

THE REDNOCK REVIEW

Term 3 – 2024/25
17th January 2025

Dear Rednock Community,

Welcome Back to Term 3! I hope our latest edition of the Rednock Review finds you well, and may I begin by wishing you a slightly belated but heartfelt Happy New Year.

As we step into 2025, I am delighted to share that the new term has begun with tremendous purpose and pace. Our students have returned with enthusiasm, and there is a palpable sense of commitment and focus across the school.

I am also pleased to draw your attention to the latest edition of our 'Rednock Review', which highlights some of the wonderful achievements and activities from the previous few weeks and end of last term. I encourage you to take a moment to read through it and celebrate the many successes of our students and staff.

As we enter Term 3, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our school community of the critical importance of regular attendance. There is a direct and well-documented link between attendance and exam success. Every day in school counts, and we are committed to working together to ensure that all students have the best possible opportunities to succeed.

This term also represents a significant milestone for our Year 11 students, who will be making their Sixth Form applications. We are



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

proud of the ambition shown by so many of our students and want to remind everyone that the deadline for our Sixth Form application process is the **14th February**. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the school if you have any questions or require support with the application process.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude for your continued support of our school community. As always, if we can assist you or your child in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Wishing you all the very best for the term ahead.

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: **Rudy**, for being so wonderful and polite, trying his best in everything. **Harvey**, for making a great start to term 3 and being a positive member of Darwin. **Ellie**, for an outstanding number of reward points and being a real asset to Hubble. **Sam**, for a brilliant start to the year, showing great tenacity throughout the week. **Nova**, for creating and sharing with his classmates, a helpful revision document for A level Biology. **Tom**, for 100% attendance. **Amayah Rae**, for an excellent attitude to reading and the highest word count in her class. **Divya**, for being really helpful in German and being a great friend.



Maya, for being an excellent role model both in school and out of school in her work with younger students at an athletics club; she has not received any behaviour points for her whole time at Rednock! **Leah**, for making an excellent start to Year 11 and mentoring some of our younger students which has made a huge positive impact to their day. **Evie**, for being an outstanding student and an absolute credit to Rednock School. **Frank**, for making a really positive start to life at Rednock since joining this term, adapting well and making new friends. **Imogen**, for her kindness and support helping a younger student who was upset. **Kim**, for 100% attendance. **Edith**, for continually reading and working hard to achieve the highest word count in her 'reading for power' class. **Phoebe**, for being kind and supportive to other students in her class.

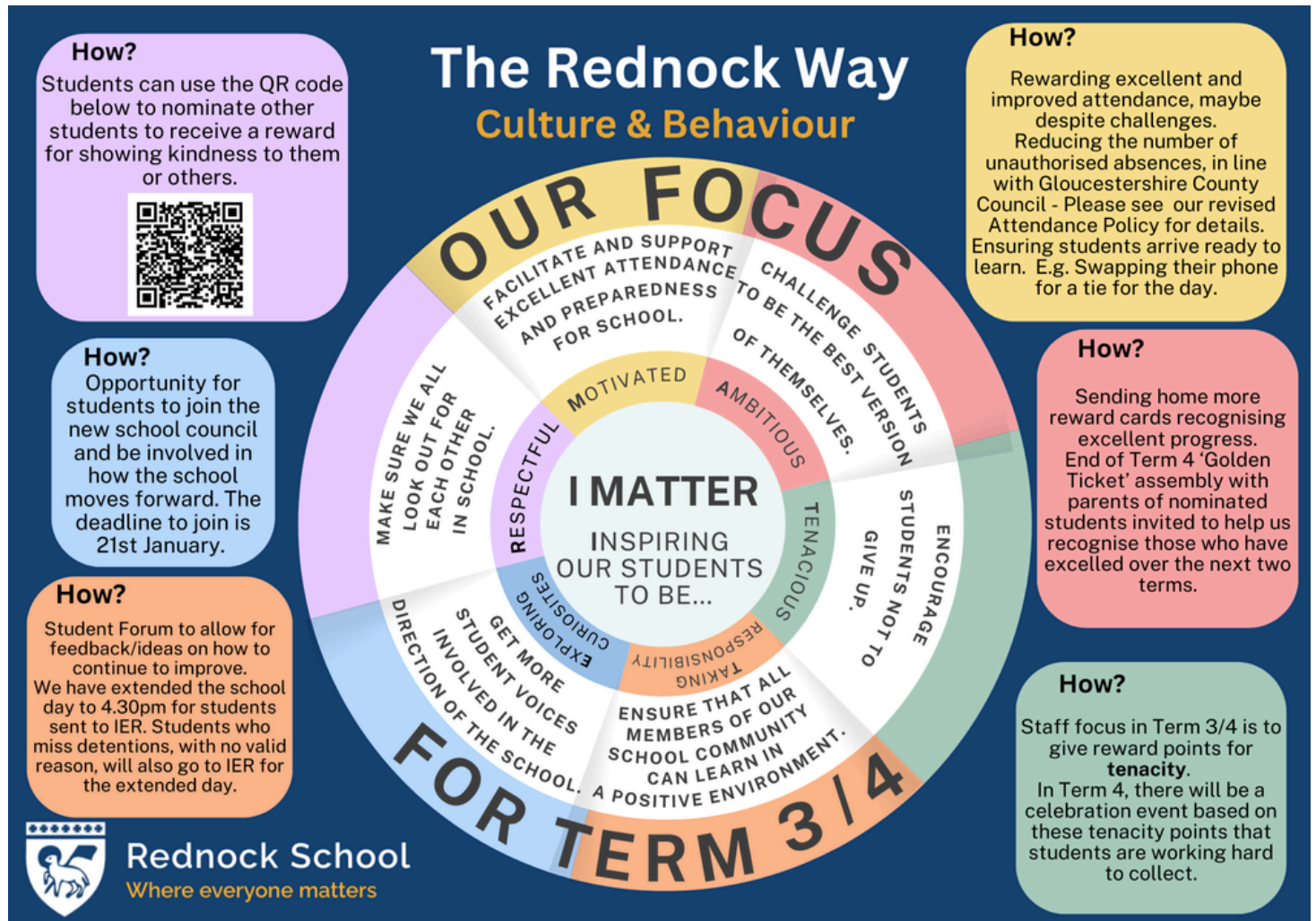




The Rednock Way - Culture & Behaviour

As we continue to further embed our school values, under the heading '**IMatter**', we would like to take this opportunity to share some updates and changes around our attendance, rewards and behaviour systems in school, so that we can continue to work together to make our school the very best it can be.

The image below explains some of the key things we are focusing on, over the next two terms.



Our School Charter

Our Vision

To be a school where everyone matters.

Our mission is to *inspire* and *motivate* staff and students to be *ambitious* for themselves and each other.

To be a school at the heart of its community that is *tenacious* about improving the world we live and learn in.

A school where we achieve the highest standards in all that we do.

A school where we *take responsibility* for our futures and our community.

A school that delivers an exceptional education, enabling our students and staff to *explore* their curiosities and passions.

A school where being *respectful*, tolerant and kind are fundamentals for success.

Rednock School
where everyone matters

Our Mission

To inspire and motivate our students to be ambitious for themselves and each other. To be a school at the heart of its community where staff and students are tenacious about improving the world we live and learn in, and achieving the highest standards in all that we do. A school where we take responsibility for each other, our futures and our community. A school which delivers an exceptional education which allows our students to explore their curiosities. A school where we are respectful, and where tolerance and kindness are fundamental to our happiness and success.

As part of fulfilling our vision our School Charter outlines our intentions which we encourage and expect all members of our community to strive to achieve, each and every day.

	As a member of staff, I will	As a student, I will	As a parent/carer, I will
Inspiring	Consistently deliver an engaging and challenging curriculum so that our students reach their full potential.	Take part actively in lessons by completing work in class and at home so that I can reach my full potential.	Encourage my child to talk to me about what they are learning and provide support and encouragement for them to achieve their full potential.
Motivated	Model, promote and reward positive behaviours, so that our students are motivated to embrace the challenges at school.	Attend school regularly and on time, ensure that I bring everything I need with me for the day ahead and try my best to my lessons.	Ensure that my child attends school regularly, on time, equipped for learning. Where this is not possible, I will work with the school to resolve it.
Ambitious	Model and encourage the very highest standards of curricular and extra-curricular achievement, so that our students achieve their full potential.	Do my best to be a student at everything I do, and push myself to reach high aspirations and the ambition to achieve my full potential.	Encourage my child to be ambitious, pursue for success and encourage them to achieve their goals.
Tenacious	Create challenging lessons while keeping students and parents informed of progress, and provide feedback that motivates continued improvement.	I will not settle for 'okay' and will push myself to achieve my full potential. I will be aware of my progress and actively respond to feedback from staff to keep improving.	I will work with staff to support my child in making positive decisions about their learning and behaviour, ensuring they continue to make progress, even during challenging times.
Taking Responsibility	Ensure kindness, respect, and safety so that our school is a place where everyone feels they belong and are encouraged to think, be happy and succeed.	We hold ourselves and others to the same high standards of behaviour and respect. We will have the environment to think, be happy and succeed.	Encourage my child to take responsibility for their behaviour and learning and work positively with the school to help achieve this.
Exploring curiosities	Ensure that students are provided with opportunities, support, and resources to explore their curiosities, pursue their passions, and nurture their intellectual growth.	Explore and access the opportunities that allow me to explore my passions, interests and curiosities. I will be able to ask questions and engage in my learning.	Encourage my child to explore their passions, interests and curiosities and encourage them not to be afraid to ask questions and explore the opportunities that the school provides.
Respectful	Help build a culture of mutual respect. I will uphold the values we expect of everyone in our school community and treat each other with dignity, respect and kindness.	I will build a culture of mutual respect. I will uphold the values we expect of everyone in our school community and treat each other with dignity, respect and kindness.	I will support the values expected of everyone in our school community and encourage my child to do so with dignity, respect and kindness.

Partnership matters. Our Rednock School Charter acknowledges the part we all play in helping our students achieve their potential.

Useful Links:

- [School Charter](#)
- [Attendance Policy](#)
- [Behaviour Policy](#)

If you wish to discuss any of this further or offer any other ideas, please feel free to attend our **drop-in session on 13th February from 3.30-4.30pm.**



Teaching and Learning Focus - Literacy

What does oracy look like in the classroom at Rednock?

Communicating and expressing our ideas is a vital part of life, not just school. What's more, research shows that we tend to write the way we talk. With this in mind, we have been working on oracy in the classroom and have distilled it down to three key things. At Rednock, we:

- verbally answer in full sentences
- use 'ABC discussion' to develop our ideas
- rephrase and upscale our vocabulary.



How could you support your young person at home with oracy?

When discussing something around the table at home, encourage your young person to build on someone's point of view or challenge it with an alternative idea.

Suggest that words like 'good', 'bad', 'happy', 'sad' and 'nice' aren't descriptive enough and see if your young person can come up with something more specific in their vocabulary.

Go Volunteer Glos are looking for nominations for their **Rising Star Award**, for anyone under 18 who has volunteered for at least six months. If you know a young person who has done amazing things through volunteering, please nominate them here: [Gloucestershire Volunteer Awards](#).

Forest Green Rovers bring a very important message

The team from Forest Green Rovers Community were back again this week, this time to speak to all of Year 9, 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 9 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.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN



Do you know an inspirational young person?

The student who is always fundraising for a charity, a teen leader at your local brownies or the young volunteer passionate about making difference?



The Gloucestershire Volunteer Awards celebrates the incredible individuals in our community who make it a better place for us all - nominate someone you know today!

Nominations close
28th February 2025

Find out more
here



Email: support@govolunteerglos.org
01242 858944
www.govolunteerglos.org



Rednock has joined the pride!

Lions at Large, Gloucestershire's first ever Wild in Art sculpture trail, will be 'roaring' onto the streets of Cheltenham and Gloucester next Summer. Over 30 majestic lion sculptures will be individually painted by local artists; with streets, parks and open spaces dazzling with their vibrant colours and surprising designs.

We are very excited to share that Rednock has signed up to design and decorate one of the 'little lions' that will also feature on the trail!! As part of this project we will be raising funds for Cheltenham and Gloucester Hospitals Charity, who are organising the trail to support new cancer facilities.

Representatives from Year 12's newly formed 6th Form Committee will be launching the fundraiser and design competition in our community assemblies next week.

Pictured right: Zane, the travelling promotional lion! His creator, artist Christina Sadler, joined us in school for the Year 10 National Gallery inspired art day back in September.

There will be a **'Lions at Large' fundraiser non uniform day** later this term on Thursday 13th February. In the meantime, if you'd like to make a donation please visit our [Just Giving page...](#)

You can find out more about The Pride of Gloucestershire Trail at lionsatlarge.co.uk.





Rednock Sixth Form - Applications close on 14 February 2025

Rednock Sixth Form has a long history of giving students exceptional opportunities to reach their potential.

We are currently accepting applications to join us in September 2025. Please visit [our website](#) to find out more about our unique offer. (Applications close on 14th February.)

"I really valued how much effort and commitment teachers put in to ensure every student does the very best they can."

"The Rednock Sixth Form is incredibly supportive, everyone is there to help you."

Alumni Stories - [click here](#)

"The staff and teachers around you help you excel and get the best out of yourself."

Click [here](#) to apply to the 6th Form



Last day celebrations before Christmas!

It seems like a long time ago now, but on our last day before we broke up for Christmas, we had a lovely day of fun in Sixth Form, kicking it off with gingerbread house-making and other games in our different tutor groups. Then we had our special assembly with a picture/music quiz, prize-giving for our weekly quiz winners and finished off with a happy karaoke session, singing Christmas songs led by some very enthusiastic students! What a lovely way to finish off the term!



A Huge Thank You to Cam and Dursley Creatives!

We were fortunate to receive funding for 2 projects from Cam and Dursley Creatives Community Chest!

Outdoor Classroom/ Nature Park project Bird/Bat and Bug Box Making project

Money was used to purchase 2 bandsaw blades to process timber donated to the DT department when trees were cut down to build the current school building. Just this small purchase has enabled us to start work on students' suggestions to create wildlife habitats on the school site. Pictured right: The new blade being used to cut timber for bird boxes.



School of Rock production

£500 was awarded to help towards the huge costs of putting on a school production including fabric for costumes, hiring lighting equipment and building sets.





Computer Science Challenge

In computer science lessons our students have completed the **Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge**, a global initiative that introduces young minds to the fundamentals of computational thinking and problem-solving in a fun and engaging way.



The Bebras Challenge is an international competition designed to inspire students of all ages to think critically and creatively. Through a series of interactive tasks, participants tackle real-world problems using logic, algorithms, patterns, and abstraction—key concepts at the heart of computer science. The challenge is not just about programming; it's about developing skills that are essential in today's technology-driven world.

Our students embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and demonstrated exceptional perseverance and ingenuity. The tasks ranged from puzzles and logic games to scenarios requiring strategic decision-making, all designed to be accessible yet thought-provoking. These activities encourage a mindset that is both analytical and innovative, preparing students for future success in a variety of fields.

Special mention to William G, Hayden C, Leo L and Jack B for stand-out performances.

London International Horse Show

On Thursday 19th December, 45 students from across Years 8-13 went on a trip to the London International Horse Show at the Excel Arena. After a coach journey to the arena, viewing London sites along the way, we arrived at the arena where students had the opportunity to do last minute Christmas shopping for their horses, friends and family before we watched top class showjumping. We saw Olympic champions Joe Stockdale and Ben Maher, together with other professional showjumpers compete in a big competition.



The next part of the show was a Shetland Grand National where we cheered and as some student's highlighted 'we were off to the races!'. The show was then followed by 'The Flying Frenchman' who is a horse whisperer. He and his horses did a performance showing the connection between animals and people.

The show then culminated with another showjumping class which ended with a quick jump off against the clock to distinguish the winner. We then hopped back onto the coach and experienced London at night seeing the Christmas Lights from the coach before we returned home.

This was a great Christmas day out and a lovely celebration to end the term and year as a Rednock Community. If you have any questions about equine disciplines, please email katie.mcparland@rednockschool.org.uk





Art Gallery - work by Year 10

We wanted to share some examples of work completed by our Year 10 GCSE art students as part of their skill building work undertaken last term.



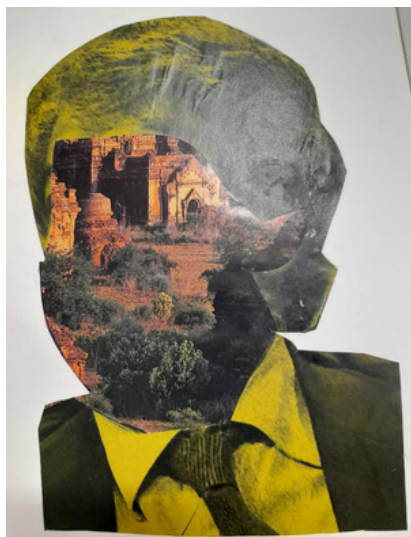
Clay 8 Ball - Zeek



Clay Candy Cane - Diana



Pomegranate - Liliana



Magazine Collaged portrait - Cole



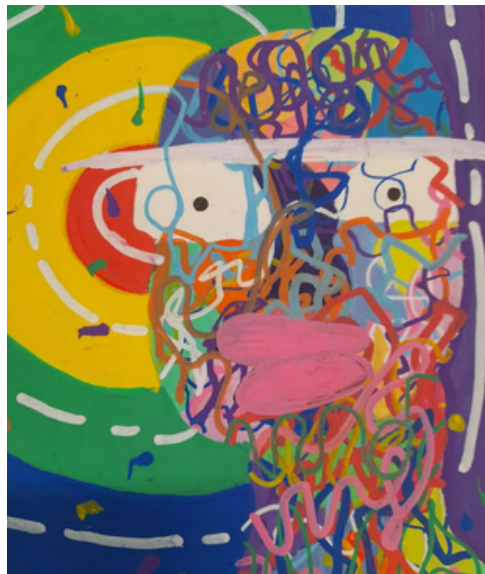
Clay telephone - Lily Ga



Clay cloud head - Linden



Painted portrait with flowers - Kim



Abstract portrait with glasses - Mollie



Abstract portrait of Girl - Lily Go

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.



Rednock School Careers
where everyone matters



Mr Sanders is Head of Life Skills and Careers - he can be contacted at william.sanders@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

The Futures day is now an all day careers fair!

Friday 7th February

CAREER FAIR

Anyone who would like to take part and run a careers stand, please contact us:

admin@rednockschool.org.uk



1. Retake your quizzes on Unifrog to have the most up-to-date information about what kind of work you might be interested in.
2. Consult the list that was sent out before Christmas (or on the display board opposite Drama) and start contacting employers.
3. Fill the work experience form in and hand it in to reception.

Year 11 Mock Interviews - Between **28th-30th January**, we have arranged for business professionals to come in and interview all our Year 11 students as if they were applying for a post either in further/higher education or with a view to applying for a job. The interviews will take place in the main school hall and students will be notified over the coming week as to when their allocated appointment time is.

This is a formal process and we expect all students to have completed an application form properly and present themselves smartly in their school uniform for their interview. This is a very important practical exercise and gives students a valuable opportunity to practise their interview skills in a 'safe' environment before they start applying for part-time jobs, colleges, universities and Rednock Sixth Form places.

Career Interviews

Mr Justice is currently interviewing students in Year 12 to help them planning their next steps: either looking for gap-year opportunities, applying for apprenticeships or going to university...



Assemblies by the Fire Service

Earlier this week, we had assemblies for Years 7-9 from the Fire Service to learn about antisocial behaviour and hoax calls.

There was also a section in the assembly from a Stroud District Council employee to talk about their work in community services and how litter contributes to fire risk and damages the social fabric of an area. There was a Q&A session and students were very keen to be involved, especially when taking part in the hoax call demonstration!



Amazing football success!

It is with great delight and joy to announce that one of our students has represented her country in an international football match.

Holly in Year 10 was selected to play for Wales in their National Women's Under 17 squad the other week. She travelled out last weekend to play against Portugal. Her first game was played last Tuesday during which she played for the whole game and contributed brilliantly in both defence and in attack.

Her second game against the same National Portuguese side is on Thursday. We are so proud of her achievement here at Rednock, an example for all of us here to follow.



County U14 Badminton Tournament

On Wednesday Rednock hosted the annual County U14 Badminton Tournament. Schools competing came from many of the top badminton schools in Gloucestershire. They included Pates Grammar, Sir Thomas Rich's, Leckhampton High School, Marling and Rednock. The tournament consisted of each team playing 5 games against every school. The standard was incredibly high with Pates not dropping a single game and therefore becoming the outright champions. Special mention must of course go to our 4 boys from Rednock who played so well - **George J**, **Hammish H** and **Thomas P** in Year 9 and **Divya P** who is actually in Year 8. Massive well done to the boys.





U12 Rugby

At the end of last term, our U12 Rugby team faced a stern final fixture away to The Crypt School, Gloucester. The boys put in a resolute and workmanlike performance in which they came out on top winning 20-15. Two early tries from **Oscar T** and **Freddie H** put Rednock in front at half time, however the second half proved a lot more challenging as we now played up the slope and both sides had to adapt to the worsening weather conditions. Despite Crypt fighting back in the second half, **Oscar T** went on to score two more tries to win Rednock the game; he was later given Player of the Match (POTM) by the opposition for his hard running with the ball. This award could have gone to anyone of the 15 students who donned the Rednock shirt that afternoon and a special mention must also go to **Theo H** for showing great tenacity in defense whilst demonstrating a willingness to work hard for the team and consistently dominate the breakdown.



This result against a well-established rugby school encapsulates the work ethic that these students have had since stepping through the Rednock gates in September. There has continuously been over 20 students attending rugby training and this has led to a variety of opportunities for students to represent the school in fixtures and district festivals.

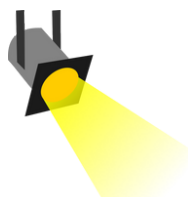
Whilst the U12's have done exceptionally well, this work ethic also applies to Rugby throughout the entire school community with approximately 100 students attending extra-curricular Rugby practices and representing the school in Terms 1 and 2.

It has been pleasing to see the growth of rugby at Rednock in recent times as we look to continue to develop the programme and provide our students with more opportunities to learn, develop and compete in the sport.



READING IS POWER

Learning Resource Centre (LRC)



LRC spotlight on... VERSE NOVELS

A verse novel is a type of narrative poetry, telling a story of novel-length through the medium of poetry rather than the usual story format. We love a verse novel here

at Rednock and they are a brilliant way of engaging the most reluctant of readers, as well as offering something different to avid readers and lovers of poetry. All books featured, and many more, are available to borrow from the LRC...



Rednock School Reads!

In this school year, students have read...

1,886 Books
45,226,445 Words
 for **8 minutes/day!**
 (individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader®

CONGRATULATIONS...

to our latest word millionaires (words read): **Stefan (1,076,200)**, **Tabitha (1,126,534)** and **Elise (1,219,985)!**



SILVER Update: Great that the Year 10 Silver has been launched with a select team of 14. If your young person has decided that they want to do it, please let Mrs Porter know. The dates are on Google Classroom. Exact locations will be dependent on river heights etc.

- 16th – 19th May for the training day and 3 day practice River Wye
- 13th – 15th June for their Qualifiers Peak District.

BRONZE Update : The Year 9s are well underway with a variety of volunteering in and around Dursley and Cam. The dates are as follows for their expeditions and a letter will be out soon about expectations of behaviour. Their teams have been allocated and we are looking forward to the training day on the 3rd of April.

- 3rd – 4th May Practice Expedition: Conygres
- 21st-22nd June Final Expedition: Forest of Dean

Please note, for evidence, five photographs is fine. The rest can go on a document with a diary of what they have been doing to show their Assessor at the end. This will simplify the process. The young person is NOT to put evidence under the Assessor - only the Assessor needs to fill this in which takes 5 minutes online under DofE Assessor's reports and they just need the young person's ID number. Any questions, please contact Mrs Porter.



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 Six: Fixing the clock

After many prolonged hours of insufferable investigation, a wet dribble came from the adumbral sky above - a dribble becoming a leak, a leak becoming a shower, and a shower becoming the most powerful storm any one of these unsuspecting students had ever encountered!

"This is one of the effects of climate change!" screamed Lucy with all her might, so that the others could hear her over the deafening storm. "If my estimation is correct, Dursley is at severe risk of flash flooding and will become the new Atlantis in the next few days!"

After a few more moments of walking, everybody's attention flung towards Liam's call.

"Hey, look!" he announced ecstatically. "I think I have a solution on how to get home."

The adventurers squinted in despair, struggling to view what exactly Liam was so enraptured about. For just a split second, they could make out the words of the shop in front of them - 'The Dursley Clockmaker.' As soon as they realised the blessing before them, they sprinted towards the oak doors and made an abrupt entrance.

Inside the miniature parlour, was an ancient man, with skin like crumpled paper and spectacles with a rim as thick as tree bark, inspecting an alarm clock. He had a strange brass instrument resembling a needle in his weathered hands, which he was holding to the clock's back as he adjusted the cogs.

"Ah! Tis' time! Tis' the end of the universe!" The hysterical bodach exclaimed as he glanced at his visitors.

"Please calm down, sir. I can assure you that it is not," said Harvey sympathetically.

"Although it could be soon," Lucy unhelpfully muttered under her breath.

Thankfully, the old man regained full sanity and sat down. "I am extremely sorry, children. I do not normally receive customers, you see."

"That is quite alright, sir, but we were wondering if you could assist us with something of great importance," pleaded Eden.

Carefully, Liam placed the shattered clock's remains on the sturdy, wooden table which the presumed horologist was sitting across from.

Carefully examining the pieces, the old man looked up, "I have never seen anything like it! Mending this will be a troubling attempt indeed."

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
28/01/2025	U16	Badminto
29/01/2025	U13	Cricket (indoor)
29/01/2025	U16	Football

Upcoming Boys Sports Fixtures

20/01/2025	Y7 & Y11	Football
22/01/2025	U18 & Y10	Football
23/01/2025	Y8 & Y9	Football
28/01/2025	Y10	Football
29/01/2025	U18 & Y9	Football
30/01/2025	Y8 & Y11	Football

Keeping Children Safe Online

National Online Safety have some useful tips to help keep children safe from cyber crime...

10 Top Tips for ... KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE FROM CYBER CRIME

We all want to continue being informed and inspired by the ever-expanding capabilities of the internet. But we also need to be able to safeguard ourselves against the growing amount of online hazards. Knowing what is fact, understanding what dangers exist and taking appropriate steps can go a long way towards protecting yourself and your family. National Online Safety has collaborated with the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Cyber Crime Unit to compile 10 pointers to help you keep your children safe from cyber crime.

1. Spot Phishing Bait

Phishing messages are untargeted mass emails asking for sensitive information (e.g. usernames, passwords, bank details) or encouraging recipients to visit a fake website. It's safest to learn the warning signs of phishing and increase your child's awareness. Too good to be true? Spelling or punctuation errors? Odd sense of urgency? These are all red flags. Don't click on links or follow demands: if you're unsure, contact the official company directly online to enquire further.

3. Encourage Strong Passwords

Weak passwords make it faster and easier for someone to gain access to your online accounts or get control of your device – giving them a route to your personal information. For a strong password, national guidance recommends using three random words (e.g. bottlegaragepylons). Consider paying for your child to access a password manager. Encourage them to have a separate password for their email account. Ensure the whole family uses two-factor authentication where possible.

5. Back up Your Data

Some cyber attacks can lead to the theft or deletion of important (and possibly sensitive) data or loss of files (like photos and videos) that can't be replaced. Backing up your data to the cloud – or to another device – will help prevent data loss if you ever become the victim of a cyber attack. Where possible, set your child's devices to back up automatically. Also encourage them to back up their data prior to installing any updates.

7. Take Care When Chatting

Criminals may look to manipulate others online and coerce them into using their talents or cyber skills for unethical means. Try to get your child to be open about who they are talking to online. Communication tools such as Discord are popular among gamers – but be cautious of the other people using them, and ensure you know who your child is chatting with.

9. Understand Their Motivations

Those being influenced online to use their skills unethically may display certain key warning signs. Sudden evidence of new-found wealth (unexplained new clothes or devices, for example), secrecy around their online behaviour or boasting of new online friendships are all causes for concern. If in doubt, refer through to your regional cyber crime team.

2. Don't Over-Share

Is your child sharing too much on social media? Do they post things about their private life, upload images of your home, or discuss their friendships and relationships online? Criminals will gather this information and may try to use it for identity theft or other offences such as fraud. To combat this, ensure your child's privacy settings mean they are only sharing information with family and close friends. Use parental controls where appropriate.

4. Stay Updated

People often put off installing updates to apps or software because they don't feel it's necessary, it can be time consuming, or could cause problems with programmes they rely on. But updates help protect users from recently discovered vulnerabilities to malware. You can usually set them to run automatically – encourage your child to select this option. Ensure updates are installed as soon as possible after you're notified they're available.

6. Be Wary of Public WiFi

Free public WiFi is commonplace – but it's often not secure and sends unencrypted data via the network. A hacker on the same network could access personal data (like financial information) without you even realising they'd done so. To avoid this, suggest to your child that they use their 3G or 4G mobile data when they're out and about, rather than free WiFi. Consider purchasing a VPN (Virtual Private Network) where possible.

8. Recognise Warning Signs

Often, budding cyber experts will relish the challenge of testing themselves or earning recognition from peers for their exploits. Even principled 'white-hat' hackers will look to test their skills online. If you think your child is interested in hacking, try to understand what their motivation is. You could encourage their participation in ethical competitions such as bug bounties.

10. Know the Consequences

Many young people may feel that hacking is essentially a light-hearted prank, and not especially serious. So make sure your child is aware of the implications of a conviction under the Computer Misuse Act – not only the possibility of a criminal record, but also lifelong travel restrictions and damage to their future career or educational prospects.



Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
20/01/2025 - 24/01/2025	Year 7	'I Can & I Am' bus visiting school
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
04/02/2025	Year 11	Photographs
05/02/2025	Year 10 (specific students)	'Hitler of Trial' Trip
06/02/2025	Year 11	Year 11 Parent Consultation Meetings
07/02/2025	All	Careers Fair
13/02/2025	Years 7-11	Non school uniform day - Lions at Large
13/02/2025	All	Culture & Behaviour drop-in session
13/02/2025	Year 9	KS4 Options Evening
14/02/2025	All	End of Term 3

'School of Rock' Tickets On Sale Now!

The cast and crew of School of Rock are working hard towards this year's school production. Tickets are £8 each (£5 concession) and can be purchased via Parent Pay or main school reception. The show times are as below:

Wed 2nd April - 7.00pm
Thurs 3rd April - 7.00pm
Friday 4th April - 7.00pm
Saturday 5th April - 4.00pm

