

THE REDNOCK REVIEW

Term 1 – 2025/26

26th September 2025

Dear Rednock Community,

Welcome to the second edition of the Rednock Review! It's filled with stories of student achievement and exciting updates about what's happening at our school.

This edition follows two memorable events that took place over the past two weeks: our School Open Evening on 18th September and our Open Morning on Wednesday 24th September. These events truly showcased what makes Rednock such a special place.

The Open Evening was a tremendous success, with a huge number of visitors exploring our facilities, meeting our staff, and hearing from our incredible students. It was one of our busiest and most successful events yet. We then welcomed prospective students and parents again for our Open Morning, where they had the chance to experience the school in action during a typical day. Both events were well attended, and the feedback from our visitors was overwhelmingly positive - especially about our student guides and speakers, who did a fantastic job representing our school.



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

As we move through the midpoint of the term (already!), school life continues to be busy, purposeful, and rewarding as you can see from this edition.

As part of our ongoing commitment to safety, we will be rehearsing our 'Lockdown' procedure on Thursday 2nd October. This is a routine part of our emergency response planning and is nothing to be concerned about. I will write to you with further detail early next week and our students will be briefed and prepared during tutor time next week to ensure they feel confident with the process.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Rednock Review and on behalf of everyone here at Rednock School, my very best wishes.

Mike Stratford
Headteacher



Rednock School
Where everyone matters



Achievement Heroes

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

Winners are:

Rosie, for having an amazing start to Year 9. Holly, who was selected for the Wales U17 football team. Emily, who has shown an excellent attitude to learning this term. Levi, who has worked hard and stuck to his revision timetable. Jacob, who has had fantastic attendance so far in Year 8. Charlotte, for speaking during assembly and leading the community championship. Lily, for being selected as cheerleader captain in her squad. Oscar and Bella, for giving outstanding speeches at the Open Evening. Charlotte, who you can learn about below. Fred and Millie, for giving a great demonstration of a heart dissection at the Open Evening. Ebony, for a great improvement on her attendance and Tess, for already reaching a staggering 56,209 word count in Power for Reading.



Student Success

Charlotte (left) shot for the county archery team against Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall. Charlotte proved to be strong competition and was awarded gold in her category which means she is now county and regional champion! Charlotte's efforts helped the Gloucestershire team win overall so it was a great accomplishment.



Celebrating Success at Our Annual Awards Ceremony

On Thursday 11th September, Rednock School hosted its annual Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Awards Ceremony at the Chantry Centre. The evening was a wonderful celebration of the hard work and achievements of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who completed their examinations last summer.

We were delighted to welcome back Rednock alumna, Alaana Watt, as our guest speaker. Alaana delivered an inspirational and thought-provoking speech, sharing her insights into the key ingredients for achieving success.

The evening was made even more special by a series of outstanding performances by The Anti-Romantics, the Musical Theatre group, the school's Senior Choir and a solo performance by Year 9 student, Maiya.

The ceremony was a fitting tribute to the dedication, talent, and achievements of our students, and we are incredibly proud of all that they have accomplished.

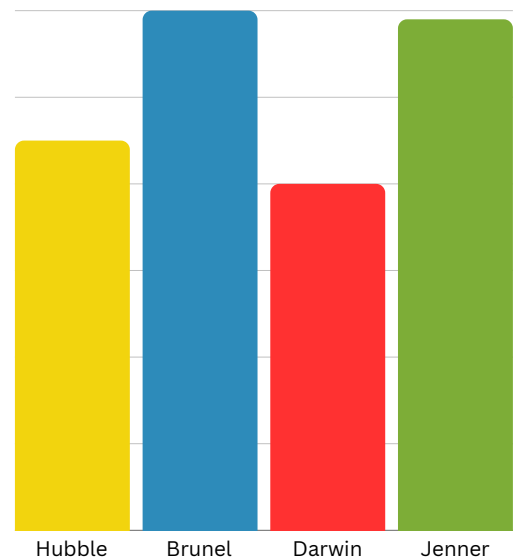




Community Competition

The Inter-Community Competition is already in full swing. As you can see below, Brunel and Jenner are jostling for the top position overall but we're only in week 4 so Hubble and Darwin have more than enough time to close the gap.

The first Champions Challenge took place on Tuesday and saw students sharing hula hoops whilst collecting tennis balls - but no hands allowed! A lot of effort was put in and Brunel came out on top with 25 points but Hubble, Jenner and Darwin all came a close second with 20 points each.





Teaching & Learning Focus – Learning in Action



A typical day at Rednock sees a wide variety of different and exciting activities going on in lessons.

In this issue, we are focusing on Year 7 Reading for Power lessons, where students are in the LRC (Learning Resource Centre) exploring books, with activities that encourage them to experience different genres so that they can find ones that excite and inspire them.

This week, the focus has been on exploring the books on offer for Book Buzz. All Year 7 students are able to choose the book they want (with a deadline for choices to be made by 3rd October), which will be delivered to school for them just before Christmas. In this lesson, students can be seen having a good look at the books on offer, reading the blurb and perhaps the first page, as well as having an opportunity to discuss their choice with friends, to make sure they choose the right book for them.



Talk from ex-Sixth Former Harry Liell

The Sixth Form students had an assembly on Monday presented by Harry Liell. Harry was a student at Rednock from 2010-2017, and is currently studying for a PhD in Economics at The University of Bristol. Harry shared his experience of underperforming at the end of his Year 12 studies and finding focus and a commitment to hard work which led him on to study at university, followed by a Masters Degree and then to working as an Economist at the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) in London.

Harry also joined our Year 13 Economics group and shared his experience of university and working, answering subject specific questions from students.

'It was inspiring to hear from someone who has continued their studies in economics and taken the subject into the real-world' (Isaac Irvine, Year 13)





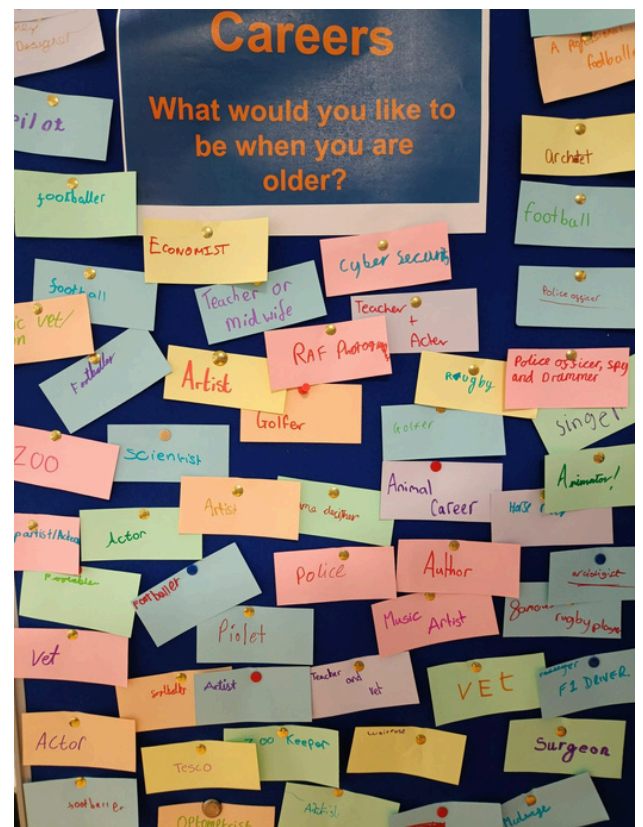
Open Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our Open Evening, it was a wonderful evening full of excitement and new experiences. We were particularly proud of the students who spoke during the two talks that were held in the Main Hall, they showed great maturity and passion in the way they spoke to the audience. We hope you managed to get to visit all the subjects and got stuck in with trying all of the science experiments, language challenges and maybe you even tried a cricket brownie or two!



In Lifeskills & Careers, Mr Sanders asked visiting Year 6 students "what would you like to be when you are older?" This board (below) is full of their wonderful responses, including...

*Architect, Spy, Vet, Animator,
Footballer, Optometrist, Zoo Keeper,
Tesco Worker, and Surgeon.*





Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training

On Tuesday 23rd September 46 Sixth Form students attended a three hour training session with Sarah Frazer from MHFA England. This is the third year we have been able to run this programme. Each Sixth Form student has a lower school community link and following their training will be available to provide supportive conversations to their peers and younger students. Year 12 students who attended were invited to apply for the full 2-day MHFA course which will run next month.

"I found every activity helpful, especially the roleplays, which gave me more confidence in talking to someone about their mental health, and helped me understand how to do it."





Photography Homework

Year 10 photography students were challenged to look at the world in a new, original way when given the homework 'Unusual Angles Photos' where they needed to take 24 photographs from a unique point of view.

The task encouraged them to think creatively about perspective, composition, and subject matter, resulting in a diverse range of striking images. From low ground-level shots to overhead views and abstract close-ups, students demonstrated impressive imagination and technical skill in capturing everyday scenes from fresh, unexpected angles.

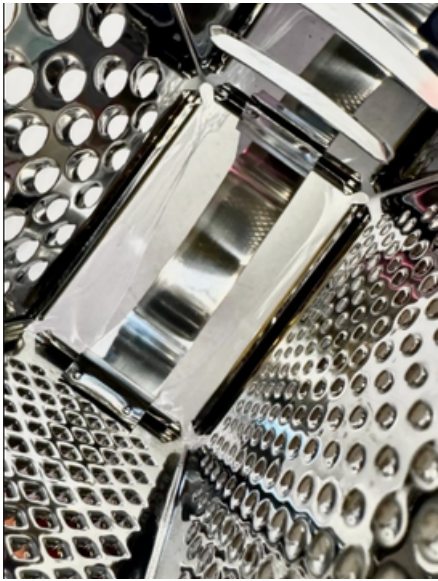


Image credits:

*Cheese Grater - Iris
Train - Devon
Wood - Henry
Apple - Charlie
Road - Max*



Biology arthropod comparison

Year 12 Biology have been looking closely at the body structure of shrimp and locusts. Although both are arthropods, they differ significantly in body structure and it was up to these students to identify those differences by inspecting, measuring, and then comparing their findings.



Student success

Year 10 student, Charlotte, had a rather busy summer break. She not only completed her bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition and successfully passed her grade 1 music theory exam, she also attended a two day creative careers workshop in London.

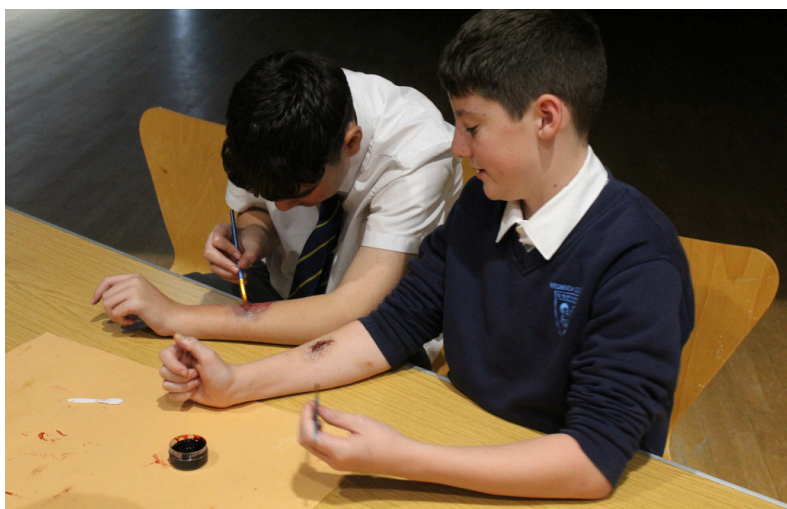
You can see a photo of her here (centre) with comedian Rosie Jones (left), who partnered with Embrace Space for the Creative Pathways event. Participants had the opportunity to meet and learn from disabled creatives in fields such as acting, creative writing, film, TV, and inclusive fashion.

We love Charlotte's dedication to learning and we look forward to finding out what she signs up for next.



Special effects make-up

This week, Year 9 students explored the fascinating world of special effects make-up, focusing on how realistic wounds are created for film and theatre. They learned about the techniques and materials used by industry professionals, including wax and fake blood. After discussing the techniques used in creating believable injuries, students had the chance to put their knowledge into practice. With creativity and attention to detail, they experimented with making cuts, bruises, and even bullet holes, gaining hands-on experience in transforming simple materials into convincing special effects.



Creative Opportunity

Would you like to help design and build Dursley's next escape room?

Next year the Chantry Centre will celebrate its centenary and there are big plans to celebrate the history of the building and the role of Listers in shaping Dursley. As part of this, an exciting new "Listers" escape room will be created and built in The Chantry Centre.

They need a team of 10 young designers, storytellers, engineers, artists and builders to help shape and create the challenge. This opportunity is open to anyone between the ages of 14-18. This would be very suitable as Duke of Edinburgh volunteering or a skills opportunity for any level (time allocation would be adjusted accordingly).

Please email deborah.brooks@rednockschool.org.uk to express an interest in joining the team.

Design and production sessions would start in January, in the Chantry Centre or The Engine, 3.30pm, day TBC.





Careers Corner

Who's who in Careers?

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. Contact her through the admin office to organise a careers interview appointment: admin@rednockschool.org.uk



Apprenticeship Fair

On Thursday 25th September we hosted Rednock's first ever Apprenticeship & Recruitment Fair in the Sixth Form Common Room. This event was a huge success and saw a range of employers, apprenticeship and training providers holding meaningful discussions with our students in Years 11 to 13. The atmosphere in the room was absolutely lovely and some students even secured work experience placements on the day. Please be sure to check out the interaction logged for this event on Unifrog and to add your comments to it. Many thanks to all who attended the event.





Duke of Edinburgh Award - Bronze Final Expedition

56 students completed their Final Expedition in the Forest of Dean, led by Pioneer Leadership. Although Saturday proved damp, spirits were excellent when they returned to the campsite. Meals were cooked and eaten, muddy boots changed for comfy crocs and a well deserved rest was enjoyed by all. On Sunday, they set off again, and this time there wasn't too much deviation from the path. It was lovely to hear the feedback about the skills they had developed, of resilience, teamwork and navigation. For many, the best thing was walking through the stunning scenery in the autumn sunshine.

Year 9 - In Year 9, we have 56 students signed up for the Bronze award. Reminder to students to submit their programme on the app for approval.

Year 10 - Reminder to all Year 10 DofE students to get their sections signed off by giving their ID number to their assessor. Many students have also been requesting information about the Silver award, details will be rolled out later in the school year.

Don't forget we have drop in support sessions for any questions every Wednesday lunchtime in room 341.





RTX Quadcopter 2025

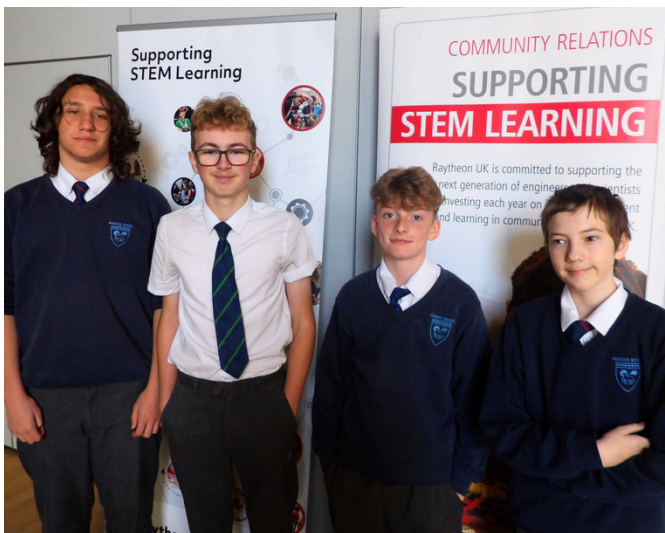
This year we have two teams of Year 9 pupils taking part in the RTX Quadcopter Challenge. They will be focusing on the theme of Local Heroes.

The RTX Quadcopter Challenge is an annual UK-based STEM competition, supported by RTX (Raytheon Technologies), that tasks school students, cadets, and scouts with designing, building, and customising a quadcopter to solve a real-world problem. Guided by RTX STEM Ambassadors, teams develop critical engineering, teamwork, project management, and presentation skills as they compete in regional and national finals to demonstrate their quadcopters' design, functionality, and flight capabilities.

The challenge for the teams is to design and build a quadcopter that can support the local community. Once it is built they will then see if it can successfully navigate an aerial assault course and present their ideas to a range of engineers and people from the local community.

Team 'Aerial Aid & Action'

Team 'The Sea Saviours'





Photography Workshop

On Friday, 19th September, Rita Long from 100 Heroines and internationally renowned photographer Lisl Ponger visited Rednock to run a mask-making and photography workshop for our Year 12 photography students.

It was such a fabulous opportunity to spend a day off-timetable working with a professional. The students really impressed Lisl and Rita with their creativity, enthusiasm and responses to a very different way of working. Lisl put the emphasis on playful exploration rather than outcome, giving the students the freedom of time and the luxury of a huge collection of materials.



Photography Opportunity

The Chantry Centre will celebrate its Centenary in 2026 and the team are looking for a volunteer photographer to document all the events in this celebration year. The successful candidate will be asked to attend events to capture great images and bring their own unique style to website and social media content throughout the whole of 2026. It's a great opportunity to build a portfolio of work, possibly for a Year 12 A level student (it could even fit a project brief) or as a DofE Gold skill or volunteer role.

Please contact deborah.brooks@rednockschool.org.uk for more information.





Mills Voices Exhibition at Kingshill house

We were delighted to see the work of so many schools and community groups in this exhibition celebrating the stories of some of the very skilled women who worked at Cam mills (some for 50 years!) The creativity of Rednock students shone with so many diverse pieces.

In June, 11 Year 10 students (now Year 11) joined Abi Nicol and Deb Brooks for a week of work experience working on this GL11 project.

Inspired by the lighting techniques of Water Nurnberg, the students took photographs of themselves and then met and photographed some of the interviewees. These amazing images were exhibited facing each other "in conversation".



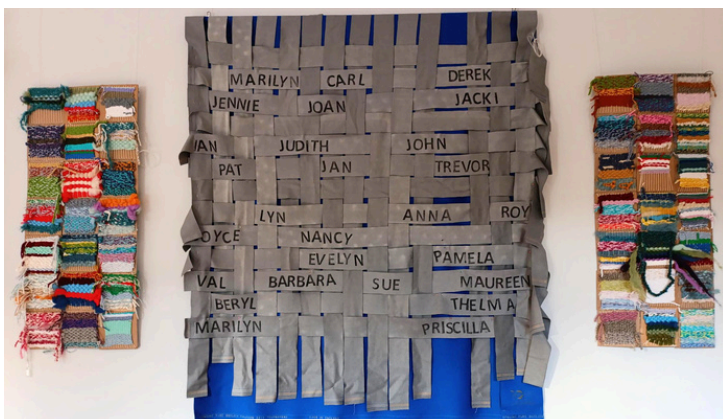
An instillation of naturally dyes yards displayed on bobbins from old loom shuttles (Above)



Visual information boards were inspired by processes, history and memories from the mill (Above)



An amazing collage hanging of Nurnberg images inspired by Mari Mar (Above)



A huge weave greeted visitors in the hallway with the names of the interviewees printed and woven together (Above)



Silhouettes representing decades from 1940-1980s were woven with words, facts and phrases that the students extracted from the interviews (Above)



Our readers have really hit the ground running this term. So far, 611 books have been borrowed and 351 returned!

Reading for Pleasure

Reading for pleasure is linked to a [range of benefits](#) including stronger writing skills, improved wellbeing and confidence, and even higher future earnings, with new data showing those proficient in reading and writing in primary school earn £65,000 more over their lifetime.

REDNOCK BOOK AMNESTY



Please return books to the LRC or leave with your tutor.

Rednock Book Amnesty

We are lucky to have a really wide selection of books - so we need students to return them when they've finished reading them. Students are given reminders to help them avoid being charged for lost books.

Year 8 and Year 9 - books still overdue from previous years will be considered lost and a replacement charge added to Parentpay.

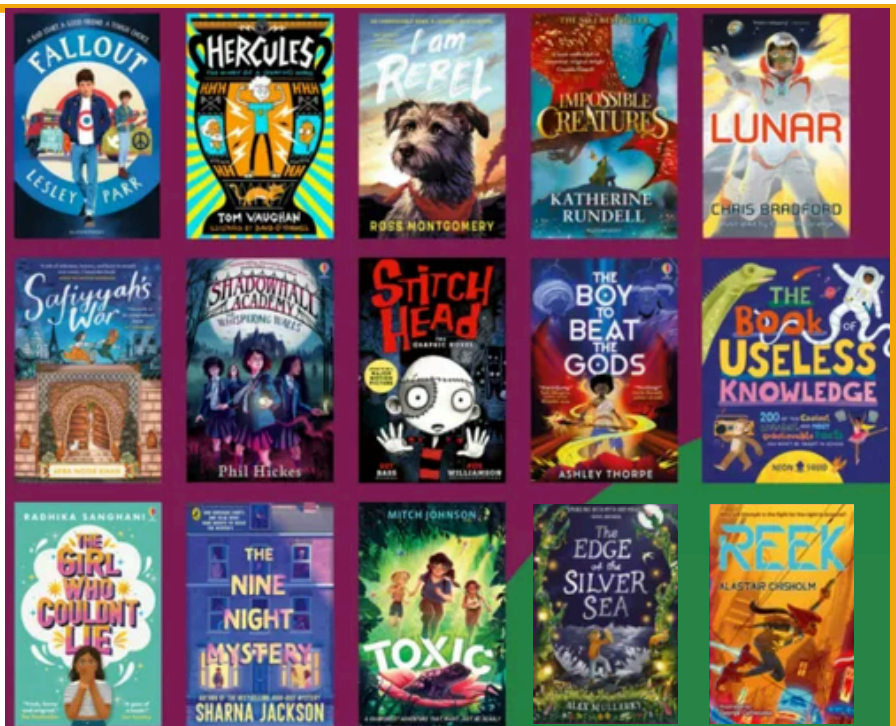
Look under your bed, in old and new school bags and then look again!



Book Trust - Book Buzz

We're really happy to be bringing Book Buzz to our new Year 7s - check out this year's choices [here](#). We have 2 copies of each title in the LRC, all ready to be borrowed!

The deadline for Year 7 book choices is the 3rd October so make sure to get your order forms to the LRC in plenty of time!





Notices for parents / carers

Lockdown Practice

The safety and well-being of every student at Rednock School is our highest priority. To ensure we are prepared for any situation, we regularly practice emergency procedures.

Last week, our students participated in a highly successful school evacuation drill, which was completed in just over three minutes. This remarkable efficiency is a testament to the maturity and discipline of our students.

Next week, we will be conducting a practice of our security lockdown procedures. This drill is a vital part of our safety plan, teaching students how to respond to an external hazard. Full instructions will be provided to all students and will be discussed in tutor groups beforehand to prevent any alarm. Thank you for your continued support as we work to keep our school a safe and secure environment for everyone.

Absence Reporting – Please Be Specific

A friendly reminder to all families: when notifying the school of your child's absence, please give a specific reason rather than general terms like "illness" or "unwell." This ensures our records are accurate and helps us support your child appropriately. Thank you for your co-operation. You can notify the school of your child's absence by text, phone or via ClassCharts.

[Here's](#) a handy guide to help decide if a child is too ill to attend school.



Tele: 01453 540755 Text: 0790 8661525  ClassCharts

Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
02/10/2025	KS3 (Invite only)	KS3 Awards Evening
02/10/2025	All	Lockdown Drill
09/10/2025	Year 11	Year 11 Exam Support Evening



Sports clubs Term 1

Monday

After school – Table Tennis - Girls and Boys – All years

Tuesday

After school - Netball - Girls – Year 9

After school - Rugby - Boys - Year 7 & 8

Lunchtime - Badminton - Girls and Boys – Year 7 & 8

Wednesday

After school - Football - Girls – Years 7 & 8

After school – Netball – Girls – Years 10 & 11

After school - Rugby - Boys - Year 10

Lunchtime - Badminton - Girls and Boys – Year 9

Thursday

After school - Netball - Girls – Years 7 & 8

After school – Football – Girls – Years 9 - 11

After School – Rugby – Boys – Year 9

Lunchtime - Badminton - Girls and Boys – Year 10 & 11

Lunchtime – Table Tennis - Girls and Boys – Year 10 & 11

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

Fantasy Premier League



Fantasy Premier League

The new Fantasy Premier League is now live, and it's shaping up to be an exciting season! Not only are there great prizes up for grabs for top performers, but there's also a strong focus on community contributions, making it more engaging than ever. Whether you're a seasoned FPL manager or a complete beginner, everyone's welcome to join in the fun. To get involved, simply use the league code x1m0pu and take your shot at fantasy football glory!

LIMPACT 25

RugbyFest 2025

DURSLEY RFC

Loved watching the world cup?
Want to give rugby a try?
RugbyFest is an open event for girls & boys ages 4 to 16.

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER FROM 5.30-7PM
Introduction to rugby with games & skills.
Dursley Rugby Club, GL11 6AJ
Lots of parking!

making friends
Food and drink
Rugby fun
Arts and crafts

girls.dursleyrfc@gmail.com

England Rugby
THE NATIONAL LIONS

SODBURY VALE YFC

PRESENTS:

CAREERS NIGHT!

Discover your limitless careers possibilities and get connected with top, local employers and professionals at our upcoming careers night!

All ages welcome.....let us help you plan your future!

Date:
21st October 2025

Time:
6pm-9pm

Location:
Hamfields Leisure, Hamfields Lane, Berkeley, GL13 9TN

CONTACT US: SODBURYVALEYFC@GLOUCESTERSHIREYFC.CO.UK