

ORCHARD SCHOOL Newsletter

www.orchardschoolbristol.co.uk



Key dates

September 2020

Thursday 24th September is our appointment-only Open Evening for Year 6 families. More details are on our website.

Saturday 26th September is our appointment-only Open Day for Year 6 families. More details are on our website.

Saturday 26th September is also European Day of Languages - we have celebrated this in school.

October 2020

Thursday 1st October is our Welcome to Year 11 Evening from 3.20pm to 6.00pm. This evening will take a different format this year. More information will follow shortly.

Thursday 8th October is our Year 7 Settling In Evening. This is a chance to meet your child's tutor. This evening will take a different format this year. More information will follow shortly.

Welcome

What a superb start to the year our students and staff have made! We knew it would be very different this year, with changes to start and end times, year group villages, staff moving around classrooms, five separate break times and five lunchtimes. On top of this we took away all bells. But it's been a really good start, and I am very proud of our staff and young people who have got to grips with new routines, who are taking responsibility for equipment and books, and who are looking out for each other's wellbeing every day.

It was wonderful to visit all 36 tutor groups to give a short assembly at the start of the year. It is a privilege to look into lessons and see high quality teaching and learning, with students engaged and asking (and answering) thoughtful questions. COVID-19 is not going away soon, but we are all determined to keep our children's educational experience as positive as we can at this time. I hope you enjoy our first newsletter of the year.

Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher

Reading and Registration

At Orchard, all students from Year 7 to Year 10 read every morning. We have new stock and are excited to share our new reading lists. You can view them [here](#).

Pictured: a selection of our morning reading books.



Year Group News

Y7

It gives me great pleasure in writing the first 'Year Group News' article for this academic year. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for how the students, parents and carers have welcomed me into the school. I have been overwhelmed with the maturity, resilience and successful transition of the year group so far.

The students have had successful transition days where they have taken part in lessons and getting to know their tutor groups and staff. They have also now attended a week of lessons and I do hope they are all enjoying their learning.

As we progress through the term there will be house competitions and I look forward to some healthy competition. In the meantime if you should have any queries please do get in touch with your child's tutor in the first instance.

Miss Carly Bryan, Head of Year

Y8

It has been a pleasure to watch students return to school with a focused attitude to learning. As a year group we have seen huge success in the amount of house points that students have been awarded. I have been impressed with students striving to be the very best version of themselves and their ability to support one another when necessary. We now need to ensure we always maintain these expectations by continuing with perfect uniform, equipment, and conduct.

We are continuing with the Accelerated Reading programme and students will have the opportunity to visit the Library to choose books to read.

Our tutor team have enjoyed getting to know so many of you. They are a wonderful team and are here to support all students over the coming years, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with them or me at any point.

Miss Laura Evans, Head of Year

Y9

I am so proud of the fantastic start that Year 9 have made in returning to school. They have coped with the many changes to their school life caused by covid 19 with maturity and patience. It has been lovely to witness a calm and orderly year 9 village where students are engaged and enthusiastic in subject lessons and the excellent relationships and discussions taking place during tutor times. I would like to welcome Miss Emily Bhakherd to the year 9 team as our pastoral manager – she is already having a very positive impact in supporting our students and their families. Also we welcome Miss Genzels and Miss Hampton to the Year 9 team who have added to the enormous strengths of the staff working with year 9 students.

Year 9 is all about the future – it is an exciting year where students make choices based on their dreams and ambitions for the future – we will be supporting them and their parents in these key decisions and discussions throughout the year in preparation for GCSEs and future careers choices and pathways.

Mr Pete Hurrn, Head of Year

Year Group News

Y10

It has been wonderful to see year 10 students return to school this month after such a long absence. Students have resumed with a mature attitude and encouraging enthusiasm which has set the tone for what is a critical year in their education. With GCSE courses now well under way, most students are focused on their exciting selection of subjects as they accelerate towards their exams. It has been really heartening to hear and see students back in their classrooms, demonstrating an excellent attitude to their studies and behaviour overall has been brilliant.

As students adapt to their new schooling, organisation is more important than ever; arriving at school equipped and in full uniform, and with homework complete are all vital to their success, so thank you in advance for your ongoing support. Attendance is always crucial in ensuring success in school, however this year it is even more so. If students are absent from a lesson or are required to miss school due to isolation, then students must ensure they catch up on all work. Teachers can be reached on their email addresses and can set work online to ensure nobody falls behind.

The new term has started extremely well, and I look forward to maintaining this tone with a positive and productive year working with all students and families.

Mr Chris Daniel, Head of Year

Y11

Year 11 have made an amazing start to the term. We saw many of them during the face to face learning sessions before the summer holidays. They impressed us then and continue to impress us now with the way they have quickly readjusted to school life and focussed on the task that faces them this year. With hard work and effective use of their prep time, there is no reason why all of Year 11 cannot go on to achieve great grades at the end of the year.

This term is a busy term as the students start to consider their options for Post 16. We will have virtual presentations from Sixth Form providers, apprenticeships and colleges in the terms ahead. Students will have to start thinking about what they want to do, where they want to do it and what they need to do to get there. Every student will have a meeting with our careers lead, Mrs Thorne, which will help them hugely with their decision making.

Prep time on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday is a great opportunity for students to improve their grades, increase their confidence and work on exam technique, all of which will be invaluable when we head towards the exams. We haven't forgotten that we want to produce rounded and mature students, so in tutor time students are engaged in a comprehensive tutor programme which will add to their skill set as they leave secondary education.

It's going to be a great year.

Mr Mat Grafton, Head of Year

Welcome from our Governors

The Governors of Orchard would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the Orchard Community for the new academic year.

It has been a year unlike any other for those in education. We have seen schools and Headteachers facing unprecedented situations and challenges. They have had to make decisions to protect their communities, while keeping the students' welfare and education at the heart of everything. Orchard has been no exception to this and we are pleased to be able to support the school in all they have done during these difficult times.

We are looking forward to continuing to support Orchard staff, students, and the wider community over the forthcoming year. There will be challenges ahead but we know that we are a community who pull together to get things right for our young people.

If you would like to contact the Governing body, you can email Sarah Barker, the Clerk to Governors: SBarker@orchard.tila.school.

School Photographs

On Tuesday 8th September and Wednesday 9th September 2020, all students had their school photographs taken. We used Jefferson Studios Photographers, a local Bristol company. The students looked incredibly smart in their uniforms and the photographers commented on how impressed they were with our students' attitudes and behaviour. They also said that our students adapted quickly and maturely to the new safety measures for Covid-19.

How can I purchase photographs?

Students will be issued with a personal card with details of how to order the photographs. The cards will have been in quarantine for 4 days prior to being issued to ensure we maintain Covid protocols. These cards will be issued via school as soon as we receive them from the photographers. This is likely to be during Term One.

How can we arrange sibling photographs?

Details of how to arrange sibling photographs in the photography studio will be given on the cards. Jefferson Studios Photographers have studios in Bristol. Their website can be found here: <https://www.jeffersonstudios.co.uk/>

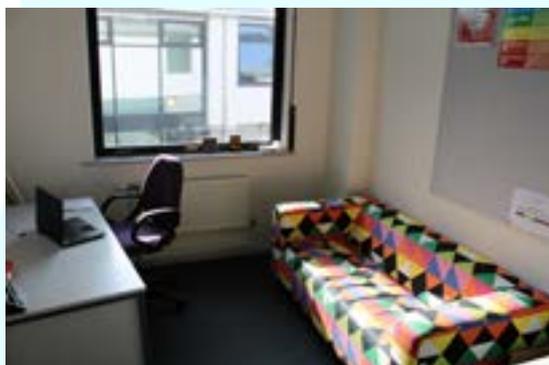
A Focus on the Year 7 Village

School Life in Villages

If you are wondering what school life is like at the moment, then one of the first things for us to tell you about is our Orchard villages. We have created a village for each year group in order to stay as safe as we can. Keeping students in villages means that there is very little interaction between year groups and we can keep everybody in 'bubbles'. This is a focus on the Year 7 village.

Year 7's village is in the Art, Digital and Technology area. Head of Year, Miss Bryan, and our Year 7 Pastoral Manager, Miss Antigha, have their office here too - just opposite the drama studio.

Pictured right : Miss Bryan and Miss Antigha's office



Students have all of their lessons in these villages - they're not in the same classroom all day, though. They move between rooms within each village. We've made sure that students have enough space and distance when possible. Students do not face each other within the rooms. The Year 7 village is equipped with a brand new suite of Microsoft WinBooks too, and every classroom has a state-of-the-art interactive touch-screen too.

Pictured left: one of the Year 7 village classrooms

The corridors are full of displays too - here's an example (**pictured right**) of one of the Art and Digital displays in the Year 7 village. It's a beautiful and stimulating place to be.



The Year 7 village overlooks the field, astroturf and basketball courts and the classrooms have huge windows overlooking this lovely space. It feels very open and airy. It's a lovely place to learn.

Pictured left: The view from a Year 7 classroom.

Year 7 Share their Thoughts

We thought you would like to hear it from them - so here are some ideas from our Year 7 students about what starting Orchard has been like for them.



'I have really loved English lessons. We're learning about Gothic fiction and this is great because I love reading horror. Now we get to study it and even write our own.' **Jesse H. (pictured left)**

'I feel that I have been doing a lot of growing lately and it has been lovely to have a fresh start. It's been intense - but I've enjoyed the harder work. Also, the dinners are great! Overall, it's been an amazing experience.' **Jen G.**

'I am enjoying it, especially Food lessons! I love food and it's been really interesting to do it as a school subject. I can't wait to do practicals.' **Alex C. (pictured right)**



'My favourite lesson is P.E.; today we dribbled with a football and we sprinted across the astroturf. It's good to be active'
Josh N.



'I am really enjoying Orchard. So far, Art has been my favourite subject. I have really enjoyed being able to express myself without anybody judging me.' **Sammie D. (pictured left)**

'I love Maths because it's good to have a challenge that I can tackle!' **Danni S.**

'I am enjoying loads of lessons - but I really love Science and Drama. The teachers are really kind. I also love representing the school.'
Awa J. (pictured right)



'I like the fact I have met new friends in school. I didn't have this many friends before!'
Marie M.



'I absolutely love History. It's been amazing. We have learnt loads but something I really enjoyed was thinking about how history connects to our own lives - and who our ancestors are. We could all be related to kings and queens! I am really enjoying secondary school.' **Jenny K. (pictured left)**

Parent Forum

Our latest Parent Forum, on 1st July 2020, took place virtually. We wrote about the discussions and action points in the last newsletter.

Due to the success of the virtual format, we will be holding the next one virtually too.

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.

We have an agenda for the Parent Forum meetings. This is released in the newsletter prior to the meetings, and is also sent out on an email.

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.

We will let you know how to join the next virtual forum in our October newsletter. When we're able to meet face-to-face again, parents will just be able to turn up at the school - although it's helpful if we know numbers so that we can provide refreshments for you!

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

Wednesday 18th November 2020

Wednesday 20th January 2021

Wednesday 10th March 2021

Wednesday 28th April 2021

Wednesday 23rd June 2021

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 or 01173772000.



We are proud of our enrichment offer at Orchard. For those new to the Orchard community, our enrichment time is a lesson for Years 7 to 9, dedicated to learning something new. This is always something not found on our usual Orchard curriculum. We are thrilled to be able to offer enrichment this year, despite the pandemic. We have had to think creatively about how best to achieve this and you may notice that options which do not allow for social distancing have been replaced until it is safer for everybody.

Enrichment sessions will start on Wednesday 23rd September. Enrichment takes place in the school day, during period 5. All students in Years 7 to 9 have chosen their Enrichment option and those who did not get their first choice will be prioritised for this option on the next cycle. There is a wonderful range of enrichment choices which will build the knowledge and skills of our young people.

This year, students will participate in 4 Enrichment activities throughout the year, with each enrichment activity lasting 9 weeks. All of our enrichment options link to our Orchard values.

Enrichment Choices - Cycle One (Terms 1 and 2) 2020		
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Local History	Gardening Club	Duke of Edinburgh Award
Book club	Crafts - Knitting	Event planning
Arts - printing and ceramics	Environmental issues	Manga Drawings
Environmental upcycling	Cultural Enrichment Club	Photography
Cooking on a bootstrap	Playwriting workshop	Fitness
Animal drawing and painting and digital manipulation	Wildlife and conservation club	Weather
Gymnastics	OSB Student Newspaper	Diversity Group
Documentary club		Shade drawing

House Champion Updates



House Identity Competition

A coat of arms is a representation of a family, company, or place. **Pictured (left)** is the coat of arms for Bristol.

Our first competition of the year is to design one of these for each house. We are really excited about this because our house names are new this year and so it's the perfect time to introduce new imagery too.

Students have spent time in their tutor groups thinking about what it means to be part of a team and how each team can build an identity. The design for each house will form an important part of this.

The entries must be in a shield shape and include the first letter of the house name, as well as a tree to represent Orchard School. The best ideas will be used permanently for each house - it's an amazing opportunity! All designs must be submitted to the House Champions by Friday 25th September. They will be passed onto Mrs Hinchliffe and the school governors, who will choose a crest for each house. Good luck!

Here is a reminder of our house names and colours:



Avalon

Butterfield

Dorchester

Wisley

Future Competitions

We also have a competition for the best tutor notice-board this month - this will be completed in tutor time and it'll be judged by some guest judges!

We have a House console competition coming up in October, as well as an Athletics competition in November. More competitions for 2021 will be announced soon.

Sporting Successes

Once again we are proud to report more sporting successes from Ryan B. (Y10) who runs for Bristol and West Athletic Club. Ryan is a force to be reckoned with and one to watch. Over the summer he smashed through his Personal Best on the 200m sprint with an incredible time of 24:04 seconds. Ryan runs in the U15 category and has more events coming up this season. We'll keep you up-to-date with his progress.



We are also please to announce that Katie Davies (**pictured left**) who left Orchard's Year 11 in 2020, has just made her senior debut for Bristol Rovers Women's team in the FA Cup. They won the match 6-0. Katie was a dedicated sportswoman during her time at Orchard and it is no surprise at all to see her playing at such a high level now. Well done, Katie!

Fantasy League for Students



Orchard students are invited to join the Fantasy Premier League! Fantasy Premier League (FPL) is a free, online game in which you can build your own 'perfect' football team. You can make transfers, introduce substitutes and manage your team budget. It is always good fun - staff are joining in with a staff league too. We will keep an eye on the results and there will be end-of-season prizes available too.

How to join:

Visit <https://fantasy.premierleague.com/>

Create an account and select your players. If you're not sure who to pick then you can choose to 'auto select' a squad.

Choose your team name. Remember that offensive team names will be banned so keep it fun and keep it clean!

When you have created your team, select 'leagues' and join the Orchard league with the code **drdq9j**

We will announce the progress of our teams in tutor-time and also in the newsletter. If you need more information or help, please ask Mr Staynings or Dr Murray.

Good luck!

Library and Reading Updates

At Orchard, we know that reading underpins most of what we do. It's hard to understand most school subjects without the ability to read well. We also want reading to be fun and enjoyable. For these reasons, we read a lot at Orchard. We have a library full of contemporary and classic fiction, as well as an extensive non-fiction section. We also subscribe to periodicals because we know how important it is to keep abreast of new advances and developments.

Reading Ladders

All students have **reading ladders** in their planners. These are organised by genre and are there to help students think about the kind of novel they like - or perhaps to support them in trying something new. The reading ladders are differentiated, so if you're new to a genre or feeling less confident, you can start on a lower rung and work your way up. We would really encourage parents, carers and family members to have a look in their child's planner. You could see if you recognise any of the books and perhaps have a chat about them. Our library is open from 10am until 4pm every day and students are welcome to come and choose a book to borrow after school.

Reading and Registration

We read **every morning** in tutor time. All students have a copy of the novel in front of them and can follow along as their tutor reads to them. This is a truly relaxing and enjoyable time; it is both calming and empowering.

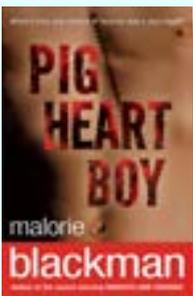
You can view all of the novels available for Reading and Registration here: <https://www.orchardschoolbristol.co.uk/page/?title=Reading+and+Registration&pid=279&action=saved>

We have a huge selection of 50 books for Reading and Registration, which we update and review regularly. Here are two of the current novels:



'So Long, See You Tomorrow' by William Maxwell

This is one of our Year 10 morning reads. This classic novel was featured as one of the BBC's '100 Novels that Changed the World'. William Maxwell is a world-famous author who writes about small-town life in the American Midwest. 'So Long, See You Tomorrow' is the tragic tale of two tenant farmers, whose intertwined lives lead to jealousy, anger and terrible consequences.



'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman

This is one of our Year 7 morning reads. From the author of the 'Noughts and Crosses' books, Pig Heart Boy is another Young Adult classic. This book is un-put-downable from the very start! Cameron has heart disease and needs a heart transplant. When a doctor offers him a chance to live, with a new and experimental procedure, emotions run high.

Community Update: Advice from the Young Carer Support Centre

Identifying and Supporting Young Carers in Education during the Covid-19 Crisis

Young carers are a particularly vulnerable group during lockdown and many of us are disadvantaged by home learning due to family illness/disability and additional pressures at home. Some young people may also become carers as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown, due to increases in ill health and substance misuse, and lack of access to services and support. Education staff can make a really big difference though. Here's some simple ways you can help!

Our Top Tips

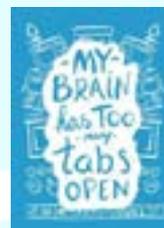
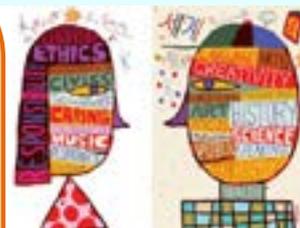
Top Tip 1 – Wellbeing

Caring is hard and can go really up and down, especially in lockdown! We need **someone to talk to regularly** who we can trust and who understands about our caring. Ask our tutor or another person we know **to call us each week** to see how we are coping, not just to talk to us about work.

And **please make appointments** to talk to us – don't just ring out of the blue. We need time to prepare and find a space that is private so we can really tell you how we are.

When you call, please **talk to us, not just our parents**. They might say everything is fine because they're worried what you'll think.

And having a specific **email address that students can contact** if they're struggling at this time could really help too!



Top Tip 2 – Home learning

Many of us don't have the equipment or internet access we need to study at home. We also don't have quiet space and our families are often too ill to help us with studying. It can be really hard to focus too, especially when we have siblings with special needs. **Check with us what support and equipment we need** to help us do our best at home and help us get it, especially if we have disabilities/learning needs and need specialist equipment to be able to learn.

Please turn over...

Young carers are children and young people who provide care for family members who have physical or mental illnesses, disabilities or substance misuse issues. 1 in 12 young people are young carers.

Thanks to all the young carers from these organisations who created these tips (June 2020)



Community Update: Advice from the Young Carer Support Centre Cont.

Top Tip 3 – Workloads

The amount of work we're being sent can feel **overwhelming** but we feel embarrassed and worried to ask for help. And in lockdown, we have to prioritise our family's needs over school work. Please always **clearly tell us what work we HAVE to do** and when the deadlines are but also **offer understanding and extra help** if we're getting behind.

And if it isn't safe for us to go back when other students do, please give us extra help – **we shouldn't have to fall behind** because of our caring.

Recording online lessons would really help too so we can watch them at a different time if we have to leave our computers suddenly due to our caring.

And please **understand if we have to be quiet** during online classes – our family might be ill and asleep so we can't always talk loud.



Top Tip 4 – Returning to school/college

Some of us have found balancing caring and learning easier at home, and for others, our families have become more reliant on us over lockdown. Many of our families are high risk too, so we're worried about going back to school/college. We need **lots of information** and notice to help us and our families prepare and feel safe about going back.

Even if you don't know stuff yet, please tell us you don't know... waiting with no information makes us and our families even more anxious!

It would help us to have **photos/videos** of what ALL rooms and areas will look like so we can prepare. We also might need help to get new **uniform** if we've outgrown ours and to know there will be **flexibility** once we go back (a safe space to go if we feel overwhelmed, phased returns or reduced timetables, and flexibility if our families are ill could all really help). We'd also like **PPE** if this is available to help keep us and our families safe.

Top Tip 5 - Transition

If we are moving up to your school, college or university this September, **get in touch** with us to let us know if/when we will be starting and **what support will be on offer for carers** when we get there (pastoral, financial etc).

Virtual tours or meetings with staff could help us feel more at ease too.

Top Tip 6 -Transport

Many of us have family members at high risk from Covid19 so feel anxious about travelling on public transport to school/college.

Find out if you can offer any **other transport options** to get us there more safely.

Top Tip 7- Hidden and New Young Carers

Lots of young carers aren't known to their schools or colleges. Send out **monthly wellbeing surveys** or use other ways to **contact all students and families** acknowledging the impact of lockdown and asking if anyone at home is struggling with mental or physical ill-health, disability or drugs/alcohol. This could make people feel less alone and help them know that support is available. Again, having a specific **email address that students can contact** if they're caring and struggling could really help too!

