led by Mr Tom Fisher, has been granted a school trees pack! We will be receiving 15 saplings, which are due to arrive in March. These will be nurtured by our Gardening Club and will make a beautiful addition to our lovely grounds.

The trees will arrive with bamboo canes and spiral guards to protect them from rabbits and other gnawing animals. The Woodland Trust are giving us advice and guidance on how to plant and care for them, and we also have some arboriculturalists in our community who have volunteered to help too. We will keep you updated with pictures and more news, as soon as the trees arrive.

You can read more about the Trees for Schools project here: <http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/menu/?cat=menu>



## Focus on the Year 10 Village

Year 10 is an important year. We know that all years are important - but the first year of the GCSE course often feels like a pivotal point for many of our students.

Our Year 10 students are based in the old Humanities corridor. This is a light and airy space, with stunning views across the north west of Bristol. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive screen and a High Definition visualiser. Students visit other areas for their specialist lessons, using Covid-safe procedures.

Starting Year 10 in a pandemic has made things feel a bit different this year. Some of our Year 10 students have been telling us about how they are getting on, and what it's like to be in a Year 10 village.



Jorja **(pictured left)** said 'I am really enjoying it so far. I thought it would be hard to be back in school after the lockdown, but it's been fine. My lessons are going well; GCSEs are a definite step-up from Key Stage 3 but the challenge is good! I am really glad that I chose the subjects I did.'

Michael **(pictured right)** said 'We're studying the Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare in English and I am really enjoying that. We're doing bearings and translations for the start of the GCSE Maths course, which is interesting. Overall, I'm enjoying it. The Year 10 village is fine - it's not that different, really!'



Yuusuf **(pictured left)** said 'I think my favourite GCSE subjects so far are Digital Media, French and English. The challenge of the GCSE courses is a good one! The Year 10 village is working well and we still get to go to subject-specific classrooms when we need to, for example for Digital Media we can use the Mac Suite.'

Leonard in 10A2 said 'I think Digital Media is my favourite subject so far, but all of my subjects seem to be going well. It's definitely harder than Year 9 work but I like the village. I actually like being around my own year group all the time.'

This lovely group, all from Wisley house, wanted to talk as a team! 'It's less crowded on the Year 10 corridor and generally, the school feels a bit clearer because of the staggered lunches. The village is great, partly because everything is nearer! All of our lockers are in one place, for example. We thought it would be difficult to wear masks in the corridors but it's really only for a few moments while we're in between rooms. One of the things we miss is welcoming the new Year 7 to Orchard. We haven't seen much of them yet so we look forward to this one day soon, we hope.'

**(Pictured right: (top L-R): Ruby C., Archie L., Dan A. (front L-R) Ahmed E., Paige L.)**



## Reading is Magic Festival

Orchard students have been getting involved with this year's Reading is Magic festival!

The team behind the Bath Children's Literature Festival were so saddened by the necessary cancellation of their festival this year due to Covid-19 that they decided to create a digital festival to bring fantastic author events to children and young people everywhere, accessible online for free. The week-long celebration of books was called Reading is Magic Festival, inspired by Cressida Cowell's key message as the current Waterstones' Children's Laureate: "reading is magic, and magic is for everyone".

The festival offered six days of free, inclusive and engaging digital events for schools and families, featuring leading authors, illustrators and speakers from all over the UK, as well as Canada and USA. All events were broadcast live and then made available to watch on demand afterwards, and will remain freely accessible until the end of 2020.

In school, students thought about the festival's 'theme of the day' each day in their tutor groups. The themes were based on specific points from Cressida Cowell's Children's Laureate Charter, which declared that 'every child has the right to...'

- Be creative for at least 15 minutes a week
- Have a planet to read on
- See themselves reflected in a book
- Have advice from a trained librarian or bookseller
- Read for the joy of it
- 



Event highlights for secondary students included a workshop on creating your own cartoon portrait with Adam Murphy; an event from neurodivergent author Elle McNichol about telling your own story; a talk about improving access to Black History in UK schools from writer, model and actor Eunice Olumide and young writer, poet, and creative Malizah; and a joint event with Cressida Cowell in the UK and Jason Reynolds in the USA celebrating reading for pleasure. You can catch up on these and all other events at <https://www.readingismagicfestival.com/events> - completely free until the end of the year.

"Books have a transformative magic in their unique ability to develop three key magical powers; intelligence, creativity and empathy." Cressida Cowell

## Library Webcat and Book Delivery Service

Looking for something new to read, or need a book to help with homework? Remember that anyone can search our school library catalogue using the Webcat: this is the online computer database of all the books we have in our school library, and it can be accessed in school or at home. You can search for a specific title or author, browse by genre or subject, or explore categories such as most-borrowed or newly-added books. The Webcat will also show you whether books are currently available to borrow, on loan, or in quarantine. Visit <https://orchardschool.oliverasp.co.uk/> to use our Webcat (or access via the direct link on the library page of the school website).

At the moment our library is unable to be used at break and lunchtimes, so we are offering a book delivery service for students to make sure everyone still has access to reading and research material. If you find a book on Webcat that you would like to borrow, please email your request to [library@orchard.tila.school](mailto:library@orchard.tila.school) and your book will be delivered to you in school as soon as possible.



**Pictured: a sample page of our Webcat computer database**

## Scientists of the Week

The Science Faculty have been celebrating the successes of their students each week by each nominating a student who has had an exceptional week in their science learning. They have been hugely impressed with how hard their classes have been working and thinking like scientists and have found it hard to choose just one student each week!

Congratulations to these students who were our Scientists of the Week in September:

**Year 7:** Ellis D., Destiny H., PK C., Jesse H., Enzo J.

**Year 8:** Danny-Junior S., Raivo B., Husnain R., Cameron M.

**Year 9:** Dalal H., Romaine H., Elizabeth P., Brynlee S.

**Year 10:** Jack O'S., Dan H., Jayden B., Ibrahim S., Viktorija J., Conall F., Kajol K., Summer B., Ronnie C-W., Melody C.

**Year 11:** Oceana H., Kobie J., Kim M. **(pictured, right)**



## Social Media - Information for Parents

We know that social media can be worrying for parents and families. Most of our students manage their time on social media safely and responsibly. Many of them maintain healthy friendships on there too, and use it to make arrangements to see each other 'in real life'.

Social media apps are often changing and evolving. It can be hard for parents to keep up. The charity Young Minds offers support to parents about how to communicate with young people about their use of social media. They have many resources on their website and a list of top tips for parents. You can find all of their top tips here: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-social-media-and-the-internet/>

Their support is detailed - on the website (above) there is a link for each of these tips with lots more information and support:

- Have conversations from a young age
- Lead by example
- Ask your child about the apps and websites they use
- Set boundaries - but be realistic
- Reassure them that they can always talk to you
- Talk about personal information
- Talk about social media
- Talk about gaming
- Talk about cyberbullying
- Act on warning signs.



### Focus on Snapchat



**Snapchat** is a popular app among some of our young people. Snapchat was launched in 2011 and is used by millions of people across the world.

Users can take photos and add graphics and texts, as well as apply filters. These photos can then be shared with friends. One of the original attractions of Snapchat was that the photos only lasted a few

seconds after being sent to friends - and then they disappeared. This feature was appealing to young people. They could pull good-natured silly faces, or add fun 'stickers' to their photos, without worrying that the image would be around forever. There were downsides too, though. For example, it was possible to send a mean-spirited or message, which would then disappear without any 'proof' of its existence.

This feature has now been removed from Snapchat. Images can stay up for as long as a user chooses if they create a 'story'. These can stay up for 24 hours and users can take screenshots too. There is no way to filter or moderate Snapchat, so young people can be exposed to adult content.

We have links to more information on our website, including more information on Snapchat. You can see our parents' guide to e-safety on our website here: <https://www.orchardschoolbristol.co.uk/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=264>

## Parent Forum

Our next Parent Forum will be a virtual meeting, held on Microsoft Teams. This worked brilliantly last time and so we're going to do the same again.

The Orchard Parent Forum is an opportunity to learn about what's going on in the school, to discuss what's working well and to offer your thoughts and ideas for Orchard.

All parents are welcome to attend - it doesn't matter if you have never been before or if you're new to the Orchard community.

**Our next meeting is on Thursday 15th October from 5:00 - 5:45pm.**

**Please note that this is a virtual meeting, held on Microsoft Teams - you can email Mrs Beckie Shepherd for the link: [bshepherd@orchard.tila.school](mailto:bshepherd@orchard.tila.school).**

These are the dates of the next Parent Forums. We usually meet at **5.15pm to 6.00pm**, unless otherwise announced:

Thursday 15th October 2020, 5:00 - 5:45pm

Wednesday 18th November 2020, 5:15 - 6:00pm

Wednesday 20th January 202, 5:15 - 6:00pm

Wednesday 10th March 202, 5:15 - 6:00pm

Wednesday 28th April 2021, 5:15 - 6:00pm

Wednesday 23rd June 2021, 5:15 - 6:00pm

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

## Free School Meals

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals. There are some **common myths** about Free School Meals:

- You do not have to live in social housing to be eligible for Free School Meals.
- You do not need to have been claiming Free School Meals when your child was at primary school.
- Your child does not have to queue or eat separately. Other students will not know that your child receives Free School Meals.
- It's not just about food. We will be able to offer discounts on school trips, educational resources, and in some cases, uniform.

You can access the checker-form and more information here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/free-school-meals>

We can help you to fill in the form if you need it – just email us or phone us: [info@orchard.tila.school](mailto:info@orchard.tila.school) or 01173772000.