

Newsletter

Issue 5 - 26th February 2016

Somervale School - a 11-19 comprehensive. Celebrated in the top 15% of most progressive schools in the country

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to announce that we have successfully appointed an Associate Headteacher for Somervale School. Ms Joanna Postlethwaite was the successful candidate and was deeply impressive throughout the two-day interview process. Ms Postlethwaite is currently Vice Principal at Hanham Woods Academy in Bristol, where she has led on both teaching and learning and the curriculum. Ms Postlethwaite will take up post in September and be responsible for the day-to-day leadership of Somervale School. I will be her direct line-manager and will work with Ms Postlethwaite to secure further improvement at Somervale. I look forward to working with her in the future and feel confident that Somervale will continue to be an excellent school.

In other news, I was delighted to hear about the involvement of Parents, Carers and Friends in our Walk the World event held on the last day of term 3. This charitable activity has really inspired the whole school to work together as a team in true Somervale spirit. Thank you to Mr Dochniak for his excellent leadership and tenacity which has meant this event has been great success.

You will have received a letter from Mr Kenny outlining the new arrangements for entry onto the school site during school hours. I would ask for your support in keeping access to the site safe. This will include parking in the front car park and walking in if you wish to use your car to travel to school during school hours.

Finally, we have once again been contacted by neighbouring local businesses who are reporting that parents of Somervale students are using their car parks or forecourts as waiting areas. Can I please ask you to be courteous when waiting and only use public car parks or arrange a meeting point that is not obstructive to businesses or members of the public.

Alun Williams



School Diary Dates:

- **29th February 2016**
World Book Week
Attendance Mufti
- **5th March 2016**
Y10 Ten Tors Training (Dartmoor)
- **7th March 2016**
Behaviour Mufti
- **10th March 2016**
Y13 Parents' Evening
- **14th March 2016**
Y11 Mock Exams
- **17th March 2016**
Y12 Parents' Evening
- **19th/20th March 2016**
Y10 Ten Tors Training (Dartmoor)
- **23rd March 2016**
Y8 Art Trip
Music Concert 7.00pm
- **25th March 2016**
Good Friday - school closed
- **28th March 2016**
Easter Monday - school closed
- **29th & 30th March 2016**
PE Moderation
- **1st April 2016**
Y7 Trip to St. Fagin's Castle
Last day of term
- **18th April 2016**
INSET - school closed to pupils

@somervaleschool & @msnsixth



Contact us:

Tel: 01761 414276 | Fax: 01761 410613

Email: headssec@somervaleschool.com

Web: www.somervaleschool.com



NOTICES

UNIFORM

SKIRTS AND TROUSERS

School skirts should be black and of reasonable length, ie. no more than 3 inches above the knee. Many girls have been wearing short, tight skirts of jersey material, which are not acceptable. School trousers should be black – no side splits, no studs, no denim, and not the 'skinny' style or jean style. Again, some students have been wearing clingy, 'skinny' style trousers, which are tapered to the ankle, which are not appropriate.

SCHOOL SHOES

School shoes must be black leather (or faux/synthetic leather), and without obvious logos or branding. Trainers or canvas shoes are not permitted.

Our aim is for ALL Somervale pupils to look smart and presentable. We do appreciate that providing a school uniform for your child is an expense, which is why we try not to make any changes to the uniform rules, and allow time for you to make any necessary purchases. We are also aware that many retail outlets will sell such items in their 'school uniform' section. Norton Sports and Camping in Midsomer Norton High Street is our recommended supplier of uniform.

A number of students were spoken to regarding issues with their uniform at the start of January, and letters have gone out as well as email reminders to ensure parents have had time to rectify any items of uniform not meeting our requirements. All students have also been reminded of the rules in assemblies.

Please be aware that any students who are not dressed according to these rules may either be sanctioned or sent home to change, at our discretion.

In addition, we do not allow hair dyes which are not 'natural' hair colours or multi-coloured hair.

Thank you for your co-operation on these matters.



Last Term we had two separate occasions where a member of the local community contacted the school and praised the acts of our students.

The first was a call received on Friday 29th January when a Ms Hamilton reported that three students had stopped to assist an elderly lady who had fallen. Ms Hamilton said the two female and one male students acted with maturity and great kindness whilst help was on its way, unfortunately the names of the students are unknown.

The second call was received from a parent to inform us of another incident where an elderly gentleman slipped and fell in Priory Close afterschool on Tuesday 2nd February. This was a very wet, cold day and the two female students, Stacey Whittock and Megan Long called an ambulance and stayed with the gentleman keeping him warm until the paramedics arrived.

These acts of kindness are a credit to these students and they, along with their families, should be very proud of their actions.

Since January 2016 copies of all letters sent home will be added to the Parent Portal instead of the school website.

When you log-in to your Parent Portal Homepage you will see two new folders appear under 'General' this will hold Whole School letters and your child's specific year group letters too.

We would encourage you to check these folders regularly as we have had instances where emails are not being received even though the correct email address is used.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INFORM US IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES.

WALK THE WORLD CHALLENGE - SPORT RELIEF 2016

On Friday 12th February, friends and family of Somervale were invited to join us in our quest to Walk The World in aid of Sport Relief. As a reminder, our goal is to complete 117,867 laps of our brand new Astro turf which would equate to walking the entire circumference of planet earth.

The event was very well attended, with all age ranges and abilities coming out to add some vital laps to the cause. In total, 2055 laps were added during the 2 hour event. This brings our current distance to 31,530 laps - the equivalent distance from Somervale School to Rio!

We would like to thank you for your continued support and hope that when we hold a second friends and family event on Friday 11th March from 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm you will join us once again.

Fundraising:

We have currently raised £740.40 with a target of £2,000! Donations and sponsorship can be donated online via our justgiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/Somervale-walktheworld/> or brought in a sealed envelope to the office. Please leave the student name when donating as there is a prize for the greatest amount of sponsorship raised!

Most recent statistics (25th February 2016)

Total				Year Group Totals			TOTAL LAPS WHOLE WORLD	TOTAL LAPS 1/2 World	MONEY RAISED	Total Laps Completed		Total Money Raised	
TG	Laps	Average	Money	Year	Laps	Average				Money	34275	£805.40	Target
7IUM	765	38.3	£0.00	Year 7	3135	52.3	£55.00	100%	100%	100%	100%		
7LEQ	1290	64.5	£55.00					90%	90%	90%	90%		
7LTH	1080	54.0	£0.00	Year 8	8805	83.9	£10.00	80%	80%	80%	80%		
8ABR	1800	69.2	£0.00					70%	70%	70%	70%		
8AHE	2370	94.8	£0.00	Year 9	7650	87.9	£0.00	60%	60%	60%	60%		
8CKE	1740	66.9	£0.00					50%	50%	50%	50%		
8EMR	2895	103.4	£10.00	Year 10	2805	36.0	£0.00	40%	40%	40%	40%		
9ALA	1635	68.1	£0.00					30%	30%	30%	30%		
9MDK	1950	102.6	£0.00	Year 11	6390	65.9	£30.00	20%	20%	20%	20%		
9MHL	1695	73.7	£0.00					10%	10%	10%	10%		
9SOH	2370	118.5	£0.00	Staff	4440	58.4	£65.00	0%	0%	0%	0%		
10RML	735	38.7	£0.00					0%	0%	0%	0%		
10NGA	735	33.4	£0.00										
10SFO	585	32.5	£0.00										
10WFA	750	39.5	£0.00										
11CEL	390	17.0	£0.00										
11DRI	2295	95.6	£1.00										
11LCH	2160	86.4	£0.00										
11LHO	1545	61.8	£29.00										
Staff	4440	58.4	£65.00										



Congratulations to Meg Thatcher for completing her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

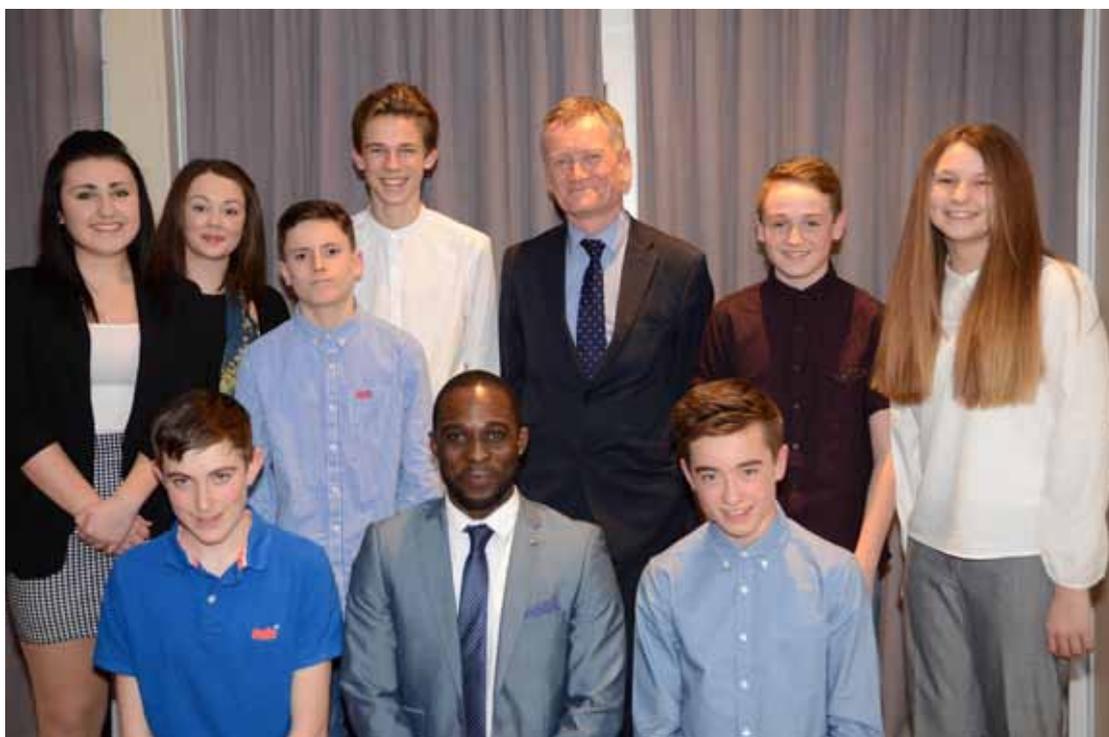
YEAR 10 BUSINESS STUDIES - THE BIG PITCH

The Year 10 Business Studies students who had been selected to the final of the 'Big Pitch' challenge attended the final at The Centurion Hotel. Originally 8 teams were in the competition supported by the Somer Valley Rotary Club but the three most successful businesses had the final task to present their business plans to an audience made up of local business owners and the Mayor, Paul Myers, who then voted for their favourites before the winners were awarded the prize.

The winners were: Amy Chapman, Shayla Hopson and Laura Snook who won £100 for their Bath Bomb Blitz idea which saw them selling homemade toiletries to fellow students, teachers and the wider community at festive events. The team spoke of how they created their own packaging and decided to create festive red and green bath bombs to appeal to Christmas shoppers.

Two runners-up prizes of £75 and £50 were awarded to the two other teams who made it through to the final. These were Cakes Galore, presented by Jack Rawlings and Gregor Morgan and Big Ideas which saw Oakley Rawlings, Harrison Curtis and Ross Fielden selling American sweets.

Phil Edmunds, chairman of the Somer Valley Rotary Club Youth Committee, praised all the young people for their hard work and dedication and has promised to return next year to do it all again with a new set of pupils.



"On Tuesday the 26th January the top 3 groups from the big pitch project all went to the final judging at the Centurion Hotel. At this event we all did our presentations and then nervously awaited for the winner to be announced. In the meantime we were all really proud of the other groups and the way they have represented our school. The moment finally approached and the winner was announced. The winning group was 'Bath Bomb Blitz,' in a close second place was 'Cakes Galore,' and in third place was 'Big Ideas.' "As we walked up to receive our reward we were all shaking as we were so proud of how successful we were, we really didn't think we would make it right through to the end. Doing the Big Pitch presentation has made all of us more confident with our work and speaking in front of new people. We hope to get this opportunity again soon".

Shayla Hopson

facebook

DONT FORGET TO 'LIKE' AND 'SHARE' OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SOMERVALE-SCHOOL



February 4th saw the second annual Harry Potter Book Night celebrations. Harry Potter fans from around the World took part in Night of Spells! During the day, Students at Somervale took part in a “Harry Potter” tutor quiz. Some

students even discovered who their “Hogwarts Best Friend” would be; and even generated their own “Harry Potter” name.

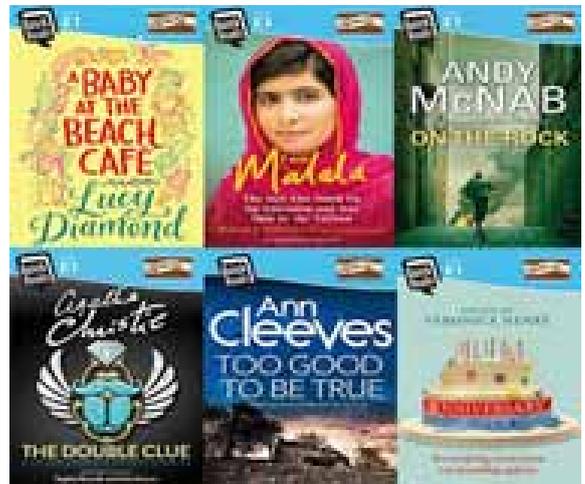
Whether it is the disarming Expelliarmus or the dreaded Avada Kedavra, spells are at the very heart of the Harry Potter books so it was the perfect theme to inspire a spellbinding event!

Once again, fans of all ages celebrated J.K. Rowling’s wonderful novels – and helped pass the magic on to young readers who haven’t yet discovered these unforgettable books. For the second Harry Potter Book Night: A Night of Spells, there were an amazing 12,600 parties and celebrations held all over the world.

www.harrypotter.bloomsbury.com/uk/harry-potter-book-night

Love chocolate? Love reading!

Quick Reads joins The Reading Agency and announces 2016 titles:



The youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Malala Yousafzai, is amongst the authors featured on the 2016 Galaxy® Quick Reads title list.

One in six adults in the UK struggles with reading, whilst one in three does not read for pleasure, and Quick Reads will next year continue its work to break down barriers to reading. Ninety-seven per cent of literacy practitioners report that using Quick Reads has been effective at raising learners’ confidence to read, whilst 95% say that the books have been effective at improving readers’ literacy skills.

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

3 MARCH 2016

SPONSORED BY

**NATIONAL
BOOK
tokens**

**Somervale
World Book Week 2016**

To launch our World Book Week celebrations, author Alan Gibbons visited Somervale on Monday 22nd February. Alan held a day long workshop with groups of Year 8 and Year 10 boys, to focus on their reading and creative writing skills. Alan’s visit was generously funded by Literature Works South West Grassroots Award.

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 3 March 2016, and we would like to invite you to join us in helping your child to make the most of a week of celebration. To help them on their reading journey, every KS3 student receives a £1 World Book Day Book Token during their World Book Week library lessons. Tokens can either be exchanged for one of TEN special £1 World Book Day books or used to get £1 off any book costing £2.99 or more. You can find out more about the books: worldbookday.com/books

To support this year’s Somervale School Sport Relief “Walk the World” challenge, students and staff will have “walked” the distance (9,272 km or 27,270 laps) to the South American city of Rio de Janeiro - home of the 2016 Olympics, so this year our World

Book Day theme will be all things South American! Students will take part in research skills and a quiz, and also we will be hosting our usual staff v student chess and scrabble competitions, together with a special Olympic “pass the baton” Staff sporting reads session during the week.

On World Book Day itself - Thursday 3rd March, we will be having an “Olympic Sporting Hero” Dress-Up Day. Students are encouraged to come in fancy dress as their “Olympic Hero”. Cost is £1 to take part and all monies raised will go towards Somervale’s Sport Relief “Walk the World” challenge.

It is not a mufti day so students not participating in the fancy dress will need to wear school uniform as normal.

A reminder to parents and students that “lost property” is held in the library office. Please come to the library if your child has lost anything recently. PLEASE ENSURE ITEMS ARE LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD’S NAME this will help with them being returned to the correct student.

PE NEWS

On Friday 29th January, 6 Somervale Students competed at the Sainsbury's School Games at the University of West of England, Bristol. Their mission was to defend the gold medal which they won in last year's competition. Lily, Amy, Mollie, Daisy, Abigail and new team member Sophie had to perform a series of set trampolining skills, a set routine and a voluntary routine which they had created themselves. All of their performances were closely scrutinised by expert judges to form the team's overall score.

Incredibly, there was only 0.3 points between Somervale and Hayesfield School. Thankfully the girls had done enough and for the second year running, were crowned as Sainsbury's School Games Trampolining winners. This is an absolutely fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work that students and staff afford to the sport. All KS3 students, both boys and girls, participate in trampolining in their PE lessons, as well as KS4 students being offered the option to continue their involvement in core PE.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLUBS Term 4



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Walk The World laps can be completed from 8.15-8.45 every morning!					
LUNCHTIME	Y7 & Y8 Girls Cricket	Y7, 8 & 9 Rec Football	Cheerleading All Years	KS4 Football Cheerleading All Years	
Complete laps for the Walk The World Challenge every breaktime and lunchtime!					
AFTER SCHOOL	All Years Trampolining All Years Gymnastics KS3 Hockey	All Years Bath City Girls Football 	KS4 Netball KS3 Football	All Years (and staff) Circuits & Personal Fitness	After-school GCSE/A Level catch-up & detentions KS4 Rec Football



Complete laps for Walk The World after-school every Monday, Thursday & Friday.
Sport Relief 2016 – Make a difference!