

SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER – TERM 2

17/12/2024

Welcome from Mr Kneller, Headteacher

As we approach the end of 2024 and Term 2 of this academic year, there is much to celebrate at Patchway Community School.

In just about every metric we use to monitor schools, we are seeing improvement: attendance up; suspensions down; reward points collected up; uniform improved; behaviour improved; attainment and progress in every year better; Year 11 mocks indicating a significant improvement in GCSE outcomes in the summer; Positive parental views on parent view....the list goes on!

This is credit to our hard-working staff who always go the extra mile to support our young people. I also want to thank parents for their ongoing support. Most of all though it is our amazing students! They bring life and energy to our school every single day. They are developing their confidence and continue to strive to be the best versions of themselves every day. Without staff, parents and students Patchway Community School would not exist, so thank you to everyone who contributes to making it such a great place to work and learn.

Hopefully as you can see from this Newsletter our young people have had so many opportunities to excel. There is still more to do, however and we will continue to strive for individual, group and whole school excellence in 2025 and beyond.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas, I hope you have a restful holiday period and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Best Wishes,
Stephen Kneller



Key Dates:-

- **Tuesday 17th December**
- Late start for students- 10.00am
- **Wednesday 18th December**
- Y11 Christmas Market Rewards Trip
- **Thursday 19th December**
- Christmas Lunch
- **Friday 20th December**
- Early finish for students - 12.20pm
- **Monday 6th January**
- First day of Term
- **Thursday 16th January**
- Year 9 Options Evening
- **Monday 20th January**
- Envision Final Trip
- **Monday 3rd February**
- St Micheals Music Trip
- **Wednesday 5th February**
- Year 9 Online Parents Evening
- **Thursday 6th February**
- Late start for students- 10.00am
- **Thursday 13th February**
- Last Day of Term
- **Friday 14th February**
- Inset Day



AMBITIOUS | RESPECTFUL | EXCELLENT

The Olympus Academy Trust Update

Possible changes to the Admissions arrangements



Consultation on possible changes to the Olympus Academy Trust Admissions Arrangements for the academic year 2026/2027

The Olympus Academy Trust is consulting on its admission arrangements for the academic year 2026/27. **The consultation will be open from 25th of November 2024 to the 20th of January 2025.**

The consultation is longer than the statutory 6-week period as it falls across the Christmas period.

1. Trustees are considering whether to redefine the Local Sibling criterion to include a brother or sister of a child previously admitted to a school through an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), **regardless of their home address.**

Currently if the EHCP child already attending the school lives outside the school's Area of Prime Responsibility (or 'catchment') their siblings fall into the Out of Area Sibling category. This category has a lower priority than children living inside the 'catchment'. This means they have a very low chance of attending the same school as their brother or sister.

The change would give siblings of EHCP children living outside the school's 'catchment' a higher priority than other (non-sibling) children living inside the 'catchment'. The EHCP siblings would then be much more likely to be allocated a place at the school. This could reduce the number of places available for other children living locally.

The number of families affected by the change based on Out of Area EHCP children currently on roll at each school would be:

Abbeywood	8
Bradley Stoke	6
Callicroft	2
Charborough Road	24
Filton Hill	1
Meadowbrook	1
Patchway	2
Stoke Lodge	1
Winterbourne	7

2. Olympus is also consulting on the draft arrangements for the new secondary school at Lyde Green, due to open in September 2026, with an intake of 180 Year 7 students.

The proposed over-subscription criteria will mirror those of the other Olympus schools, and the proposed Area of Prime Responsibility is shown below.



- The Northern border of the APR is bounded by the M4 motorway between the points where it is crossed by Westerleigh Road and by The Dramway
- The Western border follows Westerleigh Road until it crosses the A4174
- The South-Western border follows the A4174 until it reaches the junction with the B4465
- The South-Eastern border follows the Bristol and Bath Railway Path, and The Dramway

Full draft arrangements can be read at <https://www.olympustrust.co.uk/2026-Consultation/>

Feedback, comments, queries and requests for copies of the policy should be addressed to:

Admissions Team
Olympus Central Offices
Winterbourne Academy
17 High Street, Winterbourne
BS36 1JL

Tel: **01454 252059**

Email: admissions@olympustrust.co.uk



Safeguarding

Anti Bullying Week:

This term we celebrated anti-bullying week. All students had an assembly centred around the theme 'Choose Respect', which aligns with our vision, culture and values, notably being respectful and being kind.



The national strategy of raising awareness and addressing bullying in all forms and the importance of positive and healthy friendships, relationships and interactions, also gave students the opportunity to wear odd socks for a day. It was great to see students embracing this in multiple displays of creative and expressive adaptations to the normal school uniform!

The students were given a challenge for the week, to come and have a conversation with a trusted adult if they had any concerns or worries for themselves or a friend, especially related to friendship issues. It was positive to see this in action and students coming forward and talking to staff, in line with the safe to speak environment that we strive to create here at PCS.



Online Safety:

As a Trust we are committed to digital safeguarding and well-being.

We are working alongside a company called Smoothwall, who are offering parents/carers a free Qustodio account, which facilitates parental controls on any one device and free premium access for 30 days. This can be accessed via the link below. This will allow you to gain more visibility on your child's online world, allow you to block dangerous content and receive alerts for inappropriate content:

https://www.qustodio.com/en/30-days-school-special/?https://www.qustodio.com/en/30-days-school-special/?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=OSHub&utm_campaign=olympustrust-uk

We also have an Olympus Academy Trust Online Safety Hub which is a brand-new on-line resource with lots of expert advice and guidance to help you manage your child's safety online:

Online Safety Hub - The Olympus Academy Trust

Please refer to our social media pages for further useful advice about keeping your child safe online. If you have any concerns about your child's online activities, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Safeguarding Team.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities



Welcome to Ms Parker our New SEND Teacher



We are delighted to have Ms Parker join our team this term. She is a specialist SEND teacher with years of experience working with students with SEND. She is bringing a wealth of knowledge and will be running small group provision for Maths and English across Key Stage 3 and 4.

The Wellbeing Hub

It has been lovely to see all the support these students have been accessing in a range of interventions. We have received great feedback from the students who have worked with our mental health specialist Ruth, Mike from the creative Youth Network and Luke and Elliot from Priority Sports Mentoring.

Year 11 Support

Year 11 students have been making fantastic progress in their interventions this term with Mrs Slattery our HLTA, and Bryony our Speech and Language Therapist. Well done to all these students and the hard work they have been putting into their learning.

Afternoon Tea

It was lovely to meet so many parents at the SEND afternoon tea on the last day of term. We had 20 families come together to talk about their child's needs in school. It allowed for open and honest discussions about school strategies, what's working well and what the team can do to make further improvements to support our children in Patchway . Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to attend. Another one will be held towards the end of the academic year.

Year 7

A big Congratulations to all our Year 7 students who have had a very successful start to Term 1 and 2 and have settled into Patchway Community School so well done!



It's been another busy term for Careers. The students have enjoyed various interventions allowing all year groups the opportunity of involvement and enjoy these extra-curricular activities.

BAE Systems – Years 7 & 8

All of Years 7 & 8 were able to take part in a science show brought to us by BAE Systems this term. The presenters demonstrated how electricity is used and generated, as well as telling us about engineering roles. Some students were able to take part in practical challenges such as connecting a circuit, using a Van de Graaf generator and looking at the pros and cons of electricity sources. For the grand finale, a member of staff was invited to generate enough electricity to light up a display using pedal power.



Year 10 Work Experience

Work experience was launched through assembly and sessions in PSHE and tutor time. It has been impressive to see how many students have already sorted out their placements and completed the Uniform registration process so quickly. Please refer to the documents on google classroom for guidance on how to search for, apply for and log placements. There are still placements available from our guaranteed providers so please do look there if you need ideas. The booklet (with contacts for employers) is available [HERE](#)

Allied Health Professionals – Year 10

We hosted an interactive session from NHS professionals who specialise in less familiar known roles. 30 of our Year 10s were able to speak to Radiographers, Speech Therapists, a Dietician, a Prosthetist, Occupational Therapists and Podiatrists. Students were able to get really hands on using scanning equipment, trying on lead aprons and working out how much insulin a diabetic patient would need to take. Students were really engaged throughout and enjoyed asking questions and finding out more about roles they were not aware of before. The main piece of feedback was that they would have liked more time with the professionals!



Careers Fair – Year 9- 11



We invited over 40 employers and providers to meet your Y9, 10 and 11 students and talk to them about the study and employment opportunities in the area. Students were complimented by the employers on how well they engaged and presented themselves. We hope the event has helped our students understand the local job market and learn more about how to get into different careers.

Girls Get Set – Year 7 - 9

Over 30 of our Y7, 8 and 9 girls have signed up to take part in Girls Get Set, a programme designed by large companies focused on careers with STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths). We have had 2 online masterclasses presented by women in STEM careers who have explained about their career journeys and their work. We also had an in-person visit from women engineers from GKN in Filton who ran a paper plane competition. Our girls were able to make a plane that out-flew the ones designed by the engineers! The programme will continue for the rest of the academic year.



What's coming up Next Term...



Year 11 - 1:1 Meetings

All students are entitled to a 1:1 meeting with a qualified careers advisor to discuss their next steps for P16 education and training. Mrs Shute has started these this term and will continue to meet with student's next term. Some students ask for the meeting notes to be shared with parents/ carers so keep an eye on your inbox.

Envision

Envision final will be on **Jan 20th** at the Wills Conference Centre at the University of Bristol. The current team will be explaining about their project in assembly that week and selection for cohort 2 will be starting soon

Engineering apprenticeships with Bema

We are holding an open evening for students interested in an engineering apprenticeship on **12th of February 2024** from **4:30pm – 7:00pm** to come along to the BEMA Training Centre in Yate with their parents. Meet the staff, talk to potential Employers, current apprentices who started in September 24 and see the engineering workshops and facilities.

Apprenticeships with BT

Find out about early career opportunities by following the link below

[Graduates & Apprentices - Early careers - Careers | BT Plc](#)

Year 10 - Work Experience

Year 10 need to be finalising their work experience and logging it on Unifrog. Closing date for logging placements will be **Friday 14th February**.

Girls Get Set

Girls Get Set will continue with an in-person visit from industry professionals (date TBC)

Year 9 options

Y9 will be thinking about career ideas and choosing options in PSHE next term.

Calling all Year 10's

New work experience opportunity from University of Bristol

[Work Experience | School of Arts | University of Bristol](#)

Careers Drop In

Students from all years are invited to chat to Mrs Shute in the Library on a Monday lunchtime to ask any questions they may have related to their future work and learning.

County Rugby Championships – Year 7

The year 7 rugby team entered the county championships this term at Abbeywood Community School. The format of the competition was four groups of four teams with the winning team of each group qualifying for the semifinals. We were put in a group with Mangotsfield, Chipping Sodbury and Hanham School, achieving the following results:-

PCS 3 v 4 Hanham

PCS 5 v 1 Chipping Sodbury

PCS 3 v 1 Mangotsfield



Unfortunately, we did not qualify for the semifinals as Mangotsfield had a better try difference (by 1 try) than us. So, after being knocked out of the competition we decided to rematch Hanham which we ended up winning 4 tries to 1.

Here's what Mr Phillips (Teacher of PE) had to say about the team....

"The PCS Year 7 Rugby team have made immense strides since the start of the academic year. We only had one club Rugby player in our side and now we are beating schools full of club rugby players. What an achievement!!!"

"All players demonstrated fantastic levels of resilience, appetite for contact and skill."

Players of the Tournament



Cooper B - Our top try scorer demonstrating superb speed and agility on the wing.



Jaxon G - Another elusive runner that put fear in the opposition and demonstrated some great try saving tackles.

Players of Steel



Seth and Dexter H - These two made the most tackles and hit the most rucks in our team, their efforts in the middle of the pitch in defence, allowed us to turnover numerous balls and attack on transition.

Then when in attack they secured so many rucks that allowed us to go through phases and score some great tries. As well as both twins getting on the scoresheet themselves.

Congratulations to everyone in the Year 7 team:-

Emiliano L (Captain)
Dexter H
Jaxon G
Josh C
Ashley M

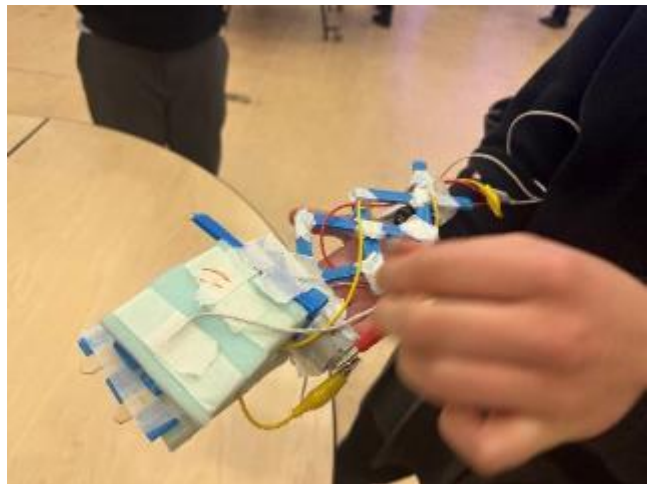
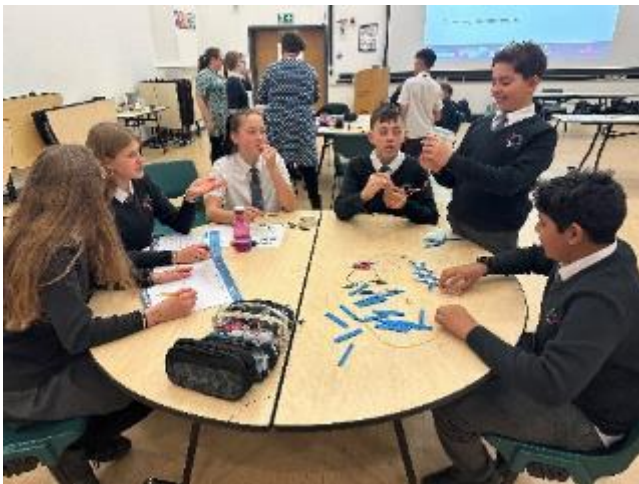
Seth H,
Cooper B
Josh M
Tommas J

Faraday Engineering Challenge Day

A group of Year 8 students recently participated in the Faraday Engineering Challenge day; A competition excellently organised by the DT department at Winterbourne Academy.

The day enabled our students to develop their team-working skills to complete an engineering challenge that they were set on the day. Students had to use a range of electronic components to design and make a model of their set task.

All students were a credit to Patchway Community School and participated with enthusiasm and determination, to successfully solve their engineering challenge.



Students involved in the day were: Greta S, Mia G, Sian S, Isiodos O, Paran S, and Kai D.

Although our team didn't win on the day all students can be proud of their achievements, especially as this was the first time they had worked with electronic components - **A huge well done to them all.**

Year 11 Geography Trip to the Harbourside

Our Year 11 Geographers undertook a fieldtrip to Bristol Harbourside earlier in December.

They were investigating the impact of regeneration on the area, to support their GCSE studies. As part of the investigation, they asked members of the public to take part in short surveys, as well as analysing the environmental quality of 5 different sites. Of course, it was essential to pop into the Christmas Market too!

Well done to all the Geographers who did a fantastic job throughout the day.

A Time for Celebration

Remembrance Sunday

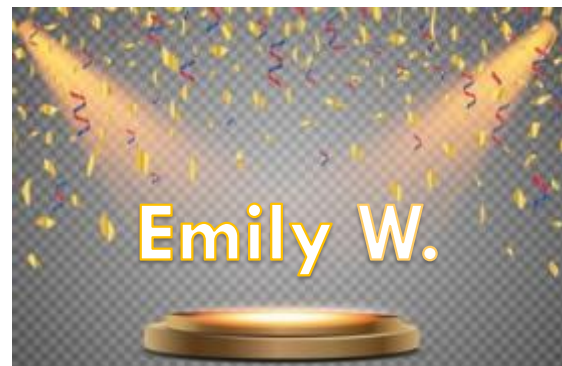
To commemorate Remembrance Day on Monday 11th November, we had a moment's silence to remember those who have fallen for their country. The students also had the opportunity to write the name of a loved one who they wanted to be remembered, on a poppy display in the library. It always amazes me how humbling it is to hear the whole school fall silent in a moment of collaborative reflection.

We also celebrated several of our students who are affiliated with the Armed Forces, Cadets, Scouts and Guides as they were invited to wear their uniform for the day. They all looked very smart, and we are fiercely proud of them all.



Winner of the Book Character Pumpkin Carving Competition

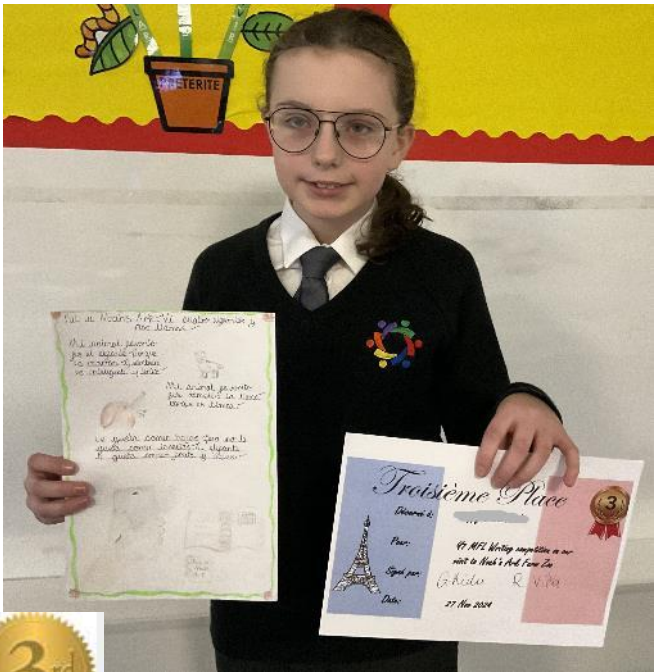
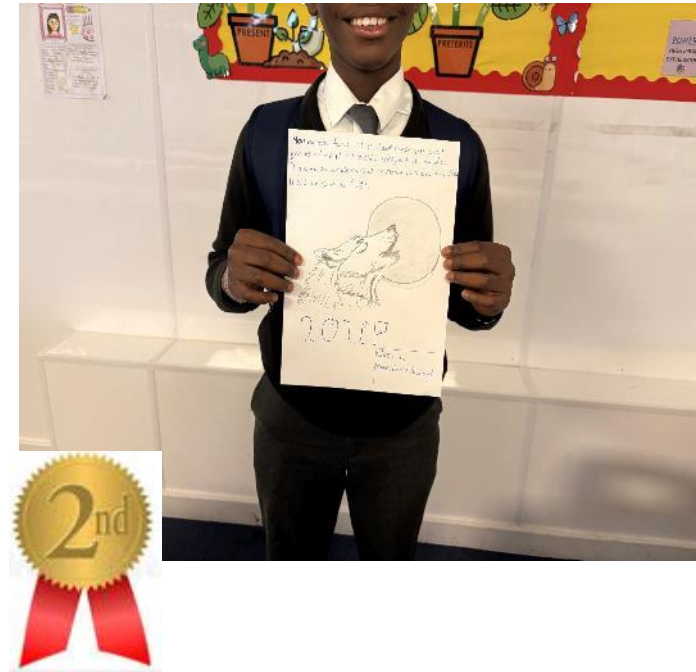
In the October half term, we set the students a challenge to carve a pumpkin in the design of a book character and write a short summary explaining what the book is about. We saw some amazing carved pumpkins, well done to all the students who took part in this competition.



Congratulations Emily and a special mention to our Runners up – Lottie E. and Chloe V.

MFL Zoo Animal Writing Competition

After the Modern Foreign Language trip to the zoo last month, Year 7 students have been working hard on writing about the animals that they saw in the Target Language (French or Spanish). Some students chose to enter the competition to put this into poster form which will now be displayed in one of our main corridors. We had loads of entries and everyone who entered got a Golden Ticket for their efforts. The entries were judged 'blind' by a panel, and these were our final winners!



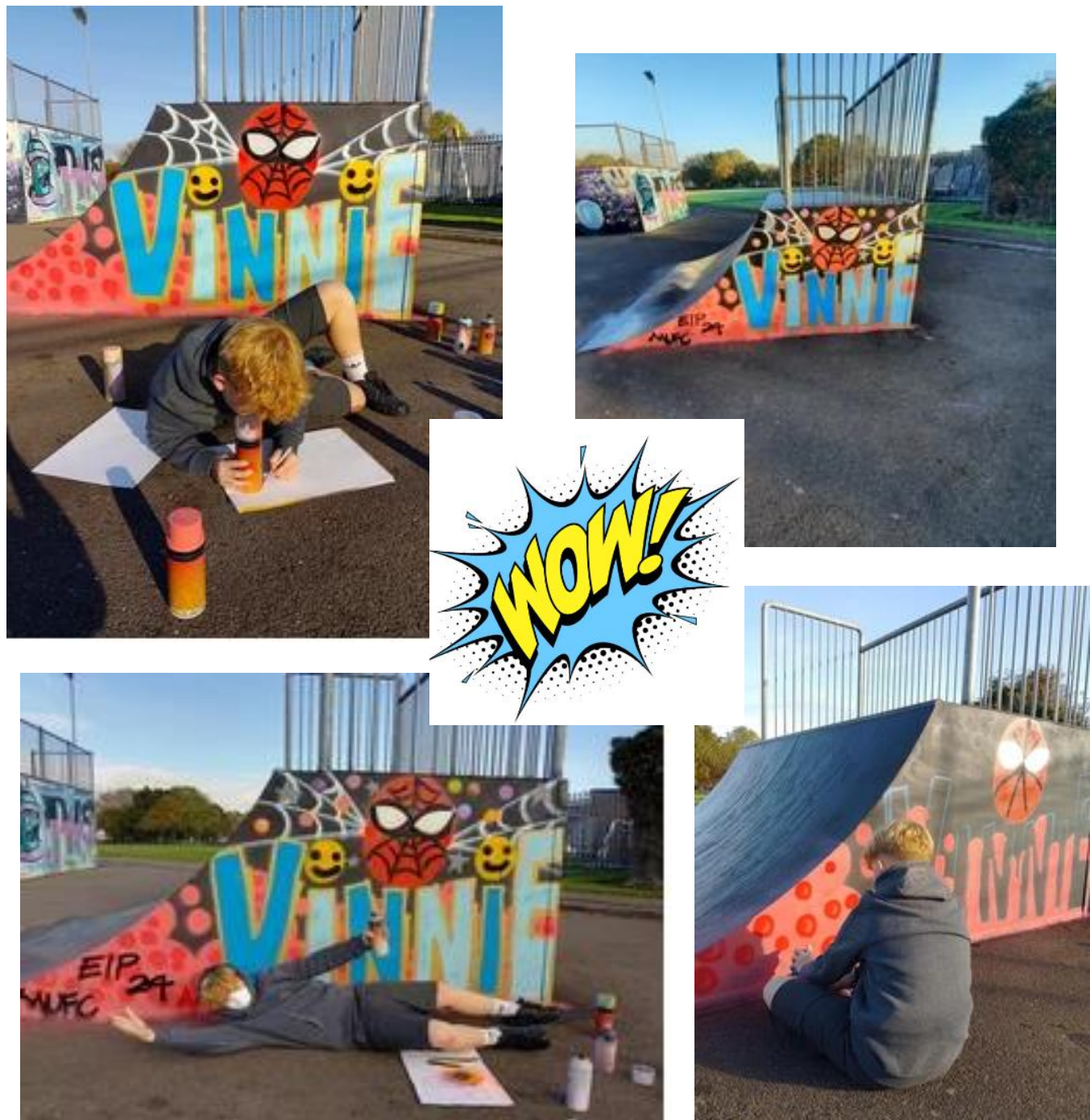
Massive Congratulations to **Liv B** for first place, joint second went to **Daniel R** and **Elizabeth A** and in third place was **Poppy D**. Well done, everyone!

Vinnie Creates Fantastic New Artwork at the Skate Park

In October, local young person **Vinnie** created a fantastic new piece of art on one of the ramps at the Skate Park in Norman Scott Park, as part of an education inclusion project (EIP) with South Gloucestershire Council Young People's Support team.

Vinnie has had a successful start to year 7, has shown a great interest in art and uses the skate park regularly.

Mayor of Patchway Cllr Dayley Lawrence said, **'Hats off to Vinnie. What a brilliant piece of art that really adds to the urban space of our well-used skate park at Scott Park.'** Well done to Vinnie and the Young Persons support team at South Gloucestershire Council'.



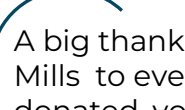
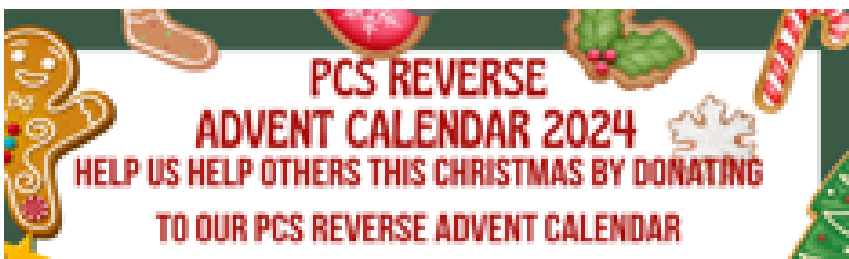
Christmas 2024

Culture Day



It was so great to see so many students taking part in our Culture day last week, by wearing a Christmas jumper or an item of clothing that symbolises their Culture and Nationality. Of course, we couldn't let the day pass without some of our teaching staff getting involved too. A great effort made by everyone, which was lovely to see.

PCS Reverse Advent Calendar



A big thank you from Ms Mills to everyone who donated, your generosity will go a long way in supporting other families this Christmas.



Christmas Reading Competition!

Complete the 12 challenges of Christmas!

Entry requirements:

Evidence of completing each task

Submit to Mrs Evans in the library or Miss Pilsworth in Hive 3.

Deadline: TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

Lovely chocolate prizes to be won!



CHRISTMAS READING CHALLENGE

THE 12 CHALLENGES OF CHRISTMAS

Read a Christmas themed book

Have a whole family bedtime story

Create a puppet show of a book

Read a story by the Christmas tree

Read a book that is older than you

Build a den and share a story in it

Read a story about an animal

Read a book about kindness

Share a story with someone over Zoom

Draw a picture from your favourite book

Share a poem with someone

Read a book that makes you laugh

TIS THE SEASON TO GET READING!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

HO HO HO

Come and celebrate Christmas with lunch with your friends on...

THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER

MAINS

Roast British Turkey with a pig in blanket & stuffing
or
Vegan Roasted Vegetable & Cranberry Wellington

Thyme Roast potatoes,
Brussel sprouts, glazed carrots,
Cranberry sauce & gravy

DESSERT

Festive Chocolate & Orange Brownie
Or
Warm Mince pie

£2.55

WHEN: Thursday 19th December

This year's School Christmas dinner can be purchased through the Arbor shop.

You need to purchase your ticket for Christmas dinner by Monday 16th December.

Only those who have pre-purchased a Christmas dinner will be given one.

The only other food that will be on offer on 19th Dec will be some ham or cheese sandwiches.

Other News



The Stoke Gifford Monkhouse store is closing. There will be a new store opening in **Kingswood close to the Kings Chase Shopping Centre. Get ready for a fresh new space with all your favourite essentials.**

In the meantime, we're here to make the move as smooth as possible:

Extended Returns: You now have 60 days to return any online purchases.

Free delivery: Enjoy shopping from home with FREE delivery using code **FREDELSTOKEG at checkout.**

For expert advice and personal fittings, please visit our Bedminster store.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

web@monkhouse.com monkhouse.com 0161 476 7216

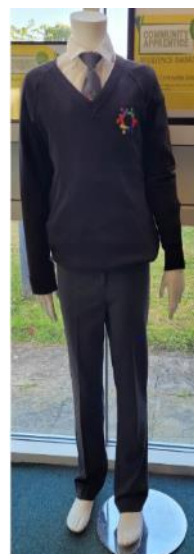
Uniform Reminder

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform everyday:

- School logo jumpers and ties are compulsory and must be always worn
- A charcoal grey pleated skirt / tailored trousers (no skintight trousers or leggings)
- Black tights to be worn with skirts (no leggings)
- White shirt (long or short sleeve)
- Grey or black socks (no white or coloured socks)
- Plain black shoes/trainers (all black, no colour logos/laces)

Any student arriving at school not in correct uniform will be followed up by a member of staff.

If there is a problem with uniform, please contact the school to inform us.



WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



HeopoeQuotes.com