

# ORCHARD SCHOOL Newsletter

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



## Key dates

### November 2020

**Wednesday 18th November** is the term two Parent Forum. All parents are welcome. It will be a virtual meeting, held on Microsoft Teams, from 5:15-6:00pm. Parents can email Mrs Beckie Shepherd for the link: [bshepherd@orchard.tila.school](mailto:bshepherd@orchard.tila.school)

**Thursday 26th November** is Year 9 Parents Evening. This will take a different format this year. More information will be sent to Year 9 parents shortly.

### December 2020

**Thursday 10th December** is Year 8 Parents Evening. This will take a different format this year. More information will be sent to Year 8 parents shortly.

**Friday 18th December** is the last day of term two. All students are back in school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

## Welcome

It is always delightful to sign Orchard Values certificates, and November is the month when many students achieve their first Bronze certificate. The certificates show just how brilliantly our students demonstrate Orchard Values, being Open minded, Respectful, Creative & curious, Healthy, Ambitious, Responsible and Determined. This is also the time of the year when we remind children about being responsible - walking and cycling home carefully after school when the evenings draw in earlier. We have a series of assemblies coming up on looking after our community, walking on pavements, crossing at traffic lights sensibly, using bike lights and following road safety rules.

The newsletter this month demonstrates some of the fantastic achievements of our students, despite Covid restrictions. I'm sure you will find something inside the newsletter that makes you smile.

**Julia Hinchliffe**, Headteacher

Our photography club is up and running. Students have been outside, learning about close-ups and perspective. We love these autumn colours and the sharp focus on the berries of this beautiful rosehip.



## Year Group News

### Y7

What a wonderful first term we have had. Myself and the year 7 team have had a fantastic time getting to know the year group.

Last term we carried out student voice work, the results of which were very positive and it was wonderful to listen to the positive relationships the students and tutors had built up already.

Moving forward we plan to celebrate as much success as possible. We will publish in a weekly bulletin to the tutor groups the best tutor group attendance and achievement points and in addition the tutor groups who improve the most from the week before. We have introduced a weekly year 7 star and I will also be awarding certificates to students who really impress us.

**Miss Carly Bryan, Head of Year**

### Y8

Year 8 are continuing to impress their teachers and are regularly earning house points in lessons for demonstrating Orchard Values - particularly for being determined and responsible. All students have visited the library with their English teacher; students now have a library book that they should have with them every day. Please encourage students to pack their bags the night before to ensure they have all exercise books, homework and equipment ready for learning.

Throughout tutor time we are following the Orchard Values curriculum; we have discussed goal setting and our aims for the year during Term 1. This term greater emphasis will be placed on being respectful to each other, staff and ourselves.

Students are being encouraged to regularly check Teams for details of their homework. They have all had sessions in Digital Media to support them and most students are now very confident using this. Students can use the laptops in the library during homework club each Tuesday or Friday after school.

**Miss Laura Evans, Head of Year**

### Y9

What a great first term Year 9 have had. The focus in lessons has been excellent and students have been gathering a multitude of house points for their excellent display of our Orchard Values in class and around school. Well done to Dalal H who is the first to achieve a bronze certificate for house points in year 9 and I am sure that many more students will be bringing home values certificates over the next few weeks as they reach the 50 point mark. Students have really enjoyed their new values lessons in tutor time and especially enjoyed the opportunity to explore GCSE options and career pathways in one of the sessions- your child has been given access to the careerpilot website and you should be talking to them regularly about their plans.

Please ensure that your child brings a cloth face mask to school - most students have been excellent with taking responsibility for this everyday - we encourage cloth masks as they are much less harmful to the environment than the disposable ones. The Year 9 parents evening is scheduled for the 28th November and we will be in touch nearer the time with how this will work with coronavirus restrictions. Please do not hesitate to contact tutors, Miss Bhakerd or myself if there is anything you are unsure of.

**Mr Pete Hurrant, Head of Year**

## Year Group News

### Y10

Year 10s can be extremely proud of their achievements at the end of a long and busy first term back in the classroom. Students have collectively achieved over 4,000 House Points and have the best conduct across the school. Year 10 students can also take immense satisfaction in having the joint highest attendance in the school; an exceptional achievement at such a challenging time, with over 50% of students having a fantastic 100% attendance. I hope to build on these successes in term 2 and beyond.

Year 10 students are now fully engaged in their new pastoral curriculum in tutor time, exploring different topics each week which are aligned to our Orchard School values. Students have been discovering what their stressors are and how to help manage their emotions, how to cultivate and forge healthy relationships and Aristotle's 'The Golden Mean', which explores how to identify and seek out a balance between competing extremes. Most recently students have started to investigate the opportunities that await them in their post-Orchard lives. Students have begun to share ideas within their tutor groups and explore possibilities they did not know existed. It has been really exciting to talk to students about their ambitious plans and more serious discussions will be had in the coming months as they enhance their focus on their GCSEs.

**Mr Chris Daniel, Head of Year**

### Y11

Term 2 is going to be a busy time for Year 11 but with a bit of planning and organisation the work done now will pay dividends in the PPE (mock) exams and the summer GCSEs. It's important that students start revising for their exams which will begin straight after Christmas. Doing well in the mock exams demonstrates that your revision is working, it builds confidence and may still be a factor in determining final grades, despite the government currently planning to run GCSE exams as normal next May.

Year 11 now have a page on the school website dedicated to helping them achieve their potential. It includes short top tips videos from each faculty which will help in the preparation for exams. It's a good place to refer back to and something we'll be adding to over the next term. It's worth mentioning Prep Time which we have every Monday-Wednesday at the end of the normal school day. It's an invaluable additional learning time where students can work in smaller groups on subjects where they need a boost or where they are aiming to exceed their target grade. Year 11 should see this as valuable extra learning and revision time and can reflect that they are getting the equivalent of private tutoring for free!

Term 2 will continue to be a good time to sort out post 16 choices – we have lots of virtual open evenings, mornings and assemblies that will help in making decisions. Getting the post 16 choice sorted early on reduces stress later in the year and is a great motivation as it shows you which grades you need to get.

**Mr Mat Grafton, Head of Year**

## Gardening News

It's been a busy start for the gardening team this Autumn! This term we have had a group of Year 8s and together we have been preparing the garden for winter and also looking ahead at the Spring time.

Along with planting winter bedding in the main reception planters, we have also planted spring bulbs in them and in the garden area, including various types of daffodils, crocus, and eye catching alliums. We can't wait to see them bloom! We've had a couple of loads of wood chippings delivered from a local arborist which we've spread in the garden to re-mark out the paths. A number of gnarly logs were also given, which we've placed around the pond to attract wildlife and give an environment for various critters to make a home for the winter! Lastly, we've collected a lot of leaves and covered the new raised beds with them (after they were weeded) followed by a layer of cardboard we collected from around the school. The leaves will break down over the winter and nourish the soil for when we're growing fruit and veg in the Spring, and the cardboard will keep out the light for any weeds (and their seeds) to grow in them too.

In the next few weeks, we'll be spreading the last of our bark, collecting more leaves for the compost pile, doing minor repairs to the greenhouse, planting more Spring bulbs, and planting some broad bean and biennial seeds to over-Winter and get a head start for Spring growing!

Head to Monty Don's website (he's Mr Fisher's hero!) <https://www.montydon.com/tips-and-advice> for lots of tips advice about how to look after your garden.



**Pictured (clockwise from top left):** Our pond, which featured in our June newsletter, is now full of life; our greenhouse and raised beds; lovely autumn leaves in one of the raised beds, and Shaggy Inkcaps (*Coprinus comatus*) mushrooms growing in our garden. These are sometimes known as 'Lawyers Wigs' and are a good sign of healthy and balanced soil.

## Focus on the Year 11 Village

Our oldest students are facing challenging times; they have one of the most important years of their school life - in the middle of a global pandemic. They are doing brilliantly; we are so proud of their hard work and focus. They have really stepped up as calm and mature role models.

Our Year 11 students are based in the CLC (the 'City Learning Centre' - the building on the right as you come into the school site). This is a lovely building with a full length window - it feels very open and spacious. 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. Some of our Year 11 students have been telling us about their experience of Year 11 life so far:



**Rakya and Jennifer, pictured left, love the sense of independence in the CLC.** "It feels like a more mature and independent space for us here," said Rakya. "We can work hard and be supported to excel. We are also still getting advice on careers and our next steps for Post-16." Jennifer agreed: "I am working hard this year. I really love Art! The careers advice has been helpful too. The masks are fine; I know they keep us safe."

**Dan and Malcom, pictured right, feel that the CLC is set up well for Year 11:** "The CLC feels really calm and quiet, because there is only our year in here. I am working hard and that's much easier in an environment like this," said Dan. "It's definitely good to have our own space," agreed Malcom. "Everything is working well."



**Keelan and Nazeer, pictured left, are pleased to be back:** "It's good in the CLC," said Nazeer. "I love cooking though so it's good that I can still go over to use the food rooms." Keelan added: "I think Year 11 is going well. I did really well in my English Speaking Assessment, and I am working really hard in my Sport Science coursework. Sport Science is my favourite subject. When I leave, I hope to study sport and with Bristol Rovers."

**Iqlaas, pictured right, is happy with how things are going:** "It's not that bad, being in a mask, and it's only in between lessons. I am enjoying all my subjects, but the ones I am really getting on well with are English and Geography."



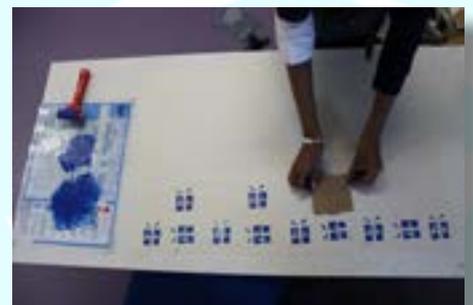
**Cassidy and Melda, pictured left, are both enjoying Year 11 life:** "I feel that Year 11 is going really well," said Cassidy. "I am especially enjoying Drama and History, and being in the CLC is good because it's like we have our own centre. Melda agreed: "Being back with masks and being in a village is not as bad as I thought. I'm working hard and I like being in with my year group. I'm really enjoying English and Drama."

# Enrichment

All students in Years 7 - 9 take part in Enrichment. It happens every Wednesday during period 5. It's a chance to experience and learn in an area outside of our standard curriculum. Enrichment options are slightly limited this year due to Covid, but our students are still getting stuck into photography, knitting, printing, gardening, local history, dance and a host of other options.

Our first term went well, with our new photography group getting out and about, taking pictures of the fantastic works being created. They have brand new digital SLR cameras and their work has been fantastic. We have also seen a real transformation to the school garden with the gardening team working hard, we have had bird feeders made by the upcycling team. We've also seen amazing art work from the craft, printing and drawing groups.

Students are due to start their second round of enrichment on 25th November 2020. They made their selections over the October half-term and we are really pleased to offer more choices. Options such as bushcraft, origami and calligraphy have been added to the options.



**Pictured (clockwise from top left):** Evie W.'s work in animation club; our photographers handling the new SLR cameras; gardening club have refreshed our front planters; printing enrichment; more beautiful photography of autumn plants; knitting with Miss Bovill and cooking on a bootstrap with Mr Kimber.



## House Team News



The week beginning Monday 30th November is **Orchard Anti-Bullying week**. We are marking this by sending each other kindness cards to show our appreciation for each other, and by engaging in discussions about bullying. We have the Anti-Bullying Gold Award, but we are never complacent and we continue to keep this at the forefront of what we do.

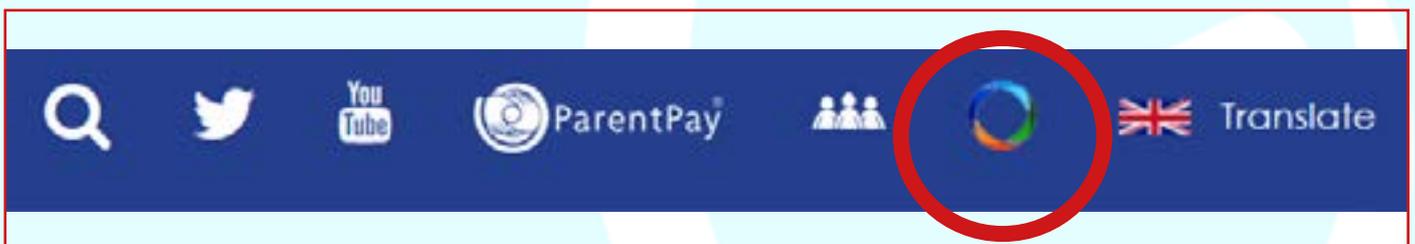
It is **Odd Socks Day** on **Friday 4th December!** All students can wear the brightest socks or tights that they can find on that day in order to support the North Bristol food bank.

In order to show that we, as a school, support our local community and want to show kindness to those in need, we are suggesting **a donation to the food bank via Parent Pay** if you can. Any amount adds up, so donations of any amount will be very gratefully received. We cannot accept coins or cash on this day. Alternatively, you can donate some food to the Food Bank collection at school that day if you can spare it, simply by sending your child with it in their bag. Non-perishable food is best. There will be **a prize** for the best and brightest socks or tights!



You can make a donation to the North Bristol Foodbank here: <https://northbristol.foodbank.org.uk/>

As a reminder, there is a Whisper Button on our website homepage in the top right hand corner (colourful circle) which allows you and students in the community to report bullying directly to the school anonymously. We would encourage you to make the school aware of any bullying that is occurring or concerning you. Be assured, we have a no-tolerance bullying policy at Orchard School Bristol and will action all reports. You can visit our homepage and you will see the button along the top row (**pictured below, circled in red**) or you can click this link to be directed straight to the Whisper page: <https://swgfl.org.uk/whisper/osb1/>



## Spooky Tales in the Woods

We are incredibly proud of our young people who are members of Lockleaze Youth Theatre. The Youth Theatre put on a spooky performance in the woods on 27th October. The audience stuck to social distancing and brought along their own refreshments to watch the performance. Orchard Students taking part included our Year 11 students, Cassidy, Kayleigh, Tegan, Ruby, Jorja, and Laine; our Year 10 students, Dan A and Archie; and our Year 9 students, Teya, Kelsey and Hufsa.

Our Student Receptionist Mrs Cook, who watched the performance, said "They had a captive audience from the community and should be recognised as representatives from our school in such a positive way. Well done to every single one of them."



Lockleaze Youth Theatre was developed with Youth Investment Fund support in 2017-20, and has secured investment from Quartet to be developed further this year, engaging young people of secondary school age. Despite lockdown, workshops began online, and the group have been working towards producing films.

If you would like to find out more about Lockleaze Youth Theatre, you can visit their website here: <https://www.acta-bristol.com/lockleaze-youth-theatres/>

## Free School Meals

Your child may be eligible for Free School Meals.

- Your child would 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.

## Scientists of the Week

The Science Faculty have again 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 the following students who have all been Scientists of the Week in October.

**Year 7:** Sophie P., Julia M., Lexi-Mai P., Kyron N-E., Huba H., Victoria B., Evie W., Oliver R., Zak D., Mohammed H.

**Year 8:** Jessi P., Fatima M., Mitchel B., Rakeem B.

**Year 9:** Julia M., Finley M., Ismail H., Dawda S., Mia F.

**Year 10:** Yuusuf A., Billie M., Abubaker J., Amelia M., Rishan V., Richard P., Ahmed E.

**Year 11:** Kayleigh B., Abdullahi M., Georgian I., Cassidy G-S., Kalid A., Maya Y., Owen S., Mohamed O., Ellington D.

## Scientists of the Term – Term 1

The Science Faculty has chosen two students from Year 11 as their students of the term. Congratulations to **Atif K. and Keayara D. (pictured right)** who have exemplified the Core Values of Orchard this term by being ambitious with their learning. They have worked hard and taken responsibility for their learning, as well as being kind and polite members of their year group. Well done to both, we are very proud of you.



## Have your details changed?

### Moved house? New phone number? Let us know!

If you have moved house or have a new number then please let us know. It means that we can keep everybody in our community safe and make sure you're getting all the right information from us.

Please phone us on 01173772000 or email [info@orchard.tila.school](mailto:info@orchard.tila.school) to tell us about your new details.

Don't worry if you're not sure about your new postcode or other details - we can look this up. If you'd like to look up your postcode yourself, you can use the Royal Mail Postcode Finder: <https://www.royalmail.com/find-a-postcode>

## Homework on Teams - A Parents' Guide

We have moved over to Microsoft, which means that our homework and remote learning is set on 'Teams'. All students have been shown how to use Teams and how to access their learning. There is also a function for parents and carers to see what homework has been set for their child.

### What is 'Teams'?

Teams is a platform which can be used for many purposes. Businesses use it on a global scale, but it can also be used just for organising things in day-to-day life! Many schools use it because it has amazing features for remote learning and homework setting. Our set-up at Orchard also means that all students will be able to access all of the other Microsoft programmes online too. For example, they can use the online versions of Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

### Homework on Teams - Parent Updates

We have enabled parent access so that you can see the work which has been set for your child. Parents will also be able to see what has been completed and what is still yet to be done. This will come as a weekly alert on your email. While we adjust to using Teams, please also check your child's planner for homework too.

### Missed lessons

If your child is off school due to illness, self-isolation, or any other reason, then you will also be able to see the work which has been covered. On your child's Teams account, check 'assignments' and also 'files/class materials'. We will be uploading the lesson content and/or giving links to help your child keep up-to-date.

## Apart, but still together: Carols on your doorstep

A group of local residents are inviting residents to sing their hearts out on their doorsteps, on **Friday 5th December at 5:30pm.**

The aim is to bring communities together to sing. The community group are based in BS7 but you can spread the word and join in wherever you are!

Ruth Woodsend, one of the residents who set up the event, says "bring out the hot chocolate and a real or electric candle, and let's celebrate the start of the winter festive season together. It doesn't matter how many of you there are, or how loudly you sing. The idea is to get as many people out as possible, all singing together. Don't worry if it's a bit wobble. The idea is that we will be together in the celebration."

You can access the song list here: <https://nuthatchtrees.co.uk/bristol-sings-carols-on-your-doorstep/>



## Maths Update

Massive congratulations to all of the students that took part in our MemRi competition!

MemRi is an awesome resource on Hegarty Maths used to improve recall and help students revise all the topics they have covered over their time at Orchard School. Over the holiday we asked students to complete a MemRi task on as many days as possible in order to gain a certificate:



We are very excited to be able to award so many Gold Certificates. A particular shout-out must go to Dalal in year 9 who did a whopping 210 MemRi questions in half term!

### Gold

Soufia E (Y10)  
Leo S (Y10)  
Chloe B (Y10)  
Dalal H (Y9)  
Elizabeth P (Y9)  
Nathan B (Y8)  
Yasmine O (Y8)  
Chanise A (Y8)  
Sheriff T (Y8)  
Nico B (Y8)  
Aber D (Y7)  
Jaycob B (Y7)  
Liban D (Y7)  
Caitlin M (Y7)  
Adam A (Y7)  
Elma K (Y7)  
Zara M (Y7)  
Sadane A (Y7)  
Albin S (Y7)  
Enzo J (Y7)  
Phoebe B (Y7)  
Pupurai C (Y7)

### Silver

Joy O (Y11)  
Melody C (Y10)  
Colby J (Y10)  
Sophie P (Y10)  
Aleksandra K (Y7)

### Bronze

Martina B (Y9)  
Miley G (Y8)  
Sammye D (Y7)  
Liena L (Y7)



### Amazing Work

We love to see your work in all forms! If you're off school then remember that you can submit your work online or you can send us a picture of work that you've done in your book. Well done to **Kajol K**, who sent us in this fantastic maths work this week **pictured left**).

## Sport and Health

# 'Let's Get Moving' - the 40 Day Challenge!

The Faculty of Sport and Health are encouraging our KS4 students to stay active. It's difficult with the lockdown restrictions but the 40-day challenge will help to kick-start some more physical activity.

Mrs Pemberton-Heard has put out a message to all Year 10 and 11 students:

"We would love to see you be physically active at least 1 lunch-time a week. This is a way to keep yourselves active around your school day – these could be done before school to kick start your day."

There will be a prize draw at the end of term for student who participate every day.

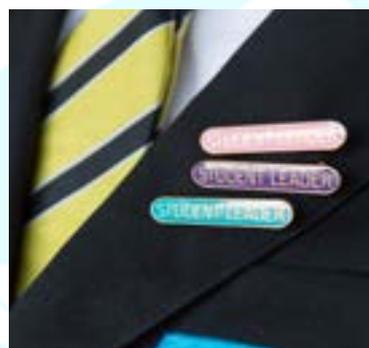
Students have been given a timetable of activities to follow, which includes sit-ups, press-ups and planks. Parents, carers, and families are welcome to get involved at home and let us know how you get on! We can give you a shout out in the newsletter or on our Twitter feed, with your permission.

## Student Leadership at Orchard

At Orchard, all students are encouraged to be leaders. It's a core part of what we do. Visitors to Orchard are always very impressed with our students' leadership qualities. This term, we are starting up the 2020-2021 leadership opportunities. All students will soon be given an opportunity to choose and sign up to a student leadership group. These groups will run every other week, during afternoon tutor time.

The groups across all year groups include:

- Community Champions
- Eco Leaders
- Anti-bullying Ambassadors
- Sports Leaders
- Healthy Heroes
- Digital Leaders
- Rights Respecting Leaders



There will also be Reading Leadership opportunities in Year 7 and Student Coach opportunities in Year 9.

Leaders wear leadership badges - and as you can see in the **picture**, it's possible to lead in more than one area!

Please discuss these opportunities with your young people. The leadership groups will offer the development in a range of skills which will prepare our students brilliantly for adult life. They will be shown how to lead in an area, including effective communication and organisation. We can't wait to get started!

## Updates from North Bristol Advice Centre

# Future Me

For women in North Bristol who are at home with young children, or who are unemployed / working part-time.

- > Careers advice to help you identify a career path that's right for you.
- > Support to find the right course or qualifications.
- > We will act on your behalf to address any issues or barriers.
- > Signposting to courses or activities to help you build your confidence.

Improve your employability and get started on a satisfying career.

Contact Lavern Forbes on 07936 943 583  
lavern@northbristoladvice.org.uk  
[www.northbristoladvice.org.uk](http://www.northbristoladvice.org.uk)

## Updates from North Bristol Advice Centre cont.



North Bristol  
Advice Centre

**Money or benefits problems?**

**We are Debt and Welfare  
Benefits specialists**

**Call 07731 842 763,  
07595 047 278 or visit  
[www.northbristoladvice.org.uk](http://www.northbristoladvice.org.uk)**

**FREE expert advice in North  
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