

THE REDNOCK REVIEW

Term 5 – 2025/26

8th May 2026

Dear Rednock Community,

I can't quite believe that we are heading for the penultimate week of Term 5! Our GCSE and A-Level students are already well underway with their exams, and the larger cohort exams will begin next week. We would like to extend our very best wishes to all students involved in this important time.

As the exam season arrives, there are inevitable changes to the daily routine within the school. Due to our open-plan structure, we need to introduce designated one-way zones, quiet areas and, in some cases, 'no-go' zones - especially during social time. These measures are essential to minimise noise and protect the exam spaces. We've already briefed students on these adjustments ahead of Monday 11th May, and we've been practising and reinforcing these routines throughout the week to ensure everyone is prepared.

This edition of the 'Rednock Review' is slightly shorter, but we still have many wonderful achievements and experiences to share with you.

I am pleased to share that we recently had a strong school focus on looking after our environment and taking pride in our community spaces. We would like to thank GL11, our local councillors, and the volunteers who have supported this initiative. We are excited to be installing our new 'Love Where You Learn' litter-picking stations around the school site in the coming weeks.

You may also have recently seen media coverage regarding the government's intention to make mobile phone bans in schools a legal requirement.



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

Fortunately, we are already ahead of this and remain on track to launch our phone-free school initiative in September 2026. The pouches and locking docks are already in school, and we are successfully trialling the system now. We will send out further communications, along with a detailed FAQ document, at the end of this term. In relation to this, a date for your diary is Monday 22nd June, when we will host an official launch and information event after school. We look forward to welcoming guest speakers and sharing more details with you then.

This weekend we have many students taking part in their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, and we would like to wish them the very best of luck as they take on this exciting challenge - let's hope for good weather!

The next time I write to you, it will be the end of Term 5. A reminder that school closes for the term break at the normal time on Friday 22nd May. As always, if there's anything we can do to support you, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

My very 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:

- Fergus**, for showing kindness to those around him and being a caring member of the school community.
- Antoni and George**, for their kindness and for being truly supportive and caring to friend during a time of need.
- Nate and Belle**, for being excellent ambassadors for Hubble, helping with the prefect interviews.
- Elsie and Isla**, for their excellent support in the prefect interviews.
- Isabella**, for 100% attendance - she was chosen at random.
- Clara**, for having the highest word count for March in her class.
- Taylor**, for getting star performer in her recent dance competition.
- Martha**, for gaining an impressive amount of achievement points this week.
- Sam**, for getting the most achievement points in Hubble this week.
- Isla**, for coming 1st out of 27 teams at the Usk Valley team chase.
- Bill**, for teaching Log10 calculations to the Y13 biology class.
- Roxanne**, for an amazing performance in the 'Addams Family' local amateur dramatics show.
- Kade**, for showing fantastic improvement with his attendance this term.
- Sakura**, for having the highest word count for March in her Reading for Power class.



Teaching and Learning Focus – Thinking in Action: How Mini Whiteboards Support Learning in Science

In Science lessons this year, students have been making excellent use of mini whiteboards as part of their learning. This approach, which has also been shared with staff across the school as a model of effective practice, allows teachers to quickly check students' understanding throughout each lesson. By seeing every student's response at a glance, teachers can immediately address any misconceptions and adapt their teaching to better support progress.

Mini whiteboards also promote active participation in a low-pressure environment, giving all students the confidence to contribute. Because responses can be quickly erased and refined, students are encouraged to take risks with their thinking and view mistakes as a valuable part of the learning process. This supports the development of resilience and independence, as students become more willing to try challenging questions. Teachers can then deepen learning further by asking follow-up questions, encouraging students to explain, justify and build on their initial ideas.





Let's Finish Strong – Every Day Still Matters!

Dear Families,

The end of the school year is fast approaching, but we still have so much to achieve. It is essential therefore, that we keep pushing to be in school every possible day and keep our expectations high as every day is vital. Consistent attendance makes students feel more able to cope with and manage the demands of school.

One of our Year 9 girls writes below about how she has worked hard to make sure she is in school getting the most out of every day and how it has helped her.

“Since Year 8, my school attendance has improved a lot. I have become more consistent with coming to school everyday and on time. In Year 8, my attendance was not very good because I missed lessons then worried I was behind. I then struggled with motivation to attend consistently. This then affected my learning and ability to keep up with work. Some days felt overwhelming and others I had no motivation for any of it.

In Year 9, I started making more effort to improve my attendance and my mindset towards school and I have been trying harder to attend lessons regularly, although I still face challenges. Even though my attendance has improved, I still face struggles with motivation and I can still feel stressed or overwhelmed at times. Staying motivated everyday is something I continue to work on but it's not always easy. What has helped me improve is setting goals for myself and trying to think more positively about school on the tough days. Support from teachers, family and friends has also made a huge difference, now they know how I feel. Overall, I am proud that my attendance has improved this year even though it's not always easy. I am continuing to make progress in my lessons because of better attendance and will keep working towards improving in the future.”

Full attendance for the rest of the year is vital. Many students are:

- Completing coursework/NEA's
- Preparing for final assessments/external exams
- Starting Year 10 GCSE courses
- Taking part in enrichment or transition activities

With attendance, every day matters. If your child is finding things hard, please do reach out for support. Our final attendance support drop-in of the year will take place on Monday 1st June.





Year 13 Drama Assessment

Our Year 13 Drama students recently delivered their final assessed performance at Rednock School with a bold and thought-provoking production of “This is Funny”. Inspired by the painting Harlequin's Carnival, the students created a dynamic Brechtian performance set within a circus tent, challenging the audience to question the world they live in and the role they play within it.

Through imaginative staging, striking physical theatre, and powerful ensemble work, the cast demonstrated creativity, maturity, and confidence in their final performance at Rednock. The piece was both entertaining and deeply reflective, capturing the spirit of Brechtian theatre by encouraging audiences to think critically rather than simply observe.

We are incredibly proud of everything this talented group has achieved during their time with us and would like to thank them for their commitment, passion, and hard work over the years. We wish all of our Year 13 students every success and happiness as they move on to the next exciting chapter of their journeys - #TeamDrama4Eva





Liverpool Trip

The Liverpool trip or 'The Beatles trip' as many at Rednock now call it, invited a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students with a genuine interest in the music and history connected with British popular culture. As part of our day trip on Saturday 18th April, we spent a couple of hours at 'The Beatles Experience' soaking up the history of The Beatles whilst enjoying the special atmosphere and cultural vibe that Liverpool offers as a city.

Once outside of the museum, we put on our John Lennon style glasses and headed on foot away from the river Mersey back into town to reach the famous 'Cavern Club', home to the early performances by The Beatles. Our coach collected us shortly afterwards along with our Beatles tour guide, Adrian, who took us on a 'magical mystery tour' to see the homes of the 'fab four' and the places that inspired their amazing songs and albums.

It felt truly special to see the actual Strawberry Fields, Penny Lane and the gravestone of Eleanor Rigby to name just a few of the memorable parts of the tour which ended with a brief visit to the Liverpool Cathedrals and the Anfield Liverpool football club stadium. As usual, the Rednock students were an absolute credit to the school singing on the coach, all the way back home to Dursley on the long and winding road.





Silverstone Trip

On 24th April, some lucky Year 8 students enjoyed a fantastic trip to Silverstone Circuit, packed with exciting activities and opportunities to learn more about the world of motorsport and engineering.

Students explored the interactive museum, discovering the history of racing cars through the ages and seeing how technology has developed over time. One of the highlights was the incredible 3D cinema experience, which really brought the excitement of Formula 1 to life.

The group also had a tour of the famous racetrack and were lucky enough to watch the touring car qualifiers, giving students a real insight into the atmosphere and speed of professional motorsport. A particularly interesting part of the day was the workshop focusing on the materials used in racing car design and the huge range of careers linked to motorsport and Formula 1. Students were amazed to learn that there are around 1.9 million jobs worldwide connected to F1 and the wider motorsport industry. The students were fantastic company throughout the day and represented the school brilliantly. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, curiosity and engagement from everyone involved. A great day was had by all!





Motocross

Kai, Year 7, made an impressive start to the Nora92 British Championship series this weekend, competing at the opening round held at Landrake Motoparc.

Racing in the highly competitive SW85 class, he lined up against a strong field of 39 national riders from across the country. Despite the challenging conditions and depth of talent on show, he delivered a consistent and determined performance throughout the weekend.

Kai's efforts saw him secure an overall finish of 19th place, a solid result in such a competitive field and an encouraging foundation for the rest of the championship season.

He will now build on this experience as he prepares for the next round on 30th May at the iconic international circuit of Hawkstone Park, where he will once again compete against some of the best young riders in the country. We wish him the best of luck as he continues his championship journey.

Charity Skydive

Our very own Mrs Fletcher, Welfare and Support Advisor, is taking on an incredible challenge this year – a skydive in support of young people in the local community.

Mrs Fletcher also works as a Sessional Youth Worker at The Door Youth Project. She has decided to step far outside of her comfort zone by completing a skydive for the very first time, all while raising money for a cause close to her heart.

The fundraising effort will help support the valuable work carried out by The Door Youth Project, which provides guidance, opportunities and support for young people in the community.

We are incredibly proud of Mrs Fletcher for taking on such a brave challenge and wish her the very best as she prepares to take the leap.

[Click here to find out more and donate!](#)

Charity 1131919

MRS FLETCHER'S SKYDIVE FOR THE DOOR



CAREERS CORNER

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Congratulations to all Year 10 who have secured their work experience placement for 8th-12th June and completed all stages on Unifrog. We have over 30 students who have yet to log their placement using the Placement tool on Unifrog and there are plenty of placements that cannot go ahead at present as either the employer or parent paperwork on Unifrog is incomplete. If you are in Year 10, please can you log into Unifrog to see if any of your forms have not been completed yet? You may need to call your employer to remind them. We need all paperwork to be completed by the end of next week (15th May) or it may be that the placement cannot go ahead.

In your Life Skills lessons, you will be receiving a work placement booklet in the coming weeks and this contains activities to complete before, during, and after your placement.



Word Millionaires

We love seeing our students develop a passion for reading, and we celebrate this by recognising those who reach the incredible milestone of one million words read in their Reading for Power lessons. This achievement reflects dedication, resilience and a genuine commitment to improving their literacy.

Our recent Word Millionaire is Belle, well done for getting to this milestone!

Reading is so important because it strengthens vocabulary, builds confidence, enhances imagination and deepens understanding across all subjects. It also develops empathy and critical thinking, opening doors to new ideas, experiences and opportunities. We are incredibly proud of all our students who embrace reading and challenge themselves to reach this impressive goal.



Who Said It First?

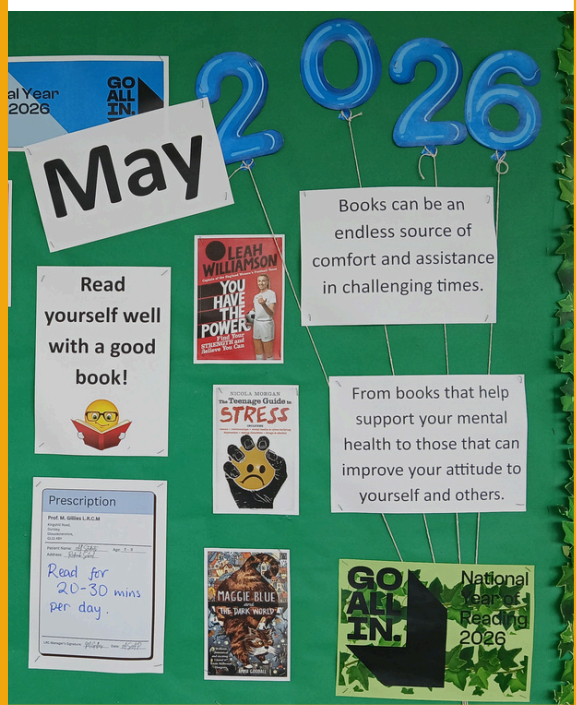
Are you a Swiftie, a Wu-Tang fan or is Shakespeare more your thing? Why not join in the National Year of Reading and try out [this](#) quiz - kindly shared by the Guildford Shakespeare Company. Answers available from Ms Gillies in the LRC.



Read Yourself Well

READ YOURSELF WELL is our May display theme and part of Rednock LRC's ongoing involvement in The National Year of Reading.

The 11th - 17th of May is also Mental health awareness week - we have a wide range of books to support life and learning that can be borrowed from the LRC



School's Participation Award

Rednock School has been awarded a certificate in recognition of our Spring contribution towards The National Year of Reading.

This achievement reflects the enthusiasm and commitment shown by both students and staff in promoting a love of reading across the school community. Throughout the Spring term, a range of activities and initiatives encouraged students to explore new books, share recommendations and celebrate the importance of reading for learning and enjoyment.

A special thanks goes out to our LRC Manager, Ms Gillies, who works tirelessly to help keep the school's literacy evolving!



Phone Free from September 2026

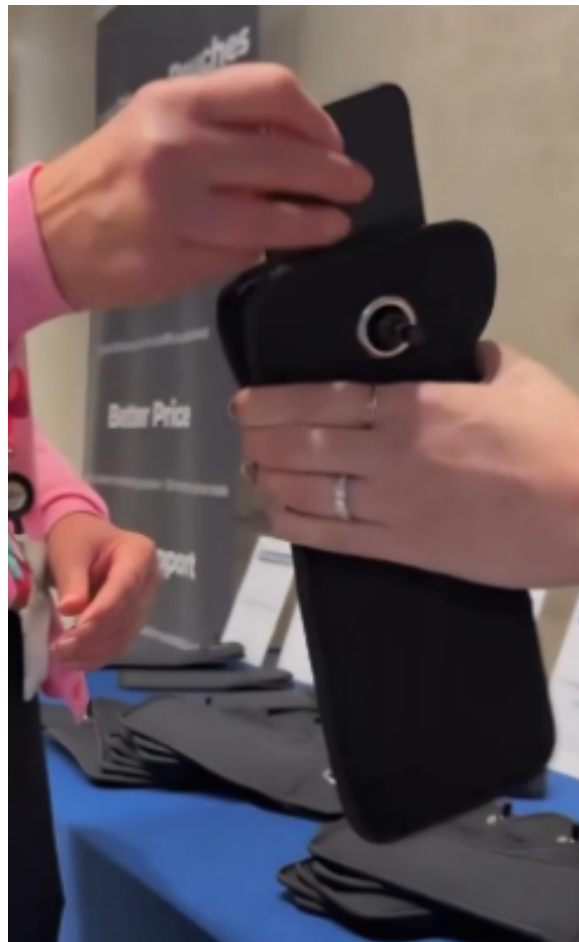
As part of our ongoing commitment to making Rednock the safest, most supportive and focused learning environment, we are continuing to develop our Phone Free Schooling approach ahead of full implementation in September 2026.

From September 2026, all students in Years 7–11 will be required to place their mobile phones in a secure pouch at the start of the day. Phones will remain locked and out of use throughout the school day. This change is designed to improve focus, behaviour, safeguarding and wellbeing.

The mobile phone pouches and unlocking stations are now in school, and we are putting the infrastructure needed in place to ensure we are fully prepared for September. We are already trialling the pouches with groups of students, and this is going very well, with routines running smoothly and students responding positively to the process.

We will be hosting an Information Evening and official launch event on Monday 22nd June at 6:00pm, where full details will be shared and questions answered.

At this stage, there is nothing parents or carers need to do. We will continue to provide updates as we move towards implementation.



Exam Season Arrives

Full cohort GCSE exams begin on Monday 11th May. We would like to remind all students of the importance of supporting the systems in place to ensure exam spaces remain quiet and respectful throughout the examination period.

Your cooperation helps create the best possible environment for everyone taking their exams.

We wish all exam students the very best of luck as they begin this important stage of their studies.





Online Parent Talk on **DIGITAL RESILIENCE**

**Thursday 14th May 2026
6:00pm – 7:15pm**



About the session

Simon Williams from Gloucestershire Police will lead this session, designed to give parents and carers practical knowledge and confidence to keep their families safe online. Simon joined us in October to support us with the event. It received a welcome response from those who attended and so we wanted to extend the offer again. Simon will also be updating his information nearer the time to ensure it is as up to date as possible in this ever changing world; due to this parents who attended before are more than welcome to attend again. As information in this arena changes so quickly the event will not be recorded.

Whether your child is just starting out online or already glued to a screen, this session is packed with practical advice, real-life examples and expert guidance. Please don't miss the opportunity to stay one step ahead and protect what matters to you most.

Simply click the [Teams link here](#) at the start of the session – no pre-registration is required. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.

The talk will cover:

- The latest apps and digital trends popular with kids– what you need to know about them.
- Online gaming – fun vs the hidden dangers
- How to spot and respond to cyber bullying
- Awareness and prevention of grooming
- Understanding sexting and sextortion
- Practical tips to support your child's digital resilience



Find the right questions to talk with your child about toxic online content

Learn how to ask the right questions to help your child think critically about what they see online and get practical tips for starting open, supportive conversations.



How to start talking to your child about being safe online

Talking to your child about being safe online can help protect them from harm, build trust, and know what to do if they need help.



Rounders is Back!

Rounders season is back, and the girls (right) are ready and raring to go. After months away from the pitch, excitement is building as the team prepares for another action-packed season. So far they've gone against KLB and Archway and there's many more fixtures coming throughout the season so we wish our girls the best of luck!



Rednock Remembered

As today's players take to the field full of energy and determination, we look back at a couple of wonderful photographs of rounders teams from the 1950's and 1960's from Dursley Grammar School – which would later evolve into Rednock.

While kits and facilities may have changed over the years, the team spirit, camaraderie, and love of the game remain just as strong today.

We wish all of our current rounders players the very best for the season ahead as they continue a tradition that stretches back more than 70 years.





Duke of Edinburgh Award

There has been plenty of excitement this week as 50 Year 9 students began their in-school training day with the Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh preparation. Dressed in their new navy blue t-shirts – organised by one of the Year 9 students as part of their skills section – the group have been developing the knowledge and confidence needed for their upcoming expeditions.

Throughout the training, students have been learning a wide range of essential outdoor and teamwork skills, including stove safety, bag packing, nutrition and menu planning, route planning for assessment, tent pitching, emergency procedures, phone policy expectations, basic map work and orientation, and first aid. All of this preparation will support them ahead of their practice expedition on the 20th and 21st June. The final assessed expedition has now been moved to September.

Families are also encouraged to continue supporting their young people in completing as many of their Duke of Edinburgh sections as possible.

Meanwhile, the Silver group are equally eager to get started. Wearing their distinctive pistachio hoodies, they will take part in their training session on Friday 8th May before immediately heading off on their practice expedition, paddling down the River Wye.

The Gold group are also embracing the challenge of independence and teamwork as they plan both their expeditions and residential experiences. This year's residential opportunities already include exciting projects linked to music, archaeology, and animal welfare in Peru.

It promises to be a fantastic few months of adventure, teamwork, and personal achievement for all involved.





Oxford University Trip

Fourteen Year 12 students were recently invited to an outreach day at Lady Margaret Hall, one of Oxford University's colleges. Accompanied by Mrs Barker and Miss Johnston, we received a tour of the grounds from a first year student, we saw the library, sports facilities, gardens and dining hall- where we had a lovely complementary lunch! Our tour guide informed us of the history of the college including that it was the first to allow women to attend and was Malala Yousefsai's college when she enrolled at Oxford.

The group later had a talk on the application process which included a Q&A with current students across different courses and a taster session of a maths and philosophy lecture, helping students get a sense of the education style and everyday student life.

We finished our visit with a walk around a local park and a quick look at the Astrophysics and Geography research facilities, giving us a sense of the beautiful area surrounding the college. Overall we had a wonderful day out and have gained a more detailed understanding of the reality of Oxbridge universities and the opportunities that they offer. We are so grateful to Oxford for providing us with such a unique experience.

Elsie A and Nancy C
Year 12





Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
08/05/2026 - 11/05/2026	Silver DofE	Silver DofE Practice Expedition
14/05/2026	All	Digital Resilience Online Talk
20/05/2026	Year 8	Virtual Year 8 Parent Consultation Meeting
22/05/2026	All	End of Term 5

ENGLAND V WALES

U18 SCHOOLBOYS & U15 SCHOOLGIRLS
23/05/2026

ESFA
CIRENCESTER TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

U.P. YSGOLION CYMRU
WELSH SCHOOLS F.A.

HOSTED AT:
CIRENCESTER TOWN FC

TICKET COST:
£12 PER ADULT
£8 PER CHILD

CLICK THE LINK IN OUR STORY TO BUY TICKETS!

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Beezee YOUTH

Unlock the power to be more you

Join Beezee Youth today - a **FREE** health and wellbeing programme designed with the help of young people, for young people. Our 8-week in-person programme starts on:

Date: Mondays from 11th May '26 Time: 17.30 - 19.00

Venue: Stroud Valley Scout Group & Community Centre, GL5 1DU

Or you can join us online!

Sign up for your **FREE PLACE** today

hello@gloucestershire@maximusuk.co.uk

01452 717009

GloUCEstershire

Our programmes are for 13 to 17-year-olds, see our website for more information. 24-0898