

THE REDNOCK REVIEW

Term 2 – 2024/25
20th December 2024



Dear Rednock Community,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you at the close of Term 2 as we prepare to embrace the Christmas holiday. What a festive and vibrant edition of the 'Rednock Review' we have for you! It is truly inspiring to see all the incredible activities our students and staff have been involved in this term. I encourage you to take the time to explore every page and relive the many exciting events that have taken place.

This has undoubtedly been a busy and fulfilling term for our school community, and the holiday break has arrived at just the right moment for our students (and staff!) to rest and recharge.

As we look ahead, I want to remind you that students will return to school on **Tuesday, 7th January 2025**, following the normal timings of the school day. Please ensure your child comes back in full school uniform, equipped with everything they need to learn effectively. They should be prepared for lessons on **Tuesday, Week B**, as per their timetable.

The festive season holds different meanings for each of us. For me, it is a time to reconnect with family, friends, and loved ones; it's a chance to pause, reflect, and appreciate all that I am grateful for. It is a precious moment to be with my children. A time I truly cherish.

Given that many of our GCSE English students are currently



Click [here](#) to view
**Mr Stratford's
final video of 2024!**

studying 'A Christmas Carol', I felt it fitting to share a quote from Charles Dickens that beautifully captures the spirit of the season:

"The year end brings no greater pleasure than the opportunity to express to you season's greetings and good wishes. May your holidays and new year be filled with joy."

Whatever Christmas means to you, and however you plan to celebrate, on behalf of all the staff at Rednock School, I wish you and your families a restful, safe, and happy holiday.

My very best wishes and a very Merry Christmas,

Mike Stratford
Headteacher



Rednock School
Where everyone matters



Achievement Heroes

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

Winners are: **Eva**, for being an amazing role model for Brunel. **Emily**, for always being a positive member of Darwin, fully committed to all extra curricular activities and always working super hard. **Will**, for his incredible contributions and outstanding attitude every morning in tutor time. **Phoebe**, for the fantastic improvement in her attendance. **Tabitha**, for doing so well becoming a 'Word Millionaire'. **Cora**, for being a kind and supportive friend.



Krystal, for her dedication and achievement, taking part in a prestigious hockey tournament in Florida. **George**, for working so hard on his GCSEs and being a positive, calm and wonderful person to be around! **Mollie and Isla**, for being fantastic role models within Hubble, always getting involved in the activities and 'stepping up' to help when prefects have been absent. **Ieuan, Riley and Maggie**, for their fantastic public speaking at the Sixth Form Open Evening, standing up in front of hundreds of parents and students - they were all brilliant! **Ruby**, for her 100% attendance. **Jimmy**, for being a great friend!

Shelby, for receiving the top achievement points in Brunel! **Georgina**, for always being polite, helpful, on time and actively participating in tutor time activities. **Lauren**, for being an outstanding student, being an enthusiastic member of every class she is in and being involved in the school choir and play. **Sophie**, for her County Cross Country success and achieving a place at the regionals and nationals. **Dan**, for being awarded 'Man of the Match' in his first football match in 4 years against Churchdown! **Phoebe**, for her brilliant attendance. **Elise**, for continually getting the highest word count in her class. **Maggie**, for being a kind, inclusive and supportive friend.



Lewis G for making an amazing start at Rednock. **Eric**, for being an exceptional student who is kind and caring to others. **Lewis L-H**, for doing so well this year, throwing himself into all the tutor group activities with gusto and almost always with a smile on his face! **Tabitha**, for achieving the highest number of reward points in Jenner last week. **Ruby**, for playing the lead role in Sleeping Beauty in the Slimbridge panto whilst also doing her mock exams. **Megan**, for her 100% attendance. **Elliot**, for being extremely polite and taking time to thank staff who had put on the Year 7 disco.



Teaching and Learning Focus - Live Marking

There are many different ways in which teachers give feedback to students. For example, it could be immediate feedback during a class discussion session as students are offering verbal responses or it might be detailed written feedback on a formally assessed piece of work.

Something that we are really working on this year is **'live marking'**, which is where teachers circulate the classroom whilst students are working, giving immediate feedback to students whilst they are actually producing the work. Students can then address errors or make further improvements whilst they work during that very lesson. This might be verbal and would involve a conversation with students about how to improve work, or it might be that teachers read what a student has written and then give them some written feedback there and then. Students can then be involved in a conversation with teachers and act upon advice straight away, really allowing them to move their learning forward. (Pictured above, this process taking place in History and Art lessons this week.)



Celebrating Our Prefects at Leaf & Ground Café

On Tuesday, 10th December, we had the pleasure of hosting a special event at the picturesque Leaf & Ground Café to honour our brilliant prefect team. This gathering was not just a moment to reflect but also to express our gratitude for all the extra effort they dedicate to our school community.

Our prefects are true ambassadors for our school, leading tours, engaging in student meetings, and embodying the values we hold dear. This event was a chance to say thank you, enjoy a cake and hot chocolate while chatting about their future plans.

As our first festive event of the season, it set the tone perfectly: warm, joyful, and full of community.

The wonderful setting and hospitality provided by Leaf & Ground café provided the perfect backdrop for a wonderful hour spent together.



Community Christmas Tree Competition

We have had a collection of stunning Christmas trees around the school for the past couple of weeks decorated by students and representing each Community.

A special congratulations to **HUBBLE** who have won this year's Christmas tree competition!





Year 11 Visit to St James' Church

I had the pleasure of taking Year 11 Philosophy and Ethics students to St James the Great Church in Dursley on Thursday afternoon this week. We met Revd Juliet Jensen and Clive Orchard who very kindly showed us around the church and discussed many of the important christian beliefs and practices. This was a good opportunity for the students to recall their own knowledge, all of which they have studied, and to ask questions to support their understanding further.

Following this visit I took us all over to Belle's Kitchen for a well deserved hot chocolate, not only to celebrate Christmas but to celebrate how hard they have and continue to work in their studies in Philosophy and Ethics. It was also a chance for me to say a final goodbye to them all and to say how proud I am and always will be of each and everyone of them. It has been my delight and privilege to teach them all and see them grow as individuals.

Merry Christmas Ava, Summer, Erin, Beth, Zoe, Scarlett, Gracie , Lucy, Annabelle, Holly, Anuskha and Roselyn!

Mrs Mould



Celebrating sporting achievements

At this time of year, when not at school, Krystal in Year 11 will be found on a local hockey pitch either training or playing a competitive game. Her dedication to a sport she loves to play has brought her many wins including winning the league last year with Chippenham Ladies.

This season she has been selected and plays for the Wiltshire county team as well as stepping out weekly for Wotton-Under-Edge Ladies 1st team, where she plays in defence. On top of this she is playing her last season for the U16 Girls having joined the club when she was 7 years old.

Recently she was invited to join the Under 19 Ladies **Red Lions** for a trip to America where they played in the National Hockey Festival held in Florida. This is one of the most prestigious tournaments worldwide playing against top level international competition within world class facilities. This just goes to show that playing sport can help you to see the world. **Well done Krystal!**





Food Bank Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Festive Food Bank appeal this year. We collected an amazing amount of donations that were handed over to our friends at GL11 Community Hub for the Food bank earlier this week. This is a vital service within our community and helps so many who, for many reasons, may be struggling for money and need help putting food on the table. If you, or anyone you know, may need help please [click here](#) to find out more about how the GL11 Hub works as Stroud District Foodbank venue.

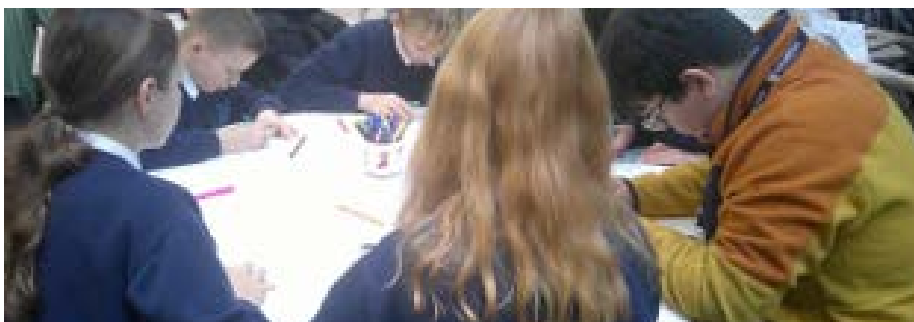
"A massive thanks to everyone at Rednock for helping with this!"

Adam Allington Jones,
Volunteer Manager, GL11



Merry Christmas from Year 7 and Sixth Form students who took part in our Christmas Card-making Project!

The Sixth Form Team would like to say a massive 'thank you' to all the Sixth Form and Year 7 students who have been involved in supervising, creating and writing Christmas cards for the residents of our local care homes.



On Wednesday, **190 cards** were hand-delivered to Henlow Court, The Hollies, Stinchcombe Manor, Yercombe Lodge, Canonbury Home and Westgreen House.

The residents truly appreciate the colourful cards and thoughtful messages sent by our students. Here is a lovely message received from the manager of Westgreen House:

"Thank you for getting in touch and for continuing this wonderful tradition of creating Christmas cards for our residents. The effort and care your students put into this project each year truly brings so much joy to everyone here. Our residents always look forward to receiving these heartfelt cards!"





The Mayor's New Cloak

The Mayor of Dursley, Alex Stennett, has asked Rednock students to design a new cloak.

This is not as easy as it first seems... Our current mayor is very tall but the cloak needs to fit future mayors of any size and be suitable to wear for a whole range of events.

An amazing selection of designs have been produced by students in Key Stage 3 showcasing their creativity and imagination. Monday saw the start of a lunchtime Design Club where a very talented group of students are developing their design ideas.



Nature Park

Earlier this month, some students began the massive task of mapping the wildlife of Rednock. We have put Rednock on the National Nature Park map and we are now working towards recording all of the wildlife we have on site.

The map can be found here and will be updated each month: <https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/>
Here are some of the plants we found outside the music block - we were amazed at how many species there were for such a small patch!



Outside classroom

We'd like to say a huge thank you for the timber donations that are being transformed into the first 'bike rack workbenches' and replacing the rotten edge boards around the bottom of the bike shed. Scaffold boards thanks to **A&R Scaffolding** and plywood thanks to **Mr and Mrs Carter and Mrs Watson**.

Work has already begun building the bike rack/scaffold plank work benches!





The Ernest Cook Trust

Over the past 3 weeks, a group of students from Year 10 have been invited to attend outdoor learning sessions at The Ernest Cook Trust's Redwood site on the Slimbridge Estate.

Each week Katherine, our wonderful leader, has given the group a range of fantastic activities and experiences. Orienteering, woodwork and making 'smores were highlights of last week's trip along with a bit of hanging around in the hammocks!



Outdoor Wear Grant

This term we were fortunate to be awarded a grant from The Ernest Cook Trust for £1000 to purchase waterproofs and wellies for students attending the Tuesday afternoon sessions at Redwood, and our expanding range of outdoor activities on site at school including the Nature Park Mapping Project, horticulture group and the outside classroom conversion.

The first purchases of coats, waterproof trousers and wellies went straight out to Slimbridge Estate last week and returned looking suitably muddy!



Forest Green Rovers bring a very important message

Last Thursday, Tom Needham (FGR Schools Coordinator) and his colleague from Forest Green Rovers Community visited Rednock with their **'No Room for Racism'** workshops.

The Forest Green Rovers Team were based in the Sixth Form Common Room where over the course of the day they welcomed the whole of Year 8 to their workshops. A combination of whole group presentations, football club related video clips and scenarios, small group discussions and challenges made for a very thought provoking and engaging hour. The workshops aim to empower young people to stand against discrimination in all its forms and to promote a culture of equality. Thank you Forest Green Rovers.

Shop Window Judging

In the last *Rednock Review* we mentioned that a team of Year 12 students had met with representatives from Festive Dursley and the Town Council and had great fun judging the Christmas shop window displays. We were sworn to secrecy until the announcement was made at the lights switch on event but can now reveal that the students chose Network Care's **'Twelves days of Christmas' window as the winner**. The students all received thank you cards from the Mayor Alex Stennet for their contribution. [Read the full story here!](#)





Community Christmas Card Competition

At our annual Community Christmas Card Competition we were again blown away by the talent and creativity on display making it very hard to pick a winner! Congratulations go to **Maisie** in Year 9 Darwin who created this year's winning design. The card was printed and distributed as our official Rednock Christmas Card this year. Well done Maisie!



Advent Calendars

Thank you for all your kind donations of advent calendars. For the start of December, we were able to drop off over 160 calendars to the Children's Centre, Gloucester Royal Hospital in support of their Pied Piper Appeal.



Rednock Swing Band performing at the Cam Christmas Lights

The Rednock Swing band kicked off the festivities with a fantastic performance at the 'Cam Christmas Lights Switch on' event. Braving the cold and windy weather, they played a range of popular music including a selection of Christmas swing numbers. Look out for them at more gigs in 2025!





Kier Construction Workshops

A group of students in Years 9 and 10 are currently working with Kate Young from Kier Construction. Kate is coming in once a month for the next six months to help these students develop both an understanding of the construction industry and a bank of skills that might be relevant for their futures. For each session, she brings a fantastic interactive activity for the students to take part in. So far they have built constructions with both building bricks and straws, learning to communicate with one another, work to a brief, adapt when the brief changes and cost a project. We are looking forward to Kate returning in the new year!



Creativity for Connectedness

We wanted to share some pictures of some of the work that the Creativity for Connectedness group have been working on.

Recently, the group has been experimenting with natural materials. They created some lovely unique paper trees using a method of leaf printing.



The students used leaves and oil pastels to transfer the natural patterns and textures onto their piece of work. The result was these beautiful mindfulness trees that were then decorated with individual interests and ideas.

This week the group has worked on creating their own decorations using wood cookies. With the help of the DT department who supplied the materials, the students have been able to use paint pens to create these wonderful designs just in time for the holidays.





Sixth Form Open Evening

It was fantastic to see the school so full and vibrant at our Sixth Form Open Evening at the end of November. We wanted to thank everyone for their support. Thank you to our wonderful speakers (Ruby, Riley, Maggie and Ieuan) representing the Sixth Form past, present and future! To the band for their brilliant performance. To the companies and higher education providers supporting our careers area. All the students (past and present) and staff who gave up their time. Finally, to all those families who came along to learn about what our fantastic Sixth Form can offer. To find out more about the wide range of courses available, please visit: <https://rednockschool.org.uk/ks5-courses/>

Apply to join the
Rednock Sixth Form:
<https://rednock.applications.com/year12>





Dafodil Project - update!

Last month our Year 12 and 13 biologists took part in a practical workshop with Dr Lisa Mullen, one of our STEM mentors. The students' practical skills were tested to their limits when they extracted DNA from the chloroplasts of daffodils. This procedure involves a lot of precision and use of cutting edge technology, including a mini PCR machine and electrophoresis kit.

The next stage will be to assemble the genome using a nanopore sequencer which we will receive in the new year. This cutting edge technology is exciting because it can also be used to identify pathogens providing critical data to help effectively control infectious disease outbreaks. Sequencing can be done in the lab or can be taken to the source due to its portability, meaning outbreaks in remote areas can be identified and monitored much more quickly.



Science of Christmas

Last week a group of A-level science students were lucky enough to visit the University of Gloucester to find out about the 'Science of Christmas'.

We learnt why Reindeers struggle to fly, checked out how fast Father Christmas needs to fly with the help of a chocolate bar and a microwave, and learnt about the series of chemical reactions happening in a giant glow stick. We also went outside to see a very visual representation of the energy stored in a Christmas treat as demonstrated by Professor Adam Hart.

The students got to experience the university's amazing laboratory space (and the always important canteen!) and hear about the different courses on offer to consider for the future.



Gloucestershire Air Ambulance workshops

Our Year 10 and 11 Health and Social Care students and our Year 12 Sport Science students had a visit from the wonderful Great Western Air Ambulance team earlier this month.

The team taught students how to administer CPR training and use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). A cardiac arrest is when someone's heart and breathing has stopped. Knowing how to perform CPR can massively increase a cardiac arrest patient's chances of survival and saves lives. The team, who were all volunteers with experience of being treated by the air ambulance service, gave some inspirational stories about their own involvement. We hope that students will never have to use this knowledge, but if they do, this training should have given them the confidence and skills to help.



ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S **SCHOOL of ROCK** THE MUSICAL

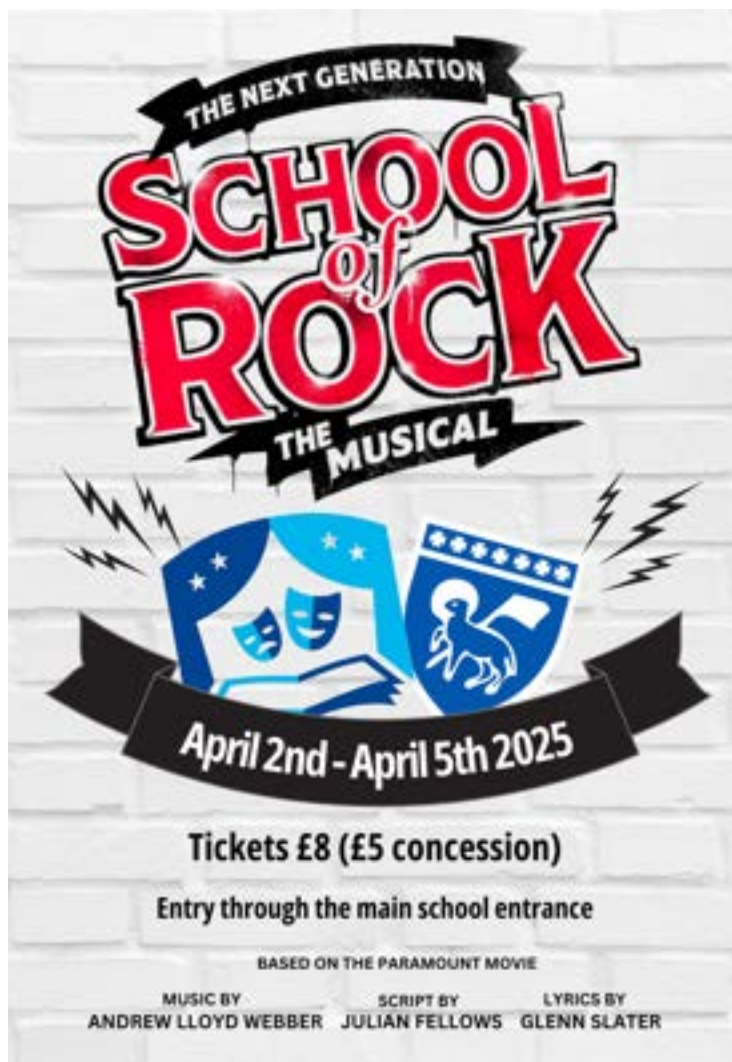
Tickets for our upcoming production of 'School of Rock' are officially on sale! You can purchase these via ParentPay or from the main reception.

Tickets cost £8 (£5 concession) and the show dates/times are as below:

- Wednesday 2nd April - 7.00pm
- Thursday 3rd April - 7.00pm
- Friday 4th April - 7.00pm
- Saturday 5th April - 4.00pm

This is a whole school production and promises to be a fantastic event showcasing the brilliant talent of our students. Based on the hit film of the same name, this hilarious musical follows Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn a few extra bucks by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious private school. There he turns a class of straight-A students into a guitar-shredding, bass-slapping, mind-blowing rock band! It features new songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber as well as some of the original songs from the movie too!

We hope you will join us and help support our terrific cast of actors and musicians!



Christmas Quiz Night

The Christmas Quiz night, in aid of the school production of School of Rock, was a great success last Friday, with the main hall packed full of quiz teams! We made an amazing **£940** that will be used to help fund the costs of the show. It was fantastic to see so many members of our community in the school having fun and testing their quizzing knowledge! We were also entertained during the interval with the premier performance of the Rednock Dance Club who did a beautiful routine to 'Fix You'. Thank you for your support and a HUGE thank you to all that made the evening happen.





Christmas Feast

On Tuesday 17th December our wonderful catering team put on an impressive spread serving over 420 Christmas dinners - an amazing accomplishment! The students were welcomed into the main hall and canteen by Christmas music, decorations, crackers and paper crowns ready to enjoy their early Christmas dinner. The event was a wonderful excuse to get into the festive spirit and enjoy a good old fashioned roast dinner (sprouts and all!) A big thank you to the whole team (including our fantastic Sixth Form helpers) who helped make this special event happen!



Year 7 Christmas Disco

The main hall came alive to the sounds of Christmas at the Year 7 disco earlier this week! A big shout-out to the dedicated team who worked so hard to deliver such a fun event. £530 was raised from the event to go towards the Year 11 celebration events in 2025.





Year 7 Christmas Panto Trip

94 lucky Year 7 students attended the matinee performance of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' pantomime at The Bristol Hippodrome on Wednesday this week. This fun and enjoyable trip was a great way for students to consolidate their learning within Drama and experience the joy of live theatre.



Putting on a Christmas Party!

The Year 10 Step Up have been busy baking, making decorations and planning in preparation for their Christmas party. As part of their ASDAN qualification they have to entertain a group of visitors and so on Wednesday they hosted a group of staff to say 'Happy Christmas' with tea and biscuits!



The Year 11 Step Up group completed another of their ASDAN modules finding out about Christmas in different countries and then sharing their findings at a Christmas event with invited members of staff. Each group chose a country to learn what they do for Christmas and we had Russia, Germany and France!





Café de Noël

Students enjoyed taking part in the Modern Foreign Languages Department's Café de Noël yesterday lunchtime!



Winter Concert

What a fantastic evening we had last night at our Winter Concert and thank you to everyone who came along to support! The hall was packed full of people enjoying a wonderfully wide range of performances including singers, choirs, poetry, the swing band, rock group, brass, wind, guitars, recorders and more! We are so proud of all the performers who took to the stage last night; for some of whom it would have been their very first time of performing in public having only taken up learning instruments earlier this term. We also made an amazing £806 from the evening that will be used to help fund the costs of our 'School of Rock' school production.



Careers Corner

Who is who in Careers

All teachers are teachers of careers! Please do chat to your tutor, your subject teachers, your CLs and the Sixth Form team at any time.



Dr Craig leads the careers programme at Rednocks and can be contacted on helen.craig@rednockschool.org.uk or found in room 125.



Mr Justice is our independent careers advisor. He works Thursdays and Fridays and can be contacted at tim.justice@rednockschool.org.uk



Mrs Amato is the careers administrator. Please contact her through the admin office - admin@rednockschool.org.uk to organise a careers interview appointment

Year 10 Work Experience Opportunity

We have been asked to share that applications for Year 10 work experience placements at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust are now open.

Week 1: 7-11 July 2025*

Week 2: 14-18 July 2025*

*Please note they are unable to accommodate placements outside of these dates. The organisation can offer placements to six young people (Year 10 only) for each of the two weeks. Please have a look at their [website](#) for more information and to download the application form. In previous years, they have had a very large number of applications for these placements so please ensure that if you are interested in applying, complete the application in as much details as possible. The deadline for applications is Sunday 23 February 2024 and they will shortlist and contact applicants within 2 weeks of the deadline.



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust



Can you help with our Year 11 Mock Interviews?

Do you, or any of your colleagues, friends or family, have experience in **recruitment and interviewing**, and would be able to help out with our Year 11 Mock Interviews in January?

This year we are planning to hold the interviews on the mornings of 28th, 29th and 30th January. If you feel you can help and are able to spare some time, please email

admin@rednockschool.org.uk . Many thanks for your support.

'Futures' Enrichment Day

On 7th February 2025 we will be holding our annual 'futures' enrichment day and we are looking for a few more people to have careers stands that students can visit as part of a mini careers fair. If you are interested in doing this please, email admin@rednockschool.org.uk.

Year 10 'To do' List! Complete work experience form!

For those in Year 10, the Christmas break can be a good opportunity to sort out a work experience placement. All the forms and a list of previous employers who have taken on our students are available on SatchelOne.

Free national online mentoring to help students explore their future career options by:

- asking for careers advice
- learning more about potential careers in STEM
- consider life after school, including education at university, apprenticeships, or preparing for employment.



The programme is fully funded so participation is free for UK students. The next cohort of mentoring starts on 24th February. If you would like to sign up please come to 207 or email Mrs Parker (bronwyn.parker@rednockschool.org.uk).



Sparkling Interest in STEM Careers

Last week Year 7 students had the chance to experience a high-energy event dedicated to exploring the wonders of electricity and exciting opportunities in STEM careers. Sponsored by BAE Systems, the Royal Navy, and the Royal Air Force, the interactive session lit up both minds and imaginations.

The Roadshow was a vibrant mix of hands-on activities, lively demonstrations, and eye-opening discussions about the power of electricity and its role in our everyday lives. Students eagerly joined in to uncover the mysteries behind this vital force that powers the modern world.

The show began with a nail biting lightsaber duel followed by an explanation of how electricity flows, why it's crucial in modern engineering, and the various ways it can be harnessed. Students learned about static electricity, circuits and as the world moves toward sustainability, renewable energy resources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power.

The crowd favourite was the pedal power station, where students volunteered Mr Griffiths and Mr Mitchell to generate electricity by pedaling bikes. With every turn of the pedals, they saw lights brighten and devices spring to life, showing firsthand how energy is converted into power. It was a thrilling and exhausting way to understand the effort involved in producing electricity and the importance of using it efficiently. They both did an amazing job!

The event was not only educational but also a spark for future ambitions, igniting interest in the possibilities within STEM fields. We look forward to hosting them again next year when they will investigate the astonishing realm of AI.





First Tech Challenge (FTC)

What Is It?

We have recently entered the national robotics competition, First Tech Challenge, and we are in the process of constructing a robot to compete in the 2025 competition! First Tech Challenge is a competition which inspires students to develop their engineering skills through creating a manual and autonomously controlled robot with the goal of collecting as many points (blocks) as possible within each competition; competing against different teams while simultaneously collaborating with them and sharing ideas.

The December Scrimmage:

We have just attended the second scrimmage, at Berkeley Green UTC, where we met other local competing teams and some of the organisers from RTX. A big part of the competition is teamwork and collaboration, not only domestically, within the school, but with other competing teams which was why the scrimmage was a great opportunity to seek help and to help other teams, which was really great as this is Rednock's first year competing.



[Competition Trailer](#)



How Can You Help Us?

We have made great progress so far however part of the competition is crowdfunding and finding sponsors to support the team, in order to be able to afford additional parts for our robot and other things such as banners and transport. Donations and sponsors allow us to be able to develop our robot so we can do better in the competitions. It is for this reason it would be absolutely amazing if you are able to donate to our [GoFundMe](#) and if you know anyone who would be interested in sponsoring our team. If it's a local business or large company, please email admin@rednockschool.org.uk, additionally if you would like to support us but do not currently have the funds to do so, it would be great if you could share our mission!



Our GofundMe: - <https://gofund.me/708c06d9>

With thanks to Tom Tuckwell, Year 12, for writing this article.



NETBALL SUCCESS!

The past two weeks have seen some fantastic performances of Netball, with some truly excellent fixtures. All our teams have demonstrated incredible determination and enthusiasm, both on and off the court.



The improvement in every team has been remarkable, and it's been wonderful to witness their development throughout the season.

Notable defensive performances came from **Tabby** (Year 10) and **Liv** (Year 7), whose resilience and composure have been key in turning defense into attack. On the offensive side, we've seen some outstanding contributions from **Dulcie** (Year 8) and **Darcey** (Year 9), whose creativity and precision have inspired their teammates.



Congratulations to all the players for their hard work and achievements this term!

What stands out most, however, is the **teamwork, kindness, commitment, and discipline** the girls have consistently displayed. Whether during training sessions or in competitive matches against other schools, their attitude has been nothing short of exemplary.

Year 8 A results	9-7 Win vs Castle School	12-4 Win vs Maidenhill	
Year 8 B results:	6-6 Draw vs Castle School	6-5 Loss vs Maidenhill	9-11 Loss vs Castle School
Year 9 results:	16-15 Win vs Archway	27-9 Win vs Maidenhill	27-9 Loss vs Castle
Year 10 results:	14-14 Draw vs Archway	17-13 Win vs Castle School	12-10 Win vs Maidenhill





Year 10 GCSE PE

Our Year 10 GCSE PE students enjoyed a practical lesson earlier this term when they were given the task of using PE equipment to demonstrate the workings of the Cardiorespiratory system!



Inter-Community Sports

This week PE has been doing inter-community in football, table tennis and benchball. It has been very competitive and a lot of fun. Students have shown some amazing inter-community spirit and have enjoyed representing their community. It was a really close competition this term, however.... the winners are **BRUNEL**! Well done to all the students who took part.

BRUNEL	280
DARWIN	265
JENNER	235
HUBBLE	220



Rednock County Cross-Country Trialists

On Sunday 2nd December, a small but elite number of Rednock students were selected to compete in this year's County Cross-Country Championship at Newent School. They had finished in the top 16 of the district trials which were held back in November at Archway School. The students were Noah B, Frankie M, Max C, Eddie M, Emily B and Sophie T. The County Championship involved students representing the districts of Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud and District and finally the Forest of Dean. In most age categories there were between 20 to 30 runners taking part. The conditions on the day were nearly perfect apart from being a little bit slippery underfoot due to the recent rain. All students did exceptionally well with Sophie in Year 7 qualifying for the next level up by coming 6th in her race. She will now go on to represent Gloucestershire at regional level which is amazing. A massive well done to everyone for taking part and for Mr Mitchell for helping out on the day.



Sixth Form football match against KLB

Earlier this month, the Sixth Form football team lost 1-0 in a very competitive game against a strong KLB side. An early goal from the away side was enough to win the game despite lots of brilliant chances created from our boys, and we possibly could have won the game if chances had been converted. Well done to the boys that stepped up from Year 11 to help the squad and didn't look out of place. Also, to our Sixth Form players, who had some standout performances. Special mention to Jude M who was named 'Man of the Match.'



Year 8 Left vs Right Rugby Match

This photo was from our inaugural Year 8 Left vs Right Rugby match held on Wednesday this week. It was an absolute pleasure to finish the season in this manner with 27 lads turning out to play, some who have never played a competitive game of Rugby before. A game played in the right spirit and a Man of the Match performance from **Chad P** (on his first ever game of rugby and attendance to practice!) with a hat trick of tries. Here's hoping for a similar uptake next season.



Learning Resource Centre (LRC)



Big thanks you to parents and students for their support with reading this term!



LRC spotlight on... Winter

While we can't promise a white Christmas, we can offer a wide selection of stories that will have readers enjoying a winter wonderland - all books featured are available in the LRC.

Please remember to return books after the Christmas break.

December's Word Millionaire!

Congratulations to George in Year 8 who is this month's Word Millionaire. He took some time choosing which book to collect from the vending machine! It's so simple - read everyday for your chance to win a free book every term, so keep turning those pages. Reading for just 20 mins per day will really support your child's learning.



Need inspiration for a seasonal gift?

These websites list new, some not so new, and favourite books - if you need ideas for presents. All are reviewed by school librarians and suitable for all ages.

- www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk
- www.schoolreadinglist.co.uk



A Moment of Reflection...

With all the chaos and busy hours in the build up to Christmas, it can sometimes be hard to take quiet moment. With this in mind, we wanted to share this beautiful poem written by **Maisie** in Year 9:

In a corner, quiet and small, worries gather, I feel them all.
What if I stumble, what if I fall?
The weight of the world feels too tall.

Yet in the night, a soft voice calls,
Whispers of courage, as darkness falls.
With each deep breath, I'll find my way,
A brave little heart, is the way.

BRONZE DofE - action required

It has been great to see the students working hard on their sections. Over the Christmas break can be a good opportunity to review this and we would ask if you could please check with your young person that they have submitted their programme to Mrs Porter for approval.

Please could all students taking part also ensure they go on to Google Classroom and let Mrs Porter know who they wish to walk with on the expedition. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.



The story continues!

Our English Ambassadors (Evie, Elina, Ellie, Ieuan, Charlotte, Ruza and Eli) are working on a story which we are serialising in each issue. Please sit back, put your feet up and enjoy the next chapter of, 'The Rednock Crusaders'!



THE REDNOCK CRUSADERS

Chapter Five: Nightmare Come True

As the light around him faded like a thousand flickering fireflies, Harvey sat up, discombobulated, and groaned "What happened?"

As the oldest and most mature, Harvey felt the heavy weight of responsibility for the others and began to blame himself for whatever had just happened. However, these thoughts of guilt were abruptly stopped by a more gut-wrenching question: where were the others? Looking around, agitatedly, and realising he didn't know the answer to his own question, Brunel began to blindly run into the dystopian landscape, wildly hollering his friends' names...

Eden Hubble wandered alone in the shattered, crumbling remnants of civilization. "Woah Lucy was right! Maybe this was her nightmare... but where is she?" Eden wondered aloud.

She began walking through the cavernous, empty streets, gazing up at mushroom clouds in a fire orange sky; as if it radiated the searing heat itself. Instinctively, Eden sprinted through the decimated streets in an attempt to find the others, knowing every nook and cranny of the familiar roads. She darted up and down every lane and every cul-de-sac until her legs grew weary. Stumbling, tripping and blundering across the horizon, Eden discovered, on her travels, a sign that said 'Welcome to Dursley, the centre of climate change.' "It is real!" Eden screamed to no-one in particular, "Take that philosophy and ethics!" While she was hopping, skipping and laughing a jackal laugh, she suddenly lost her footing, tripped up and hit the ground. "Ow!" she cried.

Liam Jenner jerked up, "What was that sound?" Was it a wolf coming to eat them both? No, there must have been a reasonable explanation.

During the last few hours, Lucy and Liam had been crusading through what appeared to be their school and, miraculously, it was the only building that had escaped the grips of climate change unscathed. Between the two of them, they had managed to piece together their current time and place; this was Dursley 2050 and Lucy had predicted the future.

"Who's there?" they shouted, a twinge of fear showing through the courageous voices they were attempting to put on.

"It's me, Eden" yelled Eden back.

"Oh, thank my lucky stars," said Harvey Brunel running in from the opposite direction Eden came from and making them all jump from his sudden outburst, "you're alright!"

"We're alright," stated Liam. "But the clock isn't!"

Lucy passed Eden a piece of paper with shaking hands, "Look over these calculations for me, I want a second pair of eyes. By my calculations, the clock is our only way home. Is that right?" questioned Lucy wearily, not wanting the inevitable answer.

Eden looked at the piece of paper and hesitated. "Yeah, the calculations look right to me; the clock is our only way home."

To be continued...



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** – Wednesday
- Maths Higher Revision** – Monday
- Maths Foundation Revision** – Thursday
- Homework Club** - Tuesday & Wednesday
- Lunch Club** – Every lunchtime
- Open Space** - Tuesday lunchtime
- Quiet Study** - every day
- Recorder Group** - Wednesday registration
- Swing Band Rehearsal** - Thursday
- Warhammer 40k / Age of Sigmar Club** - Friday
- 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 - Trampolining - Girls - Years 8 - 11
After school - Football - Boys - Year 7 & Year 10
Lunchtime - Badminton - Girls and Boys – Year 11

Wednesday

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

Thursday

After school - Netball - Girls – Year 8 (invited students)
After School – Football – Boys – Years 8& 9
Lunchtime - Badminton - Girls and Boys – Year 8

Upcoming Girls Sports Fixtures

21/01/2025	U16	Football
22/01/2025	U14	Football
23/01/2025	Y7 & Y8	Netball
28/01/2025	U14	Football
29/01/2025	U13	Cricket (indoor)
29/01/2025	U16	Football

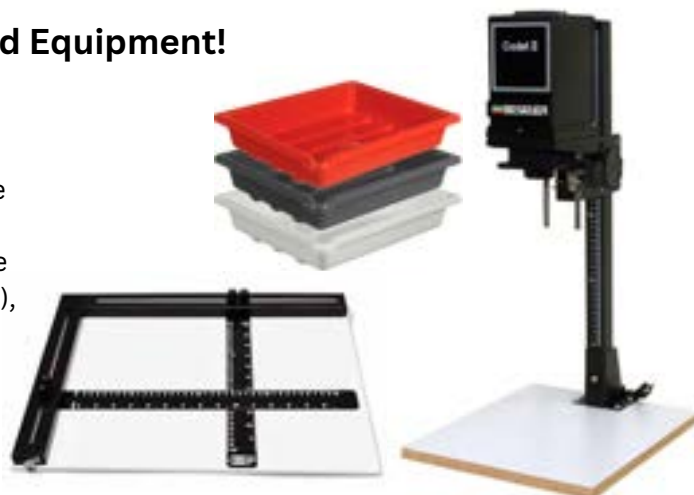
Upcoming Boys Sports Fixtures

22/01/2025	U18	Football
28/01/2025	Y10	Football
29/01/2025	Y9	Football
29/01/2025	U18	Football



WANTED! Darkroom Supplies and Equipment!

Can you help? The Art department is looking for any darkroom equipment that people are happy to donate. We would like to give our GCSE and A-level students the opportunity to engage with the creative experiences that the photographic darkroom can offer. The items we are looking for include enlargers (with or without lenses), developing trays, enlarger timers, easels or masking frames, contact proof printers, tongs, and other related tools. If you have any darkroom equipment you are happy to give, we would be grateful.



Supporting Students and Families

A wonderful new 10 week course starting on Wednesday 15th January (funded by the Barnwood Trust) is being offered free to families of students struggling to attend or engage with school. Please contact Abi Nicol, thequarrychapel@gmail.com for more information or to book a place.

INVITE TO TAKE PART

COOKERY CERAMICS

Karen Hilliard

travelling KITCHEN

Travelling Kitchen was set up by Sarah and Clare over ten years ago. They travel around Bristol and the surrounding area with their 'pop-up kitchen' working with community groups and schools offering practical and fun cooking lessons. Travelling Kitchen brings people together to cook and eat in their communities and aims to encourage people to cook more for themselves, leading to improved well-being.

Travelling Kitchen will bring all the ingredients, recipes, equipment and aprons. You don't have to bring anything and you don't have to be experienced cooks! We will all cook together, picking up skills along the way such as knife skills, bread-making and pastry-making with opportunities to take breaks when you need them. The result will be a delicious lunch for everyone to share, either sitting down together or finding a quiet spot in one of the many rooms available at the Tab or in the beautiful garden. If you've always wondered how to make something, let us know and we'll try and include some of your suggestions over the ten weeks.

With Thanks to the Barnwood Trust & Tab Church

Local ceramic artist Karen creates amazing functional ceramic pieces from her studio in Uley. Her work is heavily focused on her natural surroundings, how clay responds to mark making and surface applications of slips and colour. She stretches and manipulates clay to create ceramics for use in the home. During the sessions you will be taught all about clay and how to make your own set of tableware. All materials will be supplied and you will be able to have fun experimenting with this fantastic material.

If you would like to chat about this course or to sign up please email Abi.thequarrychapel@gmail.com

THE QUARRY CHAPEL
Based in Can the chapel has been renovated to create a warm, inclusive space delivering a host of affordable classes to both adults and children. This course will be delivered in the Tab Community Rooms, Dunley giving us an amazing kitchen and large work spaces to work and have fun in.

INVITE TO TAKE PART

COOKERY CERAMICS

Why join this course ?

The team at Quarry Chapel have been working with young people and their parents/careers for five years. We have piloted various classes from animation and dye garden to Creative Clubs. We see the difference that care, subtle support and interesting activities can have to the people who attend. We see less anxiety in confidence grows and how being connected to others is fun, as is learning new skills. We know how difficult it is to support young people when they are struggling and the extra stresses this places on families both emotionally and financially.

We would like to invite both of you to take part in a 10 week course which teaches cookery and ceramics. Each week you will learn to cook delicious dishes to eat at lunchtime and be taught how to make your own ceramic tableware – plate, side plate, bowl, cup, serving dish etc. Over the course you will make a dinner set for each other that celebrates your interests.

On the 10th session we will eat off your handmade ceramic tableware, laying it out to admire and use for our final lunch together.

Our aim is to teach you both how to cook new dishes and learn how to use clay, including using molds, glazes and stamping/pattern techniques. We are very lucky to have successfully gained a grant from Barnwood Trust. We want to invest in you and your child, giving you an opportunity to work with others in a similar position. We hope friendships can be made, as well as offering you a supportive opportunity to spend a day treating yourself to creativity.

All we ask of you is to commit to the 10 week course

What to expect

Dates: Wednesday 15th January – 26th March 2025, no class 19th February

Arrive: 9.45am gather, get settled
Start: 10am
Lunch: 12.30pm
Finish: 1.45pm

Week 1: Short introduction to both areas – you will try a bit of food prep and clay work – but you'll need to wash your hands inbetween! We will eat what we have made.

Week 2 – 9: You will split into two groups. Each week you will do either cookery or ceramics. At the end of workshops we will eat what has been made.

Week 10: Cooking our final lunch. All the ceramic pieces will have been fired. We will have a chance to admire the finished pieces, laying it out on tables before celebrating all we have learnt.

The Chapel is excited to be working with three incredible people – Clare and Sarah from Travelling Kitchen and ceramic artist Karen Hilliard. Abi Brown from the Quarry Chapel will be there each session to help and Abi Nicol will be popping in and out to see all the creations, and is on the end of a phone/email to help you in anyway. If you would like to chat about this course/ sign up please email Abi.thequarrychapel@gmail.com

Advice and support over the festive season

The National College produces a range of guides designed to help support and empower parents and carers. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit www.nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

- 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY**
Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.
- 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS**
The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.
- 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS**
More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.
- 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES**
Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.
- 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**
Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.
- 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD**
Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can compromise road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.
- 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS**
Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.
- 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS**
Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.
- 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE**
Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.
- 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY**
Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert
James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
20/12/2024	All	End of Term 2 - half day (school ends at 12.45pm)
06/01/2025	All	Inset Day 4 (staff only in school)
07/01/2025	All	Start of Term 3 (Week B)
22/01/2025	Year 9 & 11 (specific students)	'& Juliet' Theatre Trip to Bristol Hippodrome
23/01/2025	Year 13	Year 13 Parent Consultation Meetings
28/01/25-30/01/25	Year 11	Mock interviews

 **LONGFIELD**
Community Hospice

Recycle your Tree!

In partnership with


We will be collecting and recycling trees
11th - 14th January 2025

 To book scan here
or visit

www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree

Registration closes
7th January 2025

After costs, 90% of monies raised will go to Longfield Community Hospice. The remaining 10% will be distributed to charities in the local community.

Longfield Community Hospice,
Burrage Lane, Midsford, Gloucestershire, GL2 7NE
info@justhelping.org.uk or www.justhelping.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 298421 Company No. 20113882

The **DODS**
Theatre in Dursley

Dick Whittington

At Lister Hall,
Chantry Centre, Dursley 18th - 25th January 2025

BOX OFFICE: 0300 102 3637

 **www.the-dods.com**