

ORCHARD SCHOOL Newsletter

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ORCHARD
SCHOOL
BRISTOL

INSPIRE TODAY. EMPOWER FOR LIFE

Key dates December 2020

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

January 2021

Monday 4th January is an inset day - no school for students.

Tuesday 5th January is the first day of term three for students. This is a normal school day for all students.

Tuesday 14th January is Year 10 Parents Evening.

Wednesday 20th January is our Parent Forum. This is online. All parents are welcome - please email Mrs Shepherd bshepherd@orchard.tila.school for the link.

Monday 25th January is the first day of mock exams for Year 11. Parents and carers will be sent more information about these exams, which finish on Friday 12th February.

Welcome

What an amazing school community we have! Despite so many possible setbacks, students and staff have continued learning and being creative throughout the Covid pandemic. This newsletter is testament to the wonderful experiences students have at Orchard. An enormous thank you, as always, to parents and carers. You have supported your children, helped them keep going through these past two terms, kept them focused on learning - homework and distance (computer) learning, as well as supported our charity 'North Bristol Food Bank' with kind donations, and through attendance at virtual parents evenings.

I wish you all a restful break. Happy Christmas/festive season, and best wishes for a good 2021! We look forward to seeing your children again on Tuesday 5th January.

Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher

Photography Club continues each week for Year 9.

Pictured right: Teya-Elise, lining up her frame for some shots of our beautiful grounds.



Year Group News

Y7

The year 7 team are so proud of how the year group have conducted themselves this term, especially with the challenges of Covid. Students have been taking much more responsibility for bringing in their own masks, wearing them and looking after each other. The remote learning has been going well and it is great to see such a high quality of work being sent in. Leadership groups have begun and students have really thrown themselves into these sessions positively; there is a lovely vibe in the year 7 village when the leadership sessions are running. The house council have had their first meeting in year 7; well done to those who put themselves forward for these roles, their presentations were excellent.

Congratulations to the four following tutor groups who have won within our four weekly achievement categories more times than any other tutor groups in the year group. Highest achievement points: 7A2. Most improved achievement points: 7B1. Best attendance: 7D1. Most improved attendance: 7W1. I would like to wish you all a wonderful break, stay safe and look after one another.

Miss Carly Bryan, Head of Year

Y8

This term we have seen students show courage and determination when putting themselves forward for student council positions. We were extremely impressed with the effort and professionalism shown by all of these students. Alongside this we have also launched our Leadership groups so students can choose to be part of a group they feel passionate about. As part of our Orchard Values curriculum we have discussed how having an internal locus of control can support us to motivate ourselves and in turn achieve more by focusing on the things that are in our control e.g. being kind, working hard, asking for help.

Students have been responsible and organised with their homework; we have had an increase in attendance to homework club on Tuesday and Friday after school. Some students in Y8 have begun to earn Silver certificates this term for gaining 100+ house points this year. A special well done to Sahra A who was the first to gain a Bronze and Silver this year.

Miss Laura Evans, Head of Year

Y9

I am really proud of year 9 and the resilience they have shown this term in getting in to school during lockdown and working hard each day. I am also pleased that those students who have had to isolate at home for any reason have been able to access their work on Teams so that they do not fall behind. It was great to speak to lots of parents at the year 9 parents evening last week and hear so many of you receiving really positive feedback about students and their attitude to learning in school from our staff. A reminder that Year 9 homework club is in the library every Thursday after school. Staff are available to support and laptops are available too. I want to say a massive thank you to our excellent team of tutors and Mrs Bhakerd our pastoral manager for the immense support they have offered to Year 9 this year in really challenging circumstances. I look forward to seeing Year 9 again in the New Year with a focus on GCSE options and career pathways, to meet their dreams and ambitions for the future. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

Mr Pete Hurren, Head of Year

Year Group News

Y10

As we approach the end of one of the longest terms of school, it feels appropriate to reflect on the amazing achievements of the phenomenal group of year 10 students we have at Orchard School. Every week this term I have been distributing certificates to students who have reached milestones in earning House Points. Impressively, year 10 students have achieved the most Silver Certificates in the school, and we are sure to be approaching Gold achievements in the coming weeks. Students are achieving more House Points than ever before which is testament to the hard work and determination shown in lessons every day!

Year 10 students have faced the challenges of the term with maturity and have worked towards my three objectives for the year: to be in school, to be kind to others and to work hard. I can declare proudly that the majority students have been able to achieve this and are in an excellent position for their future studies. When we return in January, we will be preparing for year 10 parents' evening and I look forward to speaking with many of you about your child's progress and how we can work together to best support them for the remainder of the year. I wish all of our families a restful Christmas break.

Mr Chris Daniel, Head of Year

Y11

Year 11 have continued to work hard this term and many students have made great progress with their post 16 applications. There is still time to apply for post 16 places, but some deadlines have already passed, and students need to be aware of the closing dates for each institution.

Mock exams start in January and, more than ever, they are of vital importance. As you may know, the mock exams last year played a crucial role in determining the final grades of our students and, although this isn't planned for 2021, we cannot say for certain that we will not be in the same situation again. Getting into the habit of revising is important. In addition to Prep time the CLC is open each day as a working space if students want to stay behind and work quietly. In the New Year, we will be inviting key students back for additional prep sessions on Thursdays and Fridays to help boost their grades in particular subjects.

Year 11 can be a stressful year in school and, together with Covid 19, we have found that students' well-being has been affected more than usual. There are some steps we encourage students to take which will not be a surprise to any parent – eat well, get plenty of sleep, spend a bit less time on screens and a bit more time doing exercise. We want students to take a break leading up to Christmas but following that we would encourage them to get started with revision – being prepared is a good way to reduce stress and improve confidence.

Some screen time we are encouraging is the use of Tassomai for science revision. It's a good excuse to be glued to their mobile: 200 questions a week will have a definite impact on their science grades. It's getting quite competitive!

One final note, Mr Elcock has started his well-earned retirement. I thank him for his time and ask that you address any pastoral issues to me for the time being.

Mr Mat Grafton, Head of Year

Young Carers

A Young Carer is anybody under the age of 18 who who helps look after someone in their family, or a friend, who is ill, disabled, has a mental health condition or misuses drugs or alcohol. These responsibilities place extra demands and challenges onto young people - sometimes they have responsibilities at home which many of us would think of as 'adult' tasks. These extra responsibilities can affect a young person's health, social life and self-confidence. Many young carers struggle to juggle their education and caring which can cause pressure and stress. We work to support our Young Carers at Orchard, both with practical and emotional support, as well as some respite for them with well-being events. We have the Young Carers in School Gold Award, which recognises the way in which we support our amazing young carers. During the last week of term, we have been holding a **Young Carers Event**. Years 7, 8 and 9 Young Carers decorated Gingerbread Houses during lesson 5 and tutor time to take home. We had hot chocolate and listened to music while we decorated the houses and all produced fabulous treat-topped gingerbread houses.



Parent Support - Microsoft Teams

With our migration to Microsoft Teams, there is a function to alert parents to the amount and frequency of homework being set, called 'Parent Guardian'.

This is a weekly alert to parents, indicating what has been set.

Some parents are finding that the report says that work has not been handed in, when both students and teachers agree that it has been. This is usually because the students have not clicked 'submit' in Teams - so please remind your young person to click this button when they have completed a piece of work.

This video explains how to set up the parent function at home:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AC3iMDyoJI&safe=active>

Work for absent students

When students are absent due to self-isolation, teachers will have uploaded the contents of their missed lessons onto Teams. Students should be in the habit of checking Teams for the missed work and using their time effectively at home to complete this.

Advice and Information on Brexit: Non-UK EU children, young people and families

This is a message from Bristol City Council which we would like to share with the Orchard community.

Due to Brexit, EU citizens must apply for the EU Settlement Scheme if they want to continue living in the UK after June 2021, **even if they have lived in the UK most of their lives**. We cannot know for certain how many people are outstanding in applying for the scheme, but what we do know is that without settled or pre-settled status, they will not have the same rights in the UK as they do now after Brexit.

We are particularly concerned about people who are:

- Children who are from non-UK EU countries
- Older People (only 1% of applications are from over 65s)
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities (their applications may take much longer due to needing to arrange ID)
- Refugees and asylum seekers who may not be aware and have come through another EU country.

The deadline for applying is 30th June 2021.

We want to get the message to parents and carers who might be non-UK EU citizens or have older family members who are. Children who are from non-UK EU countries must also have had a successful EUSS application made for them. Read more about the scheme and how to apply, including instructions in other languages, on our dedicated website: www.bristol.gov.uk/EUsettlement

Citizens can also get help and advice from:

- St Pauls Advice Centre, 146 Grosvenor Road, BS2 8YA
- North Bristol Advice Centre, 2 Gainsborough Square, BS7 9XA
- South Bristol Advice Services, Withywood Centre, Queens Road, BS13 8QA

Food Hampers



Social distanced Orchard Elves have been busy making 13 Christmas hampers for some of our community. The Food Bank have also given us 5 hampers and some £50 ALDI vouchers for our families. The Pastoral Team have been distributing these during the last week.

A massive thank you to all those who helped and gave food donations. We were also supported by members of the community who provided lots of goodies, as well as our local councillor Claire Hiscott who donated £50 for food. BAM have also offered us some turkey hampers too.

North Bristol Food Bank offer support to many parts of our community. If you are in financial crisis, or need to contact them for any other reason, you can get in touch via their website: <https://northbristol.foodbank.org.uk/> or on the phone: 0117 979 1399.

Enrichment

Focus on Photography Club

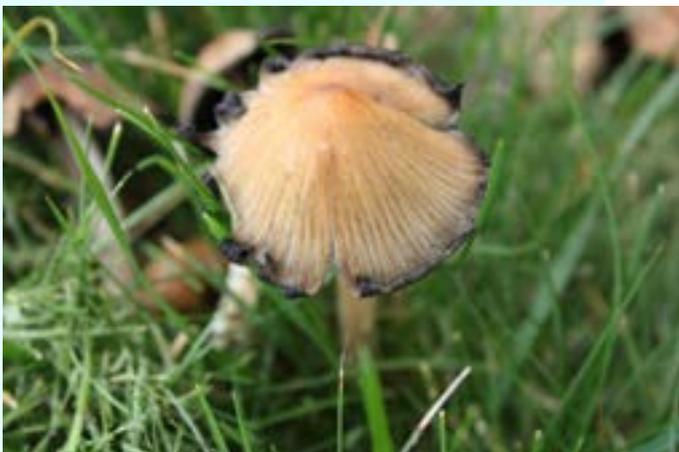
Last month, we featured some lovely work from across our Wednesday enrichment sessions. This month, we are focusing on photography club and hope you enjoy the beautiful work from our Year 9 students. The students have been learning some theory and techniques in the classroom, but this term has been all about confidence with handling the cameras. Over these pages, you will see some of their work on the themes of 'water', 'autumn', and 'nature at Orchard'.



'Water'

Enrichment

Focus on Photography Club cont.



'Nature at Orchard'

Enrichment

Focus on Photography Club cont.



'Autumn'

UrbanPlan Workshop

We were thrilled to have the opportunity to take part in the UrbanPlan Workshop in November. The workshop has been created by the Urban Land Institute (or ULI). In response to global events, the UrbanPlan workshop has been adapted from a day-long, face to face session to a virtual 3-day programme. The programme has been delivered in Hong Kong, America, Canada, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands – and now Bristol! The Urban Land Institute is a charitable organisation involved in the responsible use of land and in creating & sustaining thriving communities.

We had 4 teams of Year 10 GCSE Geography students who became Property Development Companies. They each had their own job role, and together created and presented a plan to regenerate a run-down city centre site. On Day 2, they spent the morning planning their new development on a 2D Site Plan, and using a Digital Finance App. They then pitched their finished plan to a fictional council board.

A team of two facilitators ran the workshop on Day 2 via Zoom, and a number of volunteer industry experts attended virtually as well. The experts all work in the Property Industry and helped students to understand the many complex factors, which are often in tension with one another, that shaped the students' creative and financial response to the challenge. On day 3 students reflected on their delivery of the brief and presentations and linked the skills they developed to interview answers and statements for their CVs. The project was delivered and supported by Helen Howard & Rachel Thorne from Orchard School.

The winning Team was called Glow and was made up of Yuusuf, Ahmed, Stella, Lana and Ryan from year 10. Well done to all involved and thank you to the ULI for providing such a fantastic day!



Amazing Careers Experiences - Law

Year 10 students at Orchard who are interested in a career in Law had the opportunity to listen to Lady Hale, former head of the Supreme Court, speak of her experiences. She gave an inspiring talk about her career in law from teaching to working as a barrister, working for the Law Commission, and then becoming only one of only 10 female High Court judges in the country. She talked about some of the high profile cases she had presided over included the attempted proroguing of parliament by the Prime Minister. She also answered some insightful from students about her thoughts on the current judicial system.

Leadership at Orchard



Student Leadership has been launched this term across years 7-10. We have a range of leadership groups across these year groups and students were all allocated to one of their top 3 preferences. The groups meet fortnightly at tutor time, within their year group bubbles. Here is a short summary of what they have been up to this term.

The **Anti-Bullying Ambassadors** have discussed the different types of bullying and what they would include in an Anti-Bullying

pledge. They have mapped out the impact they want to have, and how they should behave as role models. As part of Anti-Bullying week, one of their roles was to promote kindness cards for students to complete and others to receive. **Our Community Champions** have focused on what we mean by 'community' and the purpose and roles of charities. We have then focused on the work that the North Bristol Food Bank do, as our school chosen charity for this year. We will shortly be moving onto generating ideas for fundraising and events planning. **Sports Leaders** have discussed what it means to be a sports leader and the skills that are needed to be a successful sports leader. They then have completed a team 'challenge' to see how well they can work in a team.

The **Rights Respecting leaders** have learned about the UN convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC) and some of the articles that are enshrined in law. We have also begun to discuss some of the UNCRC Articles and how all rights come with responsibilities. The **Healthy Heroes** have begun with a focus on pupil feedback, thinking about all of the things that Orchard is already doing well, and where Orchard can improve. We have highlighted Food, Bike Shed Safety, movement and cleaner toilets as areas pupils most want to focus on.

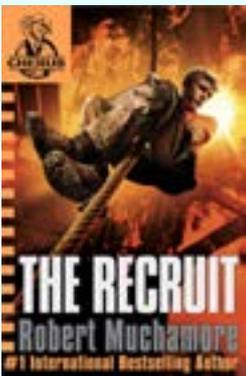
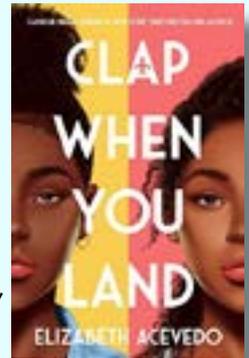
Digital Leaders are leading on the experience of Microsoft teams across the school and troubleshooting and establishing what they can do to support. They have assigned laptop monitors for each village. **Eco-Leaders** have completed an environmental review of the school, which looked at the areas where we are already meeting eco-standards and considered areas we could improve in. Next steps will include making an action plan for 2021. The Year 7 **Reading leaders** have discussed books they have read recently and discussed what they like and want to improve about the library. They have since written vision statements for their roles as Reading leaders. Our **Student Coaches** in Year 9 have begun their training journey to become effective coaches who will support teachers in co-constructing lessons in the future. We have begun by focusing on the skills of active listening and in particular the importance of paying attention, showing empathy and confirming understanding of the people you are working with. The students have started brilliantly, are highly engaged and motivated to develop their skills.

Year 11 students who gained their roles as **prefects** last year have also had an opportunity to start reigniting their roles as leaders in school and beyond. Prefects oversaw the first student council meeting and co-ordinated the agenda, took minutes, and will be summarising the findings to share with the senior leadership team. The prefects will also be working to ensure the end of year 11 is one to remember for their peers. They are hoping to organise an end of year prom, amongst other things to cherish.

English News

Young Adult Recommended Read

Our recommended read for December's newsletter is '**Clap When You Land**' by **Elizabeth Acevedo**. We think this would be great for students in Year 9+. We loved it because it has a gripping storyline; you become completely lost in the characters' thoughts and feelings, and it is written entirely in verse. Here is a section of the blurb to give you a taster for what it is about: 'Camino lives for when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, she arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people. In New York City, Yahaira is called to the principal's office, where she finds out her father has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance—and Papi's secrets—it seems the two girls have lost everything of their father until they learn of each other.' As the story unfolds, both girls realise that their beloved father had been living a lie.



Our recommended read for Years 7 and 8 is '**The Recruit**' by **Robert Muchamore**. It tells the story of James, a teenage boy who is struggling at school, when he is spotted and recruited for the CHERUB organisation. This undercover operation trains children between the ages of 10 and 17 to spy on adults, slipping under the radar and gathering information to send criminals to jail. This is the first book in the incredibly popular 'CHERUB' series, loved for its gripping storyline and relatable main character, James. Students read the first few pages in a reading lesson earlier this term, and copies flew off the shelves in the library. Read the first 3 pages and we dare you not to want to read on!

Year 8 Poetry

Some of Year 8 have been studying Roald Dahl's adult short stories. Students were particularly struck by the gruesome ending of 'The Landlady' – let's just say that the owner of the B&B has a strange way of ensuring her customers stay with her for a long time! Here are some of the poems they wrote in response to the twist at the end of the story. You'll have to read the story yourself to find out exactly what the landlady did to her residents...

Well, here I am.

Trapped, stuck

No place to go.

Locked in the same place I am
always in.

Funnily, I never suspected her.

Little old lady with her

Unexpected tricks.

Her lovely, evil smile.

So, here I am.

For the next

Twenty

Thirty

Forty years.

All I've got to look forward to is

An empty room standing in front of
me and

The useless person next to me.

By Amelia.

HELP!

My chest hurts.

I wish I could move my still hands.

Kill her!

How quickly she cut my body open.

Boring.

No family,

No friends,

Stuffed like a teddy bear.

By Leo

Science News

Scientists of the Week - November

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 recently.

Year 7: Coron J., Brandon D., Goda B., Aishah R., Alfie H., Vanessa N. (twice!), Adrian L., Alistaire E., Alan J., Mylo D., Filip S.

Year 8: Christelle K., Miley G-S., Sahra A., Kevin T., Inaya H.

Year 9: Zane W., Abdifatah O., Jacob P., Teya-Elise L., Eloise D.

Year 10: Archie L., Lemuel B., Sasmit P., Julia W., Ibrahim S.

Year 11: Tia P., Keelan W., Lana S., Harry F., Amro A-G., Ellington D., Dahang L.

Tassomai



We recently launched a new revision resource with Year 11 called Tassomai and we have been very impressed with the effort they have made in using it. We were pleased to discover that we were the top school nationally on Tassomai and we have won a tree that we will be planting on site. This is a significant achievement by our Year 11s and this will be a lovely way for us to remember the year group in the future as we watch it grow. The top users on Tassomai so far are Abigail B, Rakya L-E, Loraya E, Atif K, Rozana Z, Craig N, Riley C, Dylan H, Evie S, and Summer S. However,

so many students have gone far above their Tassomai target and are very determined to succeed in their summer exams. Well done Year 11, we are very proud of you. **Pictured (L-R) Rakya LE., Loraya E., Abigail B., Summer S., and Atif K.**

Basketball Update

Mr Staynings would like to give a special mention to the amazing Year 8 basketball team, who turn up for training every week and are working incredibly hard to be the best they can be! There are at least 14 who come each week and they work to develop their skills and team work. This is great for their physical health, but it's also a brilliant way to build mutual respect, teamwork, collaboration and dedication. Well done to all involved.

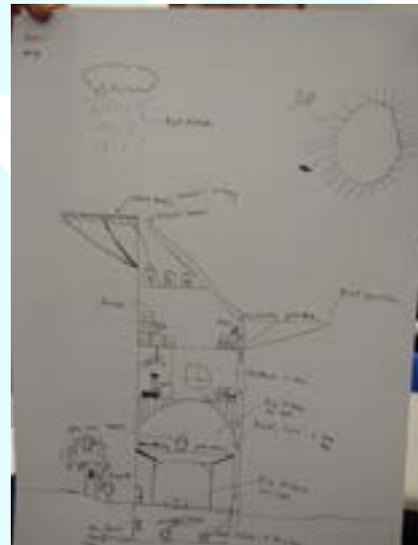
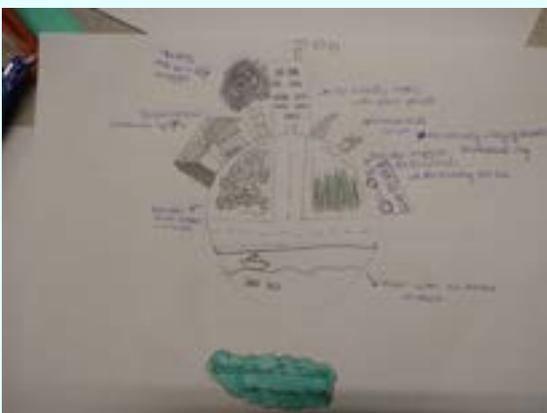
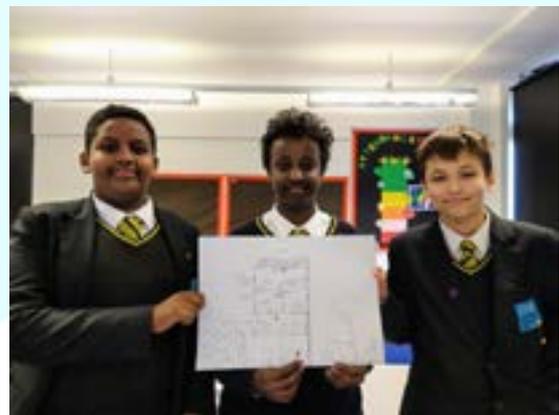
Circular Economy in the Built Environment Workshop

Arup are a multinational company, who provide engineering, architecture, design and many other services within these industries. They are based in London. They have worked with the Engineering Development Trust to create a half-day workshop looking at the circular economy in the built environment - that is, eco-buildings! These projects are aligned to the DT, Science and Geography curriculum. Experts at Arup have worked with our young people at Orchard to get an insight into the world of STEM. 'STEM' means Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. It is important for students to understand the routes into careers in these areas, so we have been working with external companies to make sure our young people understand what is possible!

On 1st December, the whole of Year 8 worked with Arup on this project. The students had an amazing day. They looked at our current "take, make dispose" culture which is generating so much waste and pollution, and encouraged the students to look to the future, moving towards more sustainable solutions.

The aims of the workshops were to allow students to:

- Gain skills and experience essential for future careers
- Gain insight into the STEM industry and job opportunities
- Gain a nationally recognised award: Challenger Level Industrial Cadets Award



Pictured (L-R): Alana R., Akram E., Ayuub S., and Brandon H.

Rights Respecting School Award - Bronze

We are very pleased to have recently been awarded the first stage of Unicef UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA), Bronze: Rights Committed.

We have set up a pupil-led steering group and have an action plan to ensure that:

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) underpins our values and decision making in school
- The whole school learns about the CRC and respects the rights of others
- Children are empowered to become active learners and active local and global citizens.

Unicef (United Nations Children's Fund) is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights, and we will be joining a community of over 4,500 schools in the UK working on the Rights Respecting Schools Award.

Right Respecting Schools across the country have reported that the Award has many positive impacts including improved relationships, well-being and self-esteem, leading to better attendance and improved learning.



You can find out more about Unicef, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Rights Respecting Schools Award from the RRSA website:

www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa

We will keep you informed about our rights respecting journey through our website, newsletters and events. If you would like to find out more or contribute to our RRSA Steering Group, please contact Fergus O' Donovan: fodonovan@orchard.tila.school

Parent Forum - Focus on Anti-Bullying

At our last parent forum, we discussed approaches to anti-bullying and would like to draw your attention to some of the resources available online. We place a strong focus on having an anti-bullying culture across the school and also online.

On our website (<https://www.orchardschoolbristol.co.uk/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=264>), you will find a list of useful websites which offer support and advice on how to stay safe online. You will also find some FAQs with some useful answers. These links include information about tackling cyberbullying as well as other forms of bullying too.

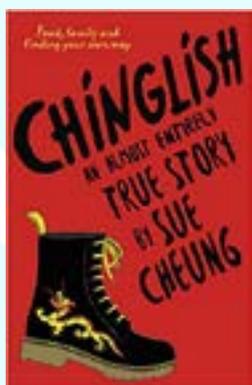
If you have any online safety concerns about your child, please get in touch with your child's tutor in the first instance.

Library News

Bristol Teen Book Award 2020

The Bristol Teen Book Award is running for the third consecutive year, celebrating diversity in Young Adult fiction. The short-list has been released for 2020 and it contains six fantastic novels recently published in the UK – see the summaries below to learn more. Each book features a character whose voice is not always heard in mainstream fiction.

The winner of the award will be decided by young people across Bristol secondary schools. Any Orchard student, particularly year 9 and above, is encouraged to read one or more of these great books, and will be able to vote for a winner in January (more information to come from Mrs Andrews nearer the time). There will be a virtual awards ceremony in February where all the shortlisted authors will speak to students about their work, and the chosen winner will be revealed.



Chinglish by Sue Cheung

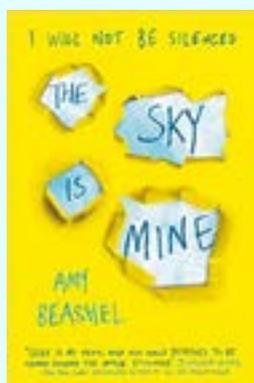
Jo Kwan is a teenager who lives above her parents' Chinese takeaway. Things can be tough – whether it's unruly customers or the snotty popular girls who bully Jo for being different. Jo eventually finds a BFF who actually likes her for herself, but she still dreams of breaking free and forging a career as an artist. Told in diary entries and doodles, Jo's brilliantly funny observations about life, family and char siu make for a searingly honest portrayal of life on the other side of the takeaway counter.

Gloves off by Louisa Reid

A gripping and immersive novel written in verse, telling the story of Lily who is mercilessly bullied at school and who turns to boxing in an attempt to fight back; a story of hope and resilience breaking through even the most difficult situations. In confronting her own fears, Lily finds a way through that illuminates her life and her friendships, and gives her the knowledge that she is both beautiful and worth it.



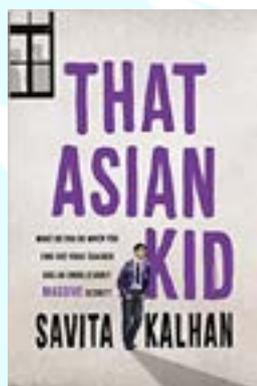
The sky is mine by Amy Beashel



Izzy feels invisible. Trapped under the weight of expectation and censored by shame. Her mum Steph and best friend Grace have always been there to save her. But with one under the control of her stepfather and the other caught in the throes of new love, Izzy is falling between the cracks. As threats to her safety grow, Izzy wants to scream. But first she must find her voice. And if the sky is the limit, then the sky is hers. (This book contains challenging themes which some readers may find distressing, including discussions of rape and domestic abuse).

Library News

Bristol Teen Book Award 2020 cont.

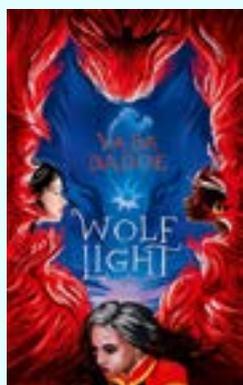
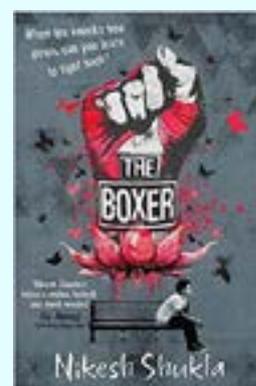


That Asian Kid by Savita Kalhan

Despite his hard work and brains, Jeevan is doing badly in his GCSE English literature class. His teacher, Mrs Greaves, dislikes him intensely and Jeevan is convinced that he is the victim of racial prejudice. Can he stand up for what's right? When he comes upon her in the woods outside school in a compromising situation with another teacher, Jeevan can't help but film the scene on his phone. With this secret new ammunition at his fingertips - dare he upload it to social media?

The Boxer by Nikesh Shukla

Told over the course of the ten rounds of his first fight, this is the story of amateur boxer Sunny. A teenager feeling isolated and disconnected in the city he's just moved to, Sunny joins a boxing club to learn to protect himself after a racist attack. He finds the community he's been desperately seeking at the club. But racial tensions are rising in the city, and when a Far-Right march through Bristol turns violent, Sunny is faced with losing his new best friend Keir to radicalisation.



Wolf Light by Yaba Badoe

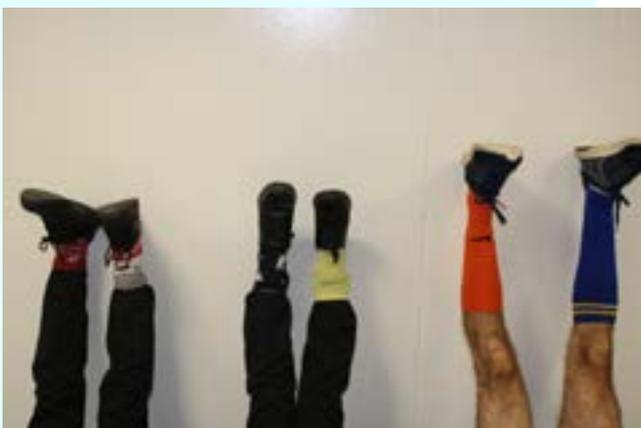
Three girls born in different countries on the same day, in 'wolf light', a magical dusk, are bound together to protect the world. From the bleak steppes of Mongolia to the tropical forests of Ghana and the stormy moors of Cornwall, the lands that Zula, Adoma, and Linet love are plundered and poisoned. How far will the three girls go to defend the well-being of their homes? Steeped in elemental magic and myth, this book is a call to us all to protect our environment, to conserve our heritage and to hear the ancient power that connects us.

Book Pen Pals

This year Orchard is participating in the Book Pen Pals scheme, which pairs UK authors with UK schools to make book recommendations via postcards. We have just heard that Orchard has been matched with Alex Cotter, an author who lives near Bath and whose debut young adult novel, *The house on the edge*, will be published in March 2021. Orchard's year 7 Reading Leaders will be exchanging postcards with Alex throughout the rest of the school year, receiving book recommendations from her that they can share across school, and replying to let her know what we thought of her recommendations, and to ask her questions. We hope that building this relationship with our matched author will be an exciting new opportunity to spark enthusiasm for reading and writing at Orchard!

Odd Socks Day!

We celebrated the end of our Anti-Bullying Week with an Odd Socks Day. Students were invited to come to school in odd socks and asked to make a voluntary donation to North Bristol Food Bank. There were several different ways to donate. We shared the direct donation link on our Twitter feed, and some families used that. We took ParentPay donations, which came to over £200, and we also took donations of food and provisions for the food bank, which we donated that evening. Thank you so much to all of you who made a contribution and thank you also to those of you who support the food bank in others ways.



Odd Socks Day cont.



Orchard's Elf!



If you were lucky enough to attend the Lockleaze Santa Tour on Saturday 12th December, you will have seen Mrs Sue Morris, our brilliant reprographics technician, dressed as 'Elfie Elf'. Sue is a real community champion and is always willing to get involved to support the community. Well done, Sue - we're proud of you!

Careers Update

Careers and Post 16

On 25th November, Like to Be hosted their virtual 'Careers Inspiration Show' with industry professionals and providers from a variety of sectors giving talks and information about their job roles. You can catch up with all the information and discussions here:

<https://www.liketobe.org/organisations/westofenglandcareerinspirationshownovember/events>

Virtual Work Experience opportunities:

Speakers For Schools are currently working with a range of employers to offer virtual work experience opportunities for students from Year 10 and above. Students will need to register on their website to find out details about placements:

<https://www.s4snextgen.org/>

Please see below some useful websites for exploring different careers and Post 16 pathways:

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

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

<https://icould.com/>

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

Lastly, this document includes a huge range of Post-16 opportunities across the city:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5be93d161137a6a8ce3cebbe/t/5f6c76ab-0f8f6106ebd05af5/1600943802326/Final+version+BD13105+Post-16+Directory+2021.pdf>

Community News, Advice and Announcements

The Bristol 'Families in Focus' bulletin includes advice, links and information to support Bristol communities. Here we include some of the information which may be of use to our Orchard families.

Are You OK?

How to ask someone if they are OK during the pandemic, spotting the signs and understanding how to ask - all of this information can be found here: <https://bristolsafeguarding.org/communities/i-am-a-bristol-resident/are-you-ok/are-you-ok/>

Kids can eat free in Asda throughout December

Asda has today stepped up its support for families across the UK by offering children the chance to eat for free in its cafes throughout December.

All 216 of the supermarket's cafes are taking part and will provide children under the age of 16 with a meal completely free of any charge when accompanied by an adult. There are no minimum spend requirements or restrictions on the number of children in a family or group that can take advantage of this offer.

Asda expects to serve around 215,000 free meals to children from its cafes during December and is offering hot and cold menu choices such as fish fingers, chicken nuggets or sandwiches – all served with a drink and a piece of fruit.

Asda cafes located in areas with Tier 3 Covid restrictions will still provide this offer to local children via a takeaway service. The offer will run from December 1st to 31st December except Christmas Day when stores are closed.

The free meals for children is part of Asda's Christmas kindness campaign, which aims to support local communities during difficult and unprecedented times.

Richard Dent, Asda's Vice President for Fresh Food said:

"We know that it's been a really difficult year for families across the UK with many having to turn to food banks and local community groups for support which is why we want to support as many children as we can during the festive period by offering them a meal in one of our cafes. I'm really proud that through our Fight Hunger Create Change programme, we are able to continue to support our local communities, especially at this time of year."

Earlier this month, Asda announced it would be providing an additional 1 million meals to support local food banks and charities over the festive period through its transformational Fight Hunger Create Change partnership which supports both the Trussell Trust and FareShare.

The donations will primarily come from Asda's back of store donation programme which sends food to local charities and community groups and in addition, Asda's 387 Community Champions will also make donations on behalf of the store to their local food banks. The retailer is also asking generous customers to support their local community by picking up an extra item and donating it to the food bank collection trolley in store.

Community News, Advice and Announcements

Can Do Bristol Volunteer Campaign

Join Bristol's volunteer response to coronavirus



Can you spare a few hours and help those who need it most?



We urgently need volunteers to support people who are vulnerable, lonely and self-isolating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

We need volunteers to help with:

- Shopping
- Picking up prescriptions
- Befriending (friendly phone calls)
- Dog walking
- Online/technical support

We particularly need volunteers who can speak in Somali, Polish, Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Chinese or Kurdish, and people who can sign in British Sign Language.

Please sign up to volunteer with Can Do Bristol today at: candobristol.co.uk/activity/c19-winter

If someone you know of needs help, they can call the free We Are Bristol helpline on 0800 694 0184 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 2pm)



Community News, Advice and Announcements

North Bristol Advice Centre – Debt and Welfare Advice



**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**

**FREE expert advice in North
Bristol and South Gloucestershire**

