



A Message from the Headteacher

It is nearly the end of the second term and Christmas is almost upon us. There are so many events occurring at this time; I do hope that you manage to get to see some of them.

Our Christmas carol concert took place on 11th December at St James Church. It was a concert to celebrate many individual performances but also the community, the teamwork and the harmony between us all. This followed an outstanding concert in Gloucester Cathedral led by Mr Andrews and featured many of our musicians performing in imposing surroundings. Please see page 8 for further details. Our drama students have also been performing; their acting was extremely impressive and confirmed the strength of tuition.

This year our Christmas cards are electronic so as to save paper, as part of our push on sustainability. 'Rednock Goes Green' is our strapline for this initiative which is being led by the students. The design of the cards has come from our younger students; I do hope that you like them. They will be posted on our website and on Facebook.

We finish earlier on Friday 20th December – watch out for the letter giving you details of this and our emergency contact procedure if severe weather occurs during the coming months.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families the best of the Christmas season.

Remembrance Day 2019

On Monday 11th November the school came together, as it always does, to remember on the 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month. This year we considered the reasons why we remember in the modern day, recognising the continuing work supporting our service personnel past and present and their families.

We must thank all those in school and out who supported us with this event. Most notably a big thank you to some of our students: Firstly, Poppy Jones of Year 7 who represented the school at the weekend by laying our poppy wreath at the local Dursley Remembrance event. Secondly, Megan Graham and Sam Drewett who played the last post at the end of our two minute silence.

The dedication of our students makes us proud every day.



Poppy Jones - Year 7





Learning Resource Centre (LRC) News

Scholastic ½ Price book Sale

At the book sale students were able to buy half-price books during breaktime as well as before and after school. This is part of our ongoing push to engage everyone in reading. This is a crucial skill; it helps students in every project and can be fun, too.

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers>

READ#10

On Thursday 3rd October, students and staff enjoyed one of our READ#10 events. Every lesson contained a 10 -minute slot for all to read. These events are always very popular as everyone recognises the calming effect reading can have - as well as being both fun and relaxing.

Reading Buddies

We recognise the value of being a confident reader, so to encourage every student to reach their potential, Rednock LRC trains older students to help groups of Year 7 students to develop their reading confidence and stamina. This programme only lasts a term, but the twice weekly sessions are invaluable and some students can raise their reading age by as many as 18 months. The programme also helps develop a love of reading for pleasure as well valuing helping others.

LGBTQ+ Books

We have been very lucky to receive some money to buy a selection of books - both fiction and non fiction that will enable all students to feel valued and respected.

Cheltenham Literary Festival

Fourteen students were selected to attend the Cheltenham Literature Festival as a reward for their efforts in our dystopian writing competition.

The group of students went to see author William Sutcliffe discussing dystopian fiction, the importance of reading and one or two secrets about how to become an author.

It was a fantastic day and all of the students were able to purchase a signed book by the author.





Hospitality and Catering - Christmas Baking

Maria Sava in Year 11 baked these wonderful Christmas tree pastries. Maria made these during her Hospitality and Catering lesson. Many of our students take this course and turn into proficient and successful bakers. This really important skill is one which the School encourages.



Non-School Uniform Day – YoungMinds Charity

Amélie Bouvier and Millie Hall who are in Hubble Community organised a non-school uniform day which took place on **Friday 29th November**. Students were invited to wear **yellow** in support of the #HelloYellow campaign, raising money for the YoungMinds Charity.

The YoungMinds charity are there to make sure young people get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's difficulties. The crisis in children and young people's mental health is real and it is urgent. More children and young people than ever before are reaching out for help with their mental health. For those who take that brave step, help can be too hard to find. YoungMinds are changing this, they are fighting for young people's mental health.

So far, we have raised over **£1000.00**, a BIG thank you for all of those who have donated so far. We are very grateful of your generosity and we know YoungMinds will benefit from this donation greatly.

Amélie and Millie should be very proud of themselves, they worked really hard to make this day such a success.





Real Madrid Trip October 2019



A very successful tour was undertaken by the Rednock Year 8 and Year 9 students to Madrid in the October break. 50 students, 33 boys from Year 9 and 17 girls from a mixture of Year 8 and Year 9 plus 6 staff members set off on the Thursday morning to Heathrow for a flight to Madrid and then 4 days training, playing and competing in the footsteps of one of Europe's top footballing teams.

The trip included 4 training sessions with Real Madrid academy coaches at their state-of-the-art training facility on the outskirts of Madrid, where all the groups were also able to have lunch. We had the privilege of also attending a La Liga fixture featuring an amazing atmosphere (in the sunshine!) at Leganes vs Mallorca. The cultural part of the trip also included a visit around the centre of Madrid and a stadium tour of the Bernabeu itself.

When it came to the football fixtures against local opposition, the girls team ran out 1-0 winners, with the boys A team winning 4-2 and the Boys B team getting a very creditable draw with the last fixture of the tour.

The group certainly returned tired having worked exceptionally hard over the course of the 5 days. There were some huge improvements from lots of the group both with their footballing exploits and also the overall cultural experience.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Badminton and Table Tennis Club



As part of our drive to improve GCSE grades, but also to encourage more activity higher up the school, the PE Department offer Badminton and Table Tennis club every day from Monday to Thursday, with Year 11 on a Monday/Wednesday and Year 10 on a Tuesday and Thursday. The two clubs attract over 40 students each lunchtime and they are given the opportunity to play competitive matches, improve their skills and also socialise in a sporting environment.



As a School we also enter the Level 2 Gloucestershire School Games for both Table Tennis and Badminton, this club also helps the recruitment and coaching for those teams and individuals who may want to take part.



New Students

In January 2019 we welcomed two new students from Eritrea. Eritrea is in the midst of civil unrest, with prospects for teenage boys bleak. Both of these students were seeking a better life and sanctuary outside of their country and found themselves in Dursley and at our School.

One of the students was a Year 9 boy called Yafet and since his arrival in the UK he has been through a rigorous process to gain asylum. In late June it was confirmed that he was granted a 5 year right to live here. He was overjoyed and could not wait to share this news with us.

But his success goes further than this. Yafet was fortunate enough to come to Rednock with a small amount of schooling, his literacy, spelling and speaking skills were minimal and integration into lessons was proving difficult. He has worked extremely hard with a Teaching Assistant 2 hours a day since January to bring his English, Maths, Science and Spelling up to a level where successful integration into lessons has been achieved. Yafet has chosen his options for GCSEs due to start in September and is now in all but 2 of his subjects. He loves football, and has excelled at PE, representing Rednock at many sporting competitions. He has even applied for Sports Ambassador for the school. He was called upon to represent the school at the district athletics event in Cheltenham and ran the 1500m finishing in a decent 5th place.



Everything Yafet has done, he has done with a smile on his face and with a tenacity from which we could all learn. It has been a pleasure to support Yafet in the early part of his journey and we look forward to seeing him succeed even further during the next 2 years.

Rednock Goes Green

We have recently established a 'Rednock Goes Green' sustainability group with representatives from governors, staff and students, neighbouring schools and the wider community including Forest Green Rovers Eco group, all working together to look at: sustainability, climate change and make recommendations on what we can do.

Issues being addressed include energy use and looking in detail at electricity and gas consumption, developing wildlife habitats, enrichment of plant life areas and the possibility of a forest school on site.

The group will look at building energy, waste management, water management, grounds, composting and soil management and electric vehicles.

The group will also explore opportunities for application of curriculum based learning in the school as a living laboratory – engaging across all aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Economics and Humanities.



National Chemistry Week



The week beginning 18th November was National Chemistry week and students got to take part in different activities inside lessons and at lunchtimes. Pop-up Science Club returned and students had a great time making bouncy balls and testing them out on the lab walls, floors and ceiling with Dr Craig and investigating the chemistry of fire with Mr Szmaglik and Mr Mitchell.

Art Department



Miss Burley and Miss Chinnock displayed their artwork at the Totterdown Arts Trail for a whole weekend from the 15th - 17th of November. The Totterdown Arts Trail is a great event where British artists and craftsmen come together to showcase their work. The artwork is displayed in a trail of houses all within close proximity of each other, allowing the public to walk into houses freely to view and purchase artwork. It was a great event and was an exciting opportunity for both teachers to create and display their own artwork.

Miss Burley's Art Work



Miss Chinnock's Art Work



The Open Space - Lunch Club

Rednock School is proud to now offer an inclusive lunchtime social group for anyone who feels they need a safe, judgement-free space to be themselves. Rednock School prides itself on the ethos of 'Everyone Matters' and The Open Space began during Term 1, and now has 8 Year 9 to Year 11 ambassadors who are available for any students to talk to around issues of identity, sexuality, gender and mental health. Our first task was to develop a name, logo and vision written by and for the students: The Open Space won the vote for the name.

Each Friday, between 20-30 students attend to chat, fund-raise and simply be themselves in a safe environment joined by at least half a dozen members of staff. A Rainbow Library is also available in this classroom for students who wish to read books (fiction and nonfiction) written by and for people who may have suffered adversity and/or judgement based on their race, gender, sexuality, background or disability. Students may also notice that the Open Space Ambassadors wear Rainbow Heart badges around school to show that they are someone approachable and safe with whom to talk. Several members of staff have also begun wearing rainbow badges on their lanyards to reinforce the message that everyone is entitled to be themselves and free from judgement.



If any students from any year group feel that they would like to be part of The Open Space, then they are welcome to chat with Mrs Nicholson or simply join the group every Friday lunchtime in Room 313 (top floor).

Staff News

Weightlifting Competition

Miss Burley took part in an annual weightlifting competition involving the Celtic Nations. Each year Wales, Scotland and Ireland select their top 9 female and 9 male weightlifters to go head to head in the team competition. Lifters are put into three age categories, Youth (13-17), Junior (15-20) and Senior (20+). There are no weight categories for this competition. Instead, each lifter will produce a score which includes their body weight and the weight lifted at the competition. All the

scores are then added up for each nation with the highest score winning the competition. For the last 6 years, Wales

have been unsuccessful at winning the Celtic Nations competition. This year Wales hosted the competition in Bangor, with the intention of winning on home ground. After a weekend of competing, Wales finally won the Celtic Nations.





Music Department

Spirit of Christmas Concert - Gloucestershire Cathedral



Mr Andrews conducting the Rednock Orchestra

The music department were asked to contribute to a concert at Gloucester Cathedral in support of the charity Muscular Dystrophy UK. Although programmed with four local primary schools, Rednock was the only secondary school taking part in this annual event that raises thousands of pounds for the charity.

Our orchestra rehearsed on three Sunday mornings at Rednock to prepare for the concert whilst the choir rehearsed at lunchtimes throughout the school term. The senior orchestra from the Thornbury Area Youth Music joined us on this occasion as they are currently rehearsing with the Rednock students towards a concert tour to Italy at the end of this academic year.



Will Irvine (Year 9) - Flautist



Anna Blanch (Year 11) – Cellist

The orchestra performed arrangements of Debussy's 'Claire de lune', Tchaikovsky's 'Sleeping Beauty Waltz', Waltz no. 2 from the 2nd Jazz suite by Shostakovich and an original Christmas medley composed by Ross Probert, a former Rednock student. The choir sang two popular Christmas songs with the primary schools whilst also performing two of their own songs including 'Angel's carol' by John Rutter.



Miss Summers and Miss Duncan

The event itself was a real success following months of preparation by all involved. The students enjoyed performing at such a fantastic venue and for such a worthwhile cause.

Healthy Eating Partnership Agreement



The students and staff at Rednock School are working closely with our catering company Innovate on a healthy eating agenda that combines freshly cooked, tasty and nutritious food with the latest street food concepts, thus providing students with an offer they really like to eat. We are also delighted to have signed our very first Social Impact Partnership Agreement, tackling issues such as single use plastic bottles, plastic packaging on our grab "n" go menu range and reducing sugar by 30% on all homebakes.

This agreement will be managed by Innovate together with an eloquent and passionate group of students who form part of the sustainable group: "Rednock Goes Green" The group will meet 3 times per year, agree set criteria and monitor progress.

The partnership with Innovate means that we have formed a strong coalition that ensures Innovate are always providing great food, whilst we are all doing as much as we can to help protect the environment!

We must all listen to and take note of the student voice and an agenda for change. Congratulations to the students and Innovate for being so proactive.



Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 17th December Mobile Phone - Parental Clinic (4pm-5pm)
- Friday 20th December End of Term 2, students finish at 1.30pm
- Monday 6th January Inset Day
- Tuesday 7th January Start of Term 3, students should be in school by 8.30am at the latest
- Monday 13th January Year 13 Mock Exams begin
- Tuesday 21st January Year 11 Parents' Consultation Meeting
- Wednesday 22nd January Year 11 Mock Interviews (Day 1)
- Thursday 23rd January Year 11 Mock Interviews (Day 2)
- Tuesday 28th January Year 9 HPV vaccinations
- Thursday 30th January Year 13 Parents' Consultation Meeting
- Wednesday 12th February Sixth Form Admission September 2020 Interviews (Day 1)
- Thursday 13th February Sixth Form Admission September 2020 Interviews (Day 2)
- Thursday 13th February Year 11 Photographs
- Thursday 13th February Year 12 Parents' Consultation Meeting
- Friday 14th February End of Term 3

Useful Contact Details

Contact Details

01453 543618

admin@rednockschool.org.uk

Kingshill Road

Dursley

GL11 4BY

School Website - www.rednockschool.org.uk

Student Absence Notifications

Telephone: 01453 540755

Text: 07624 813504

- Attendance Officer - Ms Willis

Community Support Officers

- **Brunel** – Mrs Mandy Price (01453 540775)
- **Darwin** – Ms Suzannah Jones (01453 540773)
- **Hubble** – Ms Gail Harris (01453 540748)
- **Jenner** – Mrs Donna Dummelow (01453 540774)



From all of us at Rednock School, have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Don't forget to check out the School Website and Social Media pages for up to date messages and notices