

THE REDNOCK REVIEW

Term 2 – 2025/26

14th November 2025

Dear Rednock Community,

What a soggy Friday it has been! As we reach the end of the second week of Term 2, it's been wonderful to see the energy and sense of purpose that have filled our school. This week's edition is full of highlights celebrating the achievements and experiences of our students. From classroom moments to extracurricular successes, there is plenty to be proud of.

I would like to offer a special commendation to all students for their exemplary conduct during our Remembrance Service on Tuesday 11th November. Their respect, unity, and immaculate presentation ensured this important occasion was marked with the dignity it deserves.

I can't quite believe I am writing this, and although we are only midway through November, the festive spirit is already beginning to grow here at Rednock. Several exciting seasonal challenges are already underway, bringing together a bit of fun, charity and community spirit:

- **Advent Calendar Collection:** We are proud to support the Pied Piper Appeal and the Children's Hospital through this meaningful initiative. This year we are also adding in some local support and will be working with GL11 to put our collection to good use.
- **Christmas Card Design Competition:** Students have the opportunity to showcase their creativity by designing this year's official school Christmas card. The winning design will be made professionally and sent out to our local community and school stakeholders.



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

Best wishes, go to our Year 11, who are currently in the middle of their crucial period of GCSE mock examinations. They are working hard to secure their predicted grades at this important checkpoint in their academic journey, which will help them reflect on their progress so far and focus on preparation for next summer's final exams.

Looking ahead, our **Sixth Form Open Evening** will take place on **Thursday 27th November**, and we warmly invite **all Year 10 and Year 11 students** and their parents to join us. Please also note that **Friday 28th November** is our third **INSET** day, and the school will be closed to students.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to sharing more successes and celebrations with you throughout the remainder of term.

Best wishes,

Mike Stratford,
Headteacher



Rednock School
Where everyone matters



Achievement Heroes

Each week, we select new Achievement Heroes to celebrate. We've had some amazing nominees and we're proud of everything they've accomplished. They were recognised for different reasons, each one just as impressive as the last. Every nominee exemplifies what it means to be an Achievement Hero and we couldn't be prouder to shine a spotlight on their accomplishments.

This issue's Achievement Heroes are:

James, for his work with 1st Dursley Scout Group who won the prestigious Operation Bald Eagle trophy.

Tara, for being selected to attend the next World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027.

Frankie, for her outstanding performance in Cross Country, coming 3rd and progressing to represent the district.

Max, for his outstanding performance in Cross Country, coming 9th and progressing to represent the district.

Isla, for coming 3rd in the Team Chase competition in the Cotswolds, riding her pony Poppy.

Taylah, for running a session for parents and students at the Year 11 Support Information Evening.

Mia, for giving a speech to parents and carers at the Year 11 Support Information Evening.

Edward, for showing fantastic commitment to school.

Ellie, for reaching a total of 1 million words read.

Amelia, for playing drums with her band, Ultra Violet at the rock concert for The Bandit Project.

Jude, for stepping in to diffuse a tense situation, showing responsibility and leadership.

Daniel, for gaining the most reward points in his community so far this term.

Eddie, for his outstanding performance in Cross Country and progressing to represent the district.

Holly and **Anushka**, for their outstanding public speaking at the Year 11 Support Information Evening

Sam, for achieving the highest word count in his Reading for Power class in October.

And **Tristan**, who was randomly selected for the Attendance Award from all students who have 100% attendance so far this year.



Avoid the Winter Dip: Stay Engaged, Stay On Track

November and December can be a tough time - colder mornings, shorter days, and illness can make school attendance harder. But this is also when some of the most important teaching happens, before assessments, mock exams and coursework deadlines.

We encourage families to:

- Keep students in routine despite weather changes.
- Send students in even if they're "not feeling 100%" unless genuinely unwell. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school>
- Contact us early if there's a concern about health, mental wellbeing or motivation.

Every day in school matters, especially in the run-up to the holidays. Let's work together to keep momentum going!

Our next attendance support drop-in will be on 27th November 4pm-5pm. Please come along if you need any support for your child's attendance.



Teaching and Learning Focus – Learning in Action

This Year 12 History class were revising their first topic – the Era of Reconstruction in US History in the 19th century. They have studied the topic thematically, studying political, economic and social issues, and foreign policy. This lesson not only provided a revision opportunity, but got them to look at the whole period chronologically and to see how the themes overlapped and affected each other.

Students were given different events and issues and had to briefly explain them and comment on their significance, they were then challenged to peg them on the washing line in the correct chronological order. They can be seen reading the work of others and then adding to what had already been written to both add specific evidence and improve the explanations.

The purpose of getting students up and moving was because movement can increase focus and engagement and can enhance memory. It also encouraged collaboration and dialogue between students, helping them to learn from each other.



Rednock School
Where everyone matters

Sixth Form OPEN EVENING

Thursday 27th November
5.00pm – 7.30pm

Sixth Form Open Evening

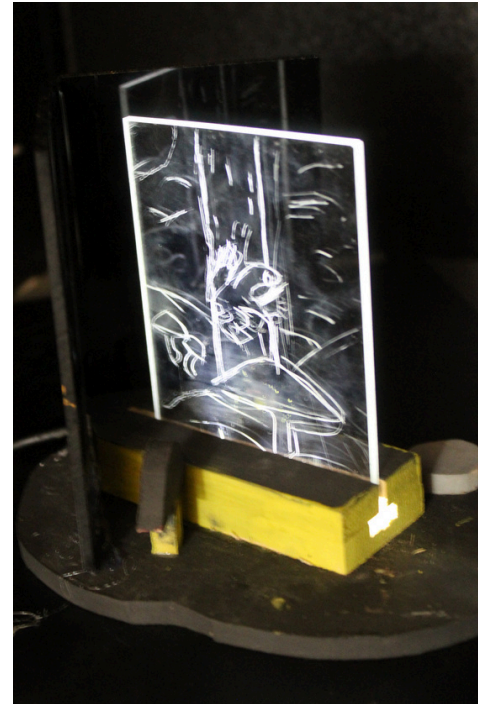
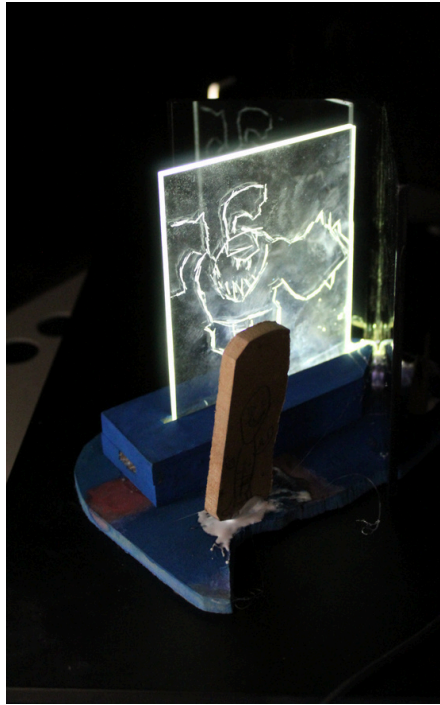
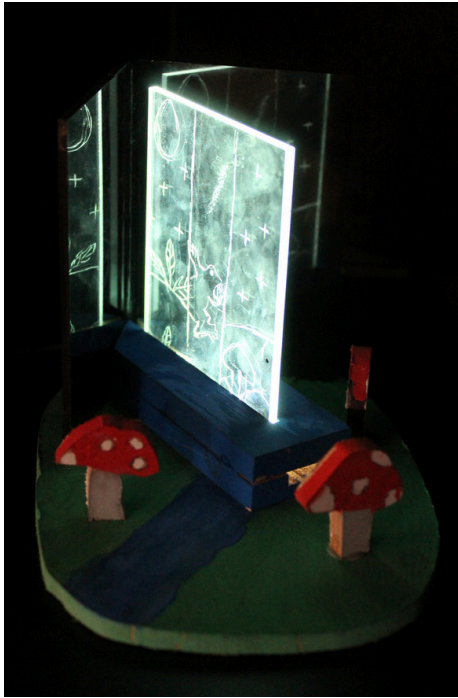
We are excited to invite everyone to our Sixth Form Open Evening, where students and families can discover everything our Sixth Form has to offer. All subjects will be represented, giving visitors the opportunity to meet teachers, learn more about each course and ask questions about what studying at Sixth Form is really like. It's a fantastic chance to explore our excellent facilities, from specialist classrooms and study areas to our common spaces and resources. Whether you already have a clear plan for your future or are still exploring your options, this evening will help you make informed choices and get a real sense of the vibrant learning community we have here.

There will also be a presentation in the main hall at 6.00pm with Mr Stratford, Mrs Barker, and past, present and future students.



Year 7 D&T Nightlights

Year 7 students designed and made their own nightlights by engraving patterns into clear acrylic sheets, creating unique glowing artwork. They then used simple LED circuits to illuminate the engravings, bringing their designs to life with bright, colorful light.



Year 8 and 9 Students Build Momentum for First Lego League Competition

Excitement is building as our Year 8 and 9 students prepare for this year's First Lego League competition, taking place in February. With teamwork at the heart of the challenge, students have been hard at work designing, programming and testing their Lego robots to tackle a series of themed missions on the competition table.

The build phase is now well underway and teams are combining creativity with problem-solving skills to refine their designs and improve performance.

Alongside the technical elements, students are also developing their innovation project - researching real-world issues and proposing imaginative, practical solutions.

With determination, growing expertise and plenty of collaborative spirit, our teams are gearing up for a strong showing in February's event. The enthusiasm in the workshop is clear: the First Lego League challenge has truly sparked their passion for STEM.



Careers Café

Our Careers Café runs every Week A Wednesday in the STEM Hub, offering an informal space for students to explore future pathways over juice and a biscuit. The relaxed setting encourages open conversation, giving students the chance to speak directly with professionals from a wide range of industries.

So far this term, we've welcomed a veterinarian and an ecologist, each sharing fascinating insights into their day-to-day work, training routes and the skills needed in their fields. These informal chats have sparked great questions and helped students gain a clearer sense of the opportunities ahead.

Next week, we'll be joined by a financial advisor, adding yet another perspective to our growing mix of guests. With more visitors planned throughout the year, the Careers Café continues to offer valuable real-world inspiration.

Students Gearing Up for CanSat Launch This March

Students at our school are busy preparing for this year's CanSat competition, an exciting national challenge that tasks teams with designing, building and launching their own miniature satellite. With launch day set for March, enthusiasm is high as students refine their designs, test their sensors and finalise their mission objectives.

To support their preparations, the group recently welcomed a special visitor with extensive experience in mobile phone engineering and design. Having worked across the globe on cutting-edge communication technologies, he shared invaluable insights into sending and receiving satellite signals - knowledge that will directly support the students' CanSat communication systems. His stories of international projects and problem-solving in the field provided real-world context that inspired the team and broadened their understanding of engineering pathways.

With expert guidance and growing technical confidence, the students are well on track for an impressive launch in March as they bring their CanSat to life.





Stroud Barbarians

The Stroud Barbarians team is made up of players from Rednock, Maidenhill, Thomas Keble and Archway in order to give those players who are operating at a good club level the chance to compete against some of the stronger teams in the district. Almost like a select District XV, the team serves to help with the development of players.



Students, Reuben and Lewis (top left), were part of the Stroud Barbarians Year 11 team that played in a fiercely contested encounter vs Marling XV. These two boys have displayed excellent commitment to Rugby across their five years with Rednock and we look forward to charting their progress in the next part of their Rugby journey.

Year 10 students, Oscar, Jacob, Jacob, Harry & Evan (bottom left) played in a fantastic 17-all draw vs Marling for the Stroud Barbarians. An excellent achievement with some brilliant Rugby played.

Under 14's Netball

The U14 netball team (right) competed in the County Challenge Cup at CLC. They played brilliantly, winning all their group games against Archway, Cleve, KLB and Tewkesbury School, all convincing wins with some excellent shooting from Lizzie and Ruby. Overall in the tournament they came 3rd out of 17!

A fantastic performance from all the girls. They conducted themselves beautifully and were an absolute pleasure to watch. They have all worked extremely hard as a team and all their hard work is paying off.





Year 7 Rugby

The Year 7A and B rugby teams (below) had two tough fixtures against Archway School. Both teams had unfortunate losses, however there was some great playing from both teams with huge improvements shown from the B team especially. The boys worked really hard and kept battling until the end which showed great resilience, representing Rednock excellently. Well done!



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Time to get your festive and creative Christmas hats on! Students have been challenged to design a 'Rednock School' themed Christmas Card. Entries should be given in person to tutors by 24th November. Please ensure your name, community and year group is on the back of your design.

There will be a prize for the top three entries in each community. The first placed entry for each community will then be put forward to the final part of the competition, and the overall winner will then be reproduced and sent as the school Christmas card. Happy doodling!

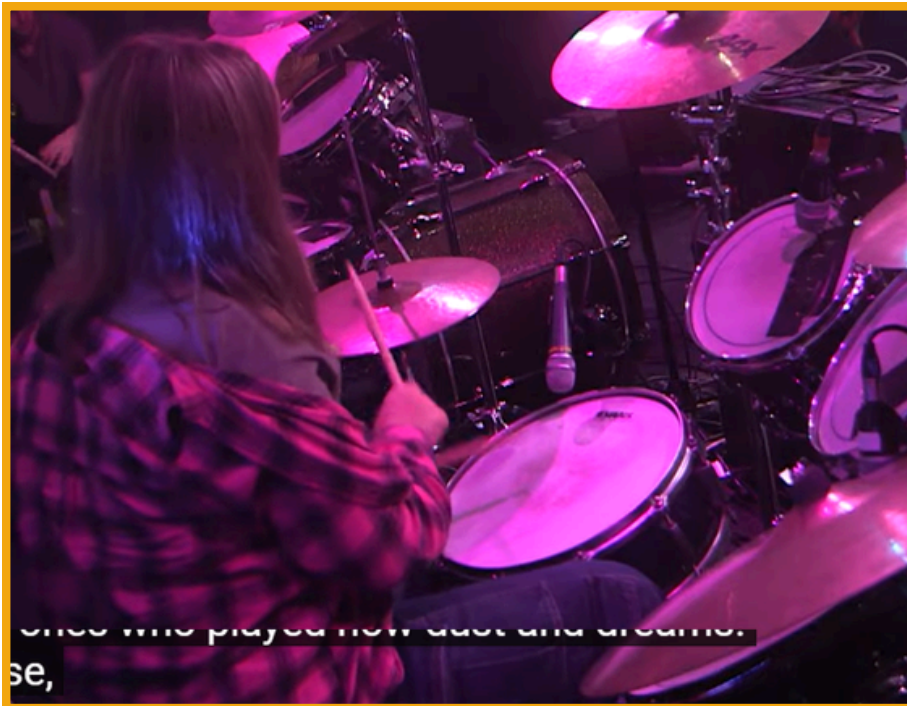
Closing date:

24TH NOVEMBER

2024 winner!

2023 winner!





The Bandit Project

Year 10 student Amelia (left) played drums along with her band, Ultra Violet, as a part of the Bandit Project. Bandit is a four-day rock and pop workshop for 50 to 70 students aged 7 to 17. Young people from across the community come together to form bands, write songs and perform. The workshop's core aim is to give students from all backgrounds the chance to develop musicianship, creativity, songwriting, performance skills, confidence and teamwork.

Netball

The Year 7 netball B team (below right) played against Archway and drew 2-2, with Sophie playing particularly brilliantly in defence. Well done for keeping strong and working so well as a team.

The Year 10 netball team (below left) took part in the District Netball Tournament at Wycliffe. They played amazingly and made huge progress, they had some really close games coming out on top against KLB, Kingshill and Sir William Romney. Credit must go to Charlotte as the captain for always being calm and collected. Well done.





Read for good

Local charity, Read for Good, very kindly donated some free books.

Y7 and Y8 students successfully reading and quizzing have been entered into a raffle and winners will be able to pick a book to keep.



Word Millionaire

Congratulations to our very first Word Millionaire of the year!

Ellie has achieved an incredible milestone by reading over 1 million words during her Reading for Power lessons. Her dedication and love of reading have truly set an inspiring example for others to follow.

For reaching this goal, Ellie was gifted a token to use on the book vending machine where she could choose which book to read next.

We are so proud of this achievement and can't wait to see how many more students will join the Word Millionaire club this year.

Christmas Quiz

The festive season is heading our way so it's time to think about our Christmas Quiz fundraising event. This event is open to all and we hope you can join us for some festive fun, whether as a family or a seasoned quiz team. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased via ParentPay or Main Reception. So choose your team mates, think of a funny team name and get swotting up on your general knowledge!

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Rednock School CHRISTMAS QUIZ

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Friday 12th December

* * * * * 7pm - 9pm




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£2

entry per person
Teams of upto 6 members

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Tickets available via ParentPay or Main Reception



Raffle and refreshments available
for purchase.



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All funds raised will go towards the
school production of
'The Little Mermaid'



Sixth Form Sport Students Take on the Brecon Beacons!

Last week, our Sixth Form PE students set off on an unforgettable three-day outdoor adventure in the stunning Brecon Beacons National Park. As part of their A-Level PE curriculum, the trip provided the perfect opportunity to challenge themselves physically and mentally, while developing teamwork, leadership and resilience.

The trip began with a 10km hill walk, winding through rivers and across rolling hills. Despite the challenging terrain, spirits were high and the group reached the summit with a real sense of achievement.

The second day took the adventure underground with a caving expedition, where students explored the Brecon Beacons' limestone caves. Working together, they overcame darkness, tight spaces and muddy passages. Later, the group took to the cliffs for rock climbing, pushing personal limits and supporting each other every step of the way. After a day full of adrenaline, evenings were all about fun and relaxation, complete with celebrations for not one, but two 18th birthdays - Josh and Cali, a perfect way to end an action-packed day.

The final day saw students tackle gorge walking, navigating fast-flowing cold rivers, climbing waterfalls and testing their nerve (and balance!) as they scrambled through rocky streams.

The three days were not only a chance to put classroom theory into practice, but also an opportunity to build confidence and lasting memories. As one student put it, "it was tough at times, but so rewarding - we really came together as a team."





Tuesday 16th December

Year 7 Party!

£2 per ticket

available to purchase via ParentPay, Main Reception or on the door

Year 11 Fundraising

Our Year 11 Celebrations Committee have begun their fundraising to help make their Prom special.

They are organising a Year 7 Disco, which will be on 16th December. It's £2 per ticket and they can be purchased via ParentPay, Main Reception or simply pay on the door.

There will be refreshments to purchase on the evening as well so be sure your Year 7 brings some change to purchase a drink and snack!

You will also see the committee at the Cam Christmas Light Switch on Event where they will be face painting and selling handmade tree decorations. We will bring you more on that in the next issue!



Rednock School Eco Council

The school Eco Council has launched a new paper recycling initiative to help reduce waste and promote sustainability across the campus.

Green recycling bins have been placed in every classroom and office, encouraging students and staff to dispose of used paper responsibly.

By taking part in this initiative, everyone in the school community can play a role in protecting the environment and working toward a greener, cleaner future.



Year 7 Rugby

On Saturday 8th November the Y7 Rugby team took part in the district Rugby tournament at KLB school. The boys worked incredibly hard and improved as the morning went on. In the end, the team narrowly lost 3 and won 1 game. The lads have been excellent and have 2 further fixtures against Thomas Keble and Crypt.



Mount Kilimanjaro Fundraiser

Jasmine, Year 9, and her mum, Anna, are becoming regulars on Good Morning Britain as they had their second visit last week! (You can see their appearance by clicking the video below) You may remember that Anna and her father were due to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, a trek that would take around 8 days. The climb went ahead and both reached the summit in high spirits. The walk was done in aid of DEBRA, the patient support organisation for people affected by epidermolysis bullosa (EB), which Jasmine herself suffers from.

You can find out more about the condition, donate, and read Anna's diary of the trip [here](#). Here's a snippet of Anna's final diary entry on the day they reached the summit...

"Leaving at midnight we set off for the climb that brought us here. It was tough, so much more than we ever imagined. It was a relentless uphill climb for 7 solid hours, only stopping for 5 mins every hour. It was freezing, windy and disorienting."

"Not everyone in the group made it to the very top, and we were so very proud to be among those that did. We hope Jasmine will be so very proud of us, as much as we're are proud of her for her daily challenges ❤️"





Sparx Science Success!

Congratulations to all students who have completed their Sparx Science homework on time over the past two weeks! Every Tuesday morning, all students who achieve 100% completion and submit their homework on time are entered into our weekly prize draw. A huge well done to Kai in Year 7 and Josh in Year 9, who were our prize winners for the past 2 weeks respectively! If you'd like to be in with a chance of winning a chocolate bar, make sure you complete 100% of your Sparx Science homework on time - you'll be entered automatically into the next draw. Keep up the fantastic work, scientists!

Remembrance Day

At Rednock School, our remembrance service was a commemoration for those who gave their lives in service for our peace from World War One to the present day. The significance of a poppy to us all is not about glorifying war, instead it is an opportunity to serve as a reminder of those who gave their lives and how war affects families and society.

All students and staff gathered in the field as a community, with those part of Cadets, Guides or Scout groups attending in their uniforms at the front to show their dedication. To begin with, The Headteacher read the moving poem "The guns fell silent" by John Humphrey. Following this, Ellie, Year 11, brilliantly read "In Flanders Fields" to the school, inviting everyone to honour the bravery of soldiers and remember their sacrifice.

As a school, we then participated in two minutes of silence at 11am, as students and staff members reflected on what remembrance means to them. This was concluded by an excellent performance of The Last Post, played by Xavi, Year 11, and Elizabeth, Year 12, which impressed us all. At all points of the service students were respectful and acknowledged the importance of this day, taking the opportunity to be reflective and thoughtful to those around the world who endured the horrors of war, both in the past and presently.

Written by Isabella Macey, Year 13





Advent Calendar Donations Welcome

Our annual Advent Calendar Collection is now up and running and all calendars will be donated to the Children’s Centre at Gloucester Royal Hospital via the Pied Piper Appeal. Last year we were able to gift 155 advent calendars, lets see if we can smash that total this year! The simple act of receiving an advent calendar at such a difficult time in a child’s life can open a small window of happiness in that child’s day. Please pass donations to your tutor or to main reception.



Volunteers Needed

Friday 28th November is Dursley's annual Christmas Lights Switch-on event. Dursley Town Council and Festive Dursley are looking for six to eight students to help with setting up various activities for the evening. This would be from 1.30pm until about 4.00pm and examples of where help is needed would include setting up the Winter Garden or helping direct stall holders to their relevant location for the event.

Anyone interested in helping should email:
projects@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
27/11/2025	All	Sixth Form Open Evening
28/11/2025	All	INSET Day 3 - School closed to students



DURSLEY PRESENTS THE...
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2025

FIREWORKS
DURSLEY TOWN CENTRE
 4:30PM - 8:00PM
 LIGHTS ON - 6:00PM
 FUNFAIR & MORE

FOOD STALLS SLEIGH
 MUSIC GROTTO SNOW
 FESTIVE DURSLEY
Run by the community for the community

Slimbridge Variety Showgroup presents
Robin Hood
 Pantomime 2025

Slimbridge Village Hall
 Thursday 4th December 7.30 pm
 Friday 5th December 7.30 pm
 Saturday 6th December 1 pm & 6 pm

Doors open 30 mins before performance Evening bar available

Tickets Thursday £8 adult £4 child
 Friday & Saturday £10 adult £5 child

Available online www.ticketsource.co.uk/slimbridge-variety-showgroup
 Or via QR code and village Post Office

Design by Chloe S

**ST JAMES-THE-GREAT
 DURSLEY**

**COME AND PLAY OUR
 SPLENDID ORGAN**

**Saturday 22nd November 2025
 from 1.30pm to 3.30pm**

Join us to hear and play our remarkable pipe organ, aka 'the King of Instruments'. There will be a short demonstration followed by the opportunity to play this remarkable instrument – open to all, regardless of musical experience or ability!

An initiative from the Royal College of Organists and the Royal School of Church Music

Sunday 16th November

**WALKING 10 MILES FROM
 NAILSWORTH TO STINCHCOMBE
 CARRYING A 50 KG SEDAN CHAIR
 RAISING MONEY AND AWARENESS
 FOR**

**Pancreatic
 CANCER UK**

f The Carry Me Home Challenge 2025 **JustGiving**