

THE REDNOCK REVIEW

Term 1 – 2024/25
13th September 2024

Dear Rednock Community,

Our students have been back for over a week now, and I'm delighted to report that the return to school has been remarkable. With new routines, timings, and both students and staff, everyone has embraced the changes seamlessly. The school has already settled into a productive and focused rhythm, and I want to extend my thanks to all parents and carers for their support in making this transition so smooth.

Today, we are pleased to share the first edition of our Rednock Review for the 2024-25 academic year. It's filled with wonderful stories, outstanding achievements, and important updates that I'm sure you'll enjoy.

I've been thrilled with the start of this term, and I look forward to the continued progress and success as the year unfolds. Though the school year is just beginning, we are already looking ahead to welcoming our future students. Our annual Open Evening will be held on Thursday, 19th September, from 5-8pm. We invite the community, especially Year 5 and 6 students and their families, to visit and experience what Rednock has to offer. You are, of course, more than welcome to attend and explore our school once again.



Click [here](#) to a
video from Mr
Stratford

I hope you enjoy reading this first edition of the Rednock Review and celebrating the incredible work our students have already accomplished.

Welcome back to you all, and I look forward to working with you throughout the academic year.

My very best wishes,

Mike Stratford
Headteacher



Rednock School
Where everyone matters



Achievement Heroes

We've had some wonderful Achievement Heroes in the past 2 weeks and we're extremely proud to celebrate their achievements. They were nominated for various reasons, all as impressive as the last!

Winners are: **James**, who was nominated for being awarded Dursley Running Club's Year 7+ athlete of the year. **Poppy**, for being selected for U16 County football. **Tristan**, for always being a positive member of Hubble. **David**, for rising to the challenge of cooking for 5-7 people over five days at camp this summer. **Sam**, for outstanding summer work pre-reading all the texts for his A-level English Literature course. **Charlie**, for receiving the 'Manager's Player of the Year' for his cricket team. **Freddie**, for making a great start at Rednock, always being a positive member of Darwin, coming to school with a smile and always willing to try his best. **Jack**, for being an exemplar Rednock Student and showing real kindness to another student who was struggling to settle. **Violet**, for a tremendous first week at Rednock, contributing well in all lessons whilst achieving a high number of reward points; and finally **William**, for making a fantastic start to Year 13.



WELCOME

What a fabulous start Year 7 have made to their Rednock journey. We have all been so impressed with their positive attitude to school and the way in which they have embraced the huge number of different challenges that they have already encountered. We wish them well as they continue to navigate their way through their first term, we are proud of you all!





Summer adventures

It has been wonderful to catch up with students and hear stories about lots of amazing things done and achieved over the summer months. Two of these adventures are shared below:

Evan Probert in Year 11 had an amazing opportunity to go on an overnight ship expedition with the **Sea Cadets**. Evan describes his experience below:

“In June I went off shore on the training ship T.S. Jack Petchey. I am part of the Sea Cadets Corps and attend the Stroud Unit. I was lucky to get a place on the off shore trip and had a great time.

The first day we spent time listening to the captain of T.S. Jack Petchey and the crew, learning about the boat... On the second day we went out into the Solent and saw some navy ships and the Chilean navy. We watched the Chilean navy fire a nineteen gun salute when it was going into Portsmouth, then we went away from Portsmouth and went to Cowes on the Isle of Wight. We went close to a cargo ship called De Taker. It is eco friendly and they have no engine; they rely on the wind for the sails to move them.

I learnt about the different functions on the ship and took a night watch. I gained two qualifications whilst away, learnt so much and made new friends.” (Evan)



Every year The STAAR (Summer Time Advanced Aerospace Residency) Programme is run at Royal Air Force Cosford. Year 9 students have the opportunity to apply for placement. **Willow Metcalf** was one of the few who won a place. It is a phenomenal opportunity and we will support Year 9's with an application again in 2025.

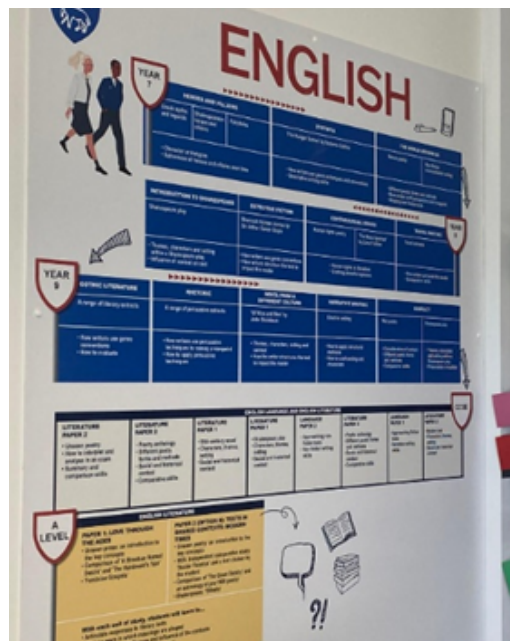
“In the Summer holidays I went on STAAR for five days, from the 29th of July to the 2nd of August. STAAR stands for the Summer Time Advanced Aerospace Residency. The theme for it this year was Cyber and AI. I did things such as an escape room, using reinforced teaching to train AI to recognise different aircraft, we got taught about aerodynamics and what aerofoils are. We also got to design a plane on simple planes and do many more fun things such as a mission on a flight simulator and a drone reconnaissance mission, it was on a model area. We stayed on RAF Cosford while we were there, having a whole building dedicated to us and other educational groups staying there. We also had classrooms at the RAF Museum Midlands and did lots of activities there. We had to fill out a presentation and a booklet while we were there. The presentation got presented to Alumni, our parents, and VIP guests such as an Air Commodore, the CEO of Northrop Grumman, and many other important people from important places for the camp. The booklet is what allowed us to get our awards at the end, we got a certificate from the camp, a medal, and we got awarded the Silver Industrial Cadet award.” (Willow)



Teaching and Learning Focus

Welcome to the Teaching and Learning focus. In every newsletter, we'll share information about what Teaching and Learning looks like in the classroom at Rednock, so that you have a greater understanding of your child's experience of school.

At the beginning of the school year, it is really important that we establish good routines, so that learning starts immediately. These routines also ensure that students feel safe and secure and ready to learn and help to develop good teacher/student relationships. Staff meet and greet students as they arrive, making for a positive and friendly start. Students can then expect a review of previous learning to consolidate what they know and give them a strong starting point for the new lesson. Routines might look slightly different in different subject areas, but students will get to know the routines quickly and will be expected to live up to the expectations we have of them to help ensure a quality education for all.



At Rednock School, curriculum maps are displayed in every classroom, providing a clear and comprehensive overview of each student's learning journey. These maps bring the curriculum to life for students, teachers, parents, and carers by visually outlining when and where learning occurs and how topics are further developed as students advance through the school. By using these maps, students can connect prior knowledge with current lessons and gain insight into future learning. Understanding what they are learning, why it matters, and how it fits into the 'bigger picture' empowers students to learn more effectively.



Attendance

Thank you for remembering to let us know if your child is going to be absent, each day, **by 9am** to avoid it being recorded as unauthorised. Unauthorised absences may lead to penalty notices being issued by the Local Authority.

Behaviour and Culture

What a fantastic start to the year! Over **13,000 reward points** issued already! The students have arrived back ready for the new school year and the school feels really purposeful! Please remind your child that they should be earning and saving the rewards points now, ready to cash them in soon for small prizes or keep banking them towards bigger things.....More information to follow!

A reminder that if they do make a mistake and get a detention, to make sure they know when to sit it to avoid it escalating to a greater consequence.

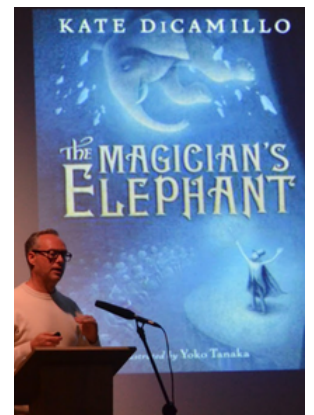


KS4 & KS5 Awards Evening

On Thursday 12th September, we held our first-ever KS4 & KS5 Awards Evening at the Chantry Centre in Dursley; a truly remarkable event celebrating the achievements of students who recently completed their examinations.

The evening showcased the dedication, hard work, and success of our students, with an atmosphere of pride and community throughout. Our guest speaker, Jay Clarke, offered a fascinating glimpse into the world of animation and film.

However, the night truly belonged to our incredible students, whose achievements were at the heart of the celebration. We couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments and the success of the event, and we're already excited to begin planning for next year!





Transforming spaces - with thanks

Volunteers from Spirax Sarco UK&ROI Sales team in Cheltenham worked at Rednock School on 20th August. This is part of their support to local communities via company sponsored employee volunteering days. The day was busy and often strenuous, but resulted in an overgrown area at the back of the school being transformed by clearing established weeds, building a large raised bed and filling it with fresh topsoil.

The new area will be used to allow students to grow fruit and vegetables. This is part of a larger school plan to offer a wider curriculum including more practical elements. This will increase student engagement and allow them to be even more successful in their other lessons.

We are so grateful to the volunteer team who worked all day, tirelessly and through some very challenging weather. Without their help we would have been unable to start this project.



Before

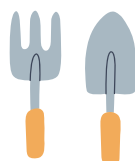


After

Can you help our green-fingered students?

Our Year 10 Personal Development class had their first lesson outside earlier this week. They have just started developing a patch of ground and a raised bed to grow things this year.

Any donations of plants, bulbs or second hand gardening equipment would be gratefully received!





Rednock Learning Resource Centre

New term, new look!

The effects of regular reading have been well researched. Results show that good reading habits improve both education and employment opportunities - in short, the more you read, the more you might earn!

Your child may have told you about their new Reading for Power lessons. Through these lessons, we hope to help students realise the power reading can give them. Students are still required to read regularly and complete a quiz when they've finished a book - quizzes can be done at home and school.

Over the last school year a huge number of students became 'word millionaires', took on reading challenges and fully immersed themselves in the reading culture that we want them to be empowered by.

Please return overdue LRC books - you'll be charged for them after half term with the cost of replacement being added to Parent Pay.



New term, new book!

We have plenty of new titles, old favourites and classic books for students to choose from this term. We've got titles that have been turned into TV adaptations and ones championed by TikTok. New books can be found on display in the LRC and there really is something for everyone!



Smashed Live!

Earlier this week all Year 8 students watched a live performance called 'Smashed' which dealt with the topic of underage drinking. This is a new performance to add to the range that we already offer students as part of the Lifeskills curriculum and ties in with the specific lessons on alcohol in term two. For more information, please consult the [project's website](#).



Opportunities to join the team!

We have some wonderful opportunities to join us at Rednock. Click on the links below to find out more:

[School Receptionist part time \(Thurs & Fri\)](#)

[School Site Manager](#)

[School Site Maintenance](#)

You can keep up to date with our vacancies and find out more about our recruitment [here](#).



The Three Countries Tour

The 'Three Countries Tour' at the end of July was a brilliant experience for the Rednock and Thornbury Area Youth Music students with whom we shared the concert tour with on this occasion. Staying in hotel accommodation in the Limburg region of the Netherlands, we explored the local areas in the heart of Europe with day trips to the town of Valkenburg, city of Aachen in Germany and Alden Biesen in Belgium. The musicians performed a popular programme of big band arrangements featuring two vocalists in three different venues: Three Countries Point, Roof-top terrace and a spa. This may have been our best concert tour to date!





Club Correze 2024 - Mr Barrett

The Year 9 trip to Club Correze at the end of last term was a major success! The students had a great time and were able to challenge their fears and learn new skills. Some of the activities included kayaking down the Dordogne River; visiting an underground cave system and zip lining over a river. The students' behaviour and attitude to the trip was impeccable throughout and we were able to cap off the trip with an awards evening. A thank you must also go to Mr Merriman, Miss Bingham, Miss Egan and Mr Page for supporting me on the trip in the first week of their summer holidays.



Open Evening

Our annual Open Evening will be held on Thursday, 19th September, from 5-8pm, where we invite the community, especially Year 5 and 6 students and their families, to visit and experience what Rednock has to offer. Choosing the right school is a vital decision, and at Rednock School, everyone matters. During this special evening, visitors will have the chance to explore everything our school has to offer. The Headteacher will deliver presentations at 5.30 pm and 6.30 pm in the main hall, providing an insight into our school's vision and values. Visitors can also take a guided tour to experience our outstanding learning environment, meet our dedicated students and staff, and visit our dynamic department areas to get a glimpse of what learning at Rednock is all about. There is no need to book, however, as this event is highly popular, we recommend arriving early to make the most of your visit.





School Clubs

[Click here to see times, year groups and locations for the below clubs:](#)

- Book Club** (KS4) - Tuesday (Week A)
- Rocket Club** – Thursday
- Hack Wednesday** - Wednesday lunchtime
- Code Club** (KS3) - Every lunchtime
- Chess Club** - Monday & Wednesday lunchtime
- Dance Club** - Thursday
- School Production Rehearsals** - Tuesday (Full cast) & Wednesday (principal cast only)
- School Production Band** - Wednesday
- Debate Club** – Wednesday
- DT Club** - Wednesday
- DT Coursework and Skills Clinic** - Thursday
- Dyslexia Drop-In** - Thursday lunchtime
- Further Maths** – Tuesday
- Homework Club** - Tuesday & Wednesday
- Lunch Club** – Every lunchtime
- Open Space** - Friday lunchtime
- Quiet Study** - Monday/Thursday/Friday
- Recorder Group** - Wednesday registration
- Swing Band Rehearsal** - Thursday
- Warhammer 40k / Age of Sigmar Club** - Thursday
- Sport Studies Catch Up** – Tuesday

Sports Clubs

All PE after school clubs start at 3.10pm and finish at 4.15pm, unless specified on this list

Tuesday

- After school - Netball - Girls - Years 10 - 11
- After school - Rugby - Boys - Year 7 & Year 10 - 11
- Lunchtime - Badminton - Girls and Boys – Year 11

Wednesday

- After school - Football - Girls - All Years
- After school - Rugby - Boys - Year 8
- Lunchtime - Badminton - Girls and Boys – Year 9 - 10

Thursday

- After school - Netball - Girls – Year 7 – 9
- After School – Rugby – Boys – Year 9
- Lunchtime - Badminton - Girls and Boys – Year 8

Upcoming Girls Sports Fixtures

25/09/2024	Y8-11	Netball
02/10/2024	Y7 & 8	XCountry
03/10/2024	Y9-11	Netball

Upcoming Boys Sports Fixtures

18/09/2024	Y11	Football
02/10/2024	Y7 & 8	XCountry



Supporting your children going back to school

Change can be very difficult to manage. Check out these top tips for helping your child settle back into school this term.

At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

- 1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED**

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.
- 2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL**

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.
- 3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.
- 4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS**

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends - especially if they're moving up to secondary school - it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.
- 5 PLAN SELF-CARE**

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.
- 6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS**

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children - even some of the teachers - will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.
- 7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change in and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.
- 8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS**

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.
- 9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY**

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer - from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.
- 10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT**

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.

Meet Our Expert
Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and IT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMH coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College




CREATIVE CAFE
Thursdays 12-1.30pm
 Relaxing activities with cake!
 For families not attending school
 5 weeks £20 for adult & child 26th Sept
 Quarry Chapel The Quarry Cam GL11 6JB

Join us for a free taster session on 19th September
 Booking essential

Set up as a relaxed cafe atmosphere with art activities for children who are unable to attend school due to mental or physical health issues. Sip on hot drinks, have your lunch or enjoy some cake as you dive into guided art activities. It's more than just an art class it's a chance to unwind, explore and be in a group of likeminded people in a setting where there's no rush or expectation on what you produce. Both child and adult have a chance to create some art and you can stay for as long or as little as you like within the hour and a half session.

Our subsidised prices cover materials and refreshments for both of you.

For more info/book www.quarrychapel.org.uk



QUARRY CHAPEL
CREATIVE CLUB
 Mon 6. -7.30pm - Dursley Tab
 Tues 6.30-8pm - Quarry
 Thurs 6.30-8pm - Quarry
 6week subsidised course £30/12



Do you have a child or teenager who is struggling with their mental or physical health? Are they anxious? Would they love to be part of a group but can't go on their own? We know that there are many families faced with this and would like to invite you to attend a weekly non pressured creative group where you and your young person can relax, try something new and have time together. Delivered by practicing artists who love nothing more than sharing techniques and quirky ways of working! Our calm, small groups will offer fun activities including 2D & 3D approaches.

Neither of you need to be good, just open to having a go!
 Our subsidised prices cover materials and refreshments for both of you.

To book: www.quarrychapel.org.uk The Quarry Chapel The Quarry Cam GL11 6JB



KIDS Make & Create!

6wks starts 17th Sept £30/24 3.30-4.30pm



Come have fun with exciting projects to do each week. Led by Abi Brown, local illustrator your child will have fun exploring techniques such as: Make a monster! Gelli printing, felt, mini sculptures and wire work. Our small groups will nurture and support your child, building confidence in a space where everyone is valued and where chatting and laughing is definitely encouraged!

Don't forget art is messy, please wear appropriate clothing/apron.

Info/book: www.quarrychapel.org.uk
 The Quarry Chapel The Quarry Cam GL11 6JB



QC QUARRY COLLECTIVE
 Tues 17th Sept 4.45-6.15pm
Quarry Collective CRAFT MAKING For Young People
 6week subsidised course £36/30



All work created by group

Quarry Collective is for young people aged 12-19years
 Led by artists who encourage experimentation through materials and process
 Our aim is to deliver fun sessions where everyone is valued.
 The club will help with confidence and understanding of Contemporary Craft including textiles, wire, jewellery, book art and print. Individuals will be able to develop products to sell at local Craft Markets and events. We look at how to package and present pieces learning the art of selling as well as making!

To book: www.quarrychapel.org.uk
 The Quarry Chapel The Quarry Cam GL11 6JB



Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
18/09/2024	Year 12 & 13	Stinchcombe Hill Walk (specific students)
19/09/2024	Year 5 & 6	Open Evening
19/09/2024	All	Early closure (1.25pm)
25/09/2024	Year 6	Open Morning
26/09/2024	Year 11	Year 11 Revision Evening
03/10/2024	Year 10	Year 10 Study Evening



Rednock School
Where everyone matters



Scan here for more info

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 19th September, 5 - 8pm

We would love for you to become part of our vibrant and caring school community and warmly invite you to our upcoming School Open Evening. On this special evening, you'll have the chance to meet our staff and students, and explore everything our school has to offer. Our Headteacher will deliver presentations at 5:30pm & 6:30pm in the main hall, providing an insight into our school's vision and values.

