

SOMERVALE SCHOOL



Newsletter: Term Four

Somervale School - a 11-19 comprehensive. Celebrated in the top 15% of most progressive schools in the country

Dear Parents and Carers

Looking out of my window at the signs of spring appearing everywhere on the school site it really does feel like warmer lighter days are on their way. It has been another busy term. Year 11 have completed their second round of mock exams and have started receiving the results from external exams that have already been sat. On Thursday we have our last parents evening with them before their terminal exams start in May. They are working hard and showing an excellent attitude to learning and I am sure they will achieve some strong results this summer. Year 10 are working hard on finalising their work experience placements for the end of term and are starting to prepare for their exam period that will be in June. Key Stage Three students have been finalising their choices for activities week and confirmation of these will be coming out to you soon. Those lovely summer trips do seem like a long way away at the moment but will soon be here. The students have been able to enjoy a number of trips and visits over the term and the students departing on the Ski Trip on Saturday are about to burst with excitement. I am really looking forward to seeing all their goggle mark suntans and hearing the stories when they return next term. We have had confirmed numbers of students joining us in September. We are delighted to have another year group of 180 students. With this in mind and as part of our drive to always improve, we would be really grateful if you could complete the survey on this link for us. <https://forms.gle/4zLsZFmRUzmqWqQLA>

One of the side effects of having far more students in the school has been the wear and tear on the school site. Many of our facilities are relatively original and are struggling with the increase in numbers. Sadly toilets have been a regular discussion point for us with the much of the plumbing being original and we are finding when things break or are damaged they are getting harder to repair. This combined with an external drainage system that can only be described as 'interesting' it has been a challenge over the last few months. As a result we are really pleased to be able to announce that we have secured the funding to completely refurbish the toilets outside of music. The separate blocks are going to be replaced with state of the art separate floor to ceiling cubicles. Sadly this work have been delayed from its planned Easter start and is now likely to start after the exams have finished in July.

I hope that you have a restful and chocolate filled break and look forward to welcoming the students back to school next term.

Best wishes

Joanna Stethwaite



Term Dates

Term 4

Monday 20th February 2023

Friday 31st March 2023

Term 5

Monday 17th April 2023

Friday 26th May 2023

Term 6

Monday 5th June 2023

Friday 21st July 2023



Tel: [01761 414276](tel:01761414276) Email: enquiries@somervaleschool.com Web: www.somervaleschool.com

PE Department

Rugby Success

Congratulations to Sonny for being through all the trials and has been offered a place with Bath DPP which is the academy pathway. He has secured a secured place in the programme for the next two years.



Cross Country Success

Well done to Oliver Aldred & Isla Hall for representing Somervale in the Avon Cross Country Championships in January. Oliver has gone on to represent English School Boys in the Cross Country Championships which brings together the best athletes in each of the 46 Counties in England to compete for the honour of being the best in the Country. He came 4th in Avon putting him as one of the top 200 runners in the country for age. Well done Oliver!



Trampoline Success

Congratulations to Ollie Purchase on coming first in the SW qualifiers for Trampolining. Good luck in next round!

Football success

Year 10 Boys

A strong start to the season for the Year 10 boys football team with a win against St Mark's and a draw against Chew Valley in the BANES league. Good luck for your remaining games.



PE Department

More Football success!

Year 8 boys

- The Year 8 boys have had an excellent start to their league games with a draw against Wellsway and a Win against Norton Hill and Chew Valley.



Year 7 boys

Year 7 boys have had a mixed start to their football season with some close games and some unlucky defeats by strong teams. There are plenty of strong players in the team and plenty of space for new talent. If you want to play in their next game, please speak to your PE teacher.



PE Department

Inter-tutor netball

- Congratulations to all students that took part in the inter-tutor netball competition this term.

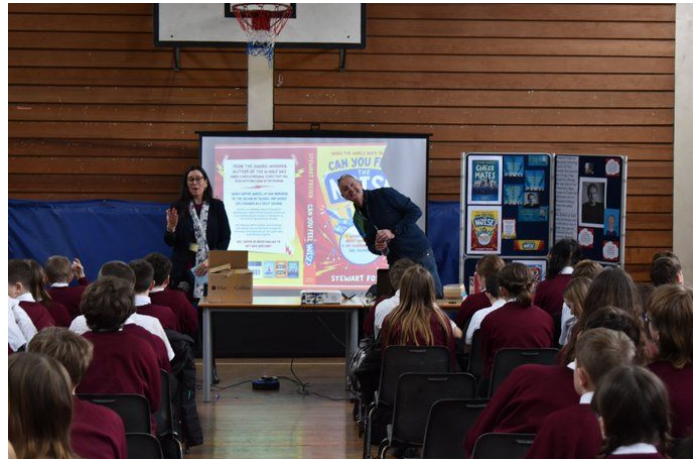


Library News

WORLD
BOOK
DAY
2 MARCH 2023

World Book Week Celebrations!

Thanks to everyone for their support during a busy but fun World Book Week. Lots of activities, book fun and a great author visit for Year 8 by Stewart Foster!



Library News



The yoto
Carnegies



This week, we have launched our **National Carnegie Book Award shadowing**.

A panel of selected year 9 students will read this year's shortlisted books, and meet weekly to discuss, review and vote on their favourites!

"The UK's longest-running book awards for children and young people, the Yoto Carnegies, have announced their 2023 shortlists. Judged solely by children's and youth librarians, these annual awards celebrate authors and illustrators who create outstanding reading experiences for children and young people.

This 2023 shortlist for the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing is dominated by YA fiction, and features an all-female cast of writers, including two previous winners – Katya Balen (2022) and Ruta Sepetys (2017) – and one debut title by Louise Finch"

You can find more information about this year's books here: [Carnegie Book Award Shortlist 2023](https://www.yotocarnegies.co.uk/shortlist-2023)

Which novel would be your winner?

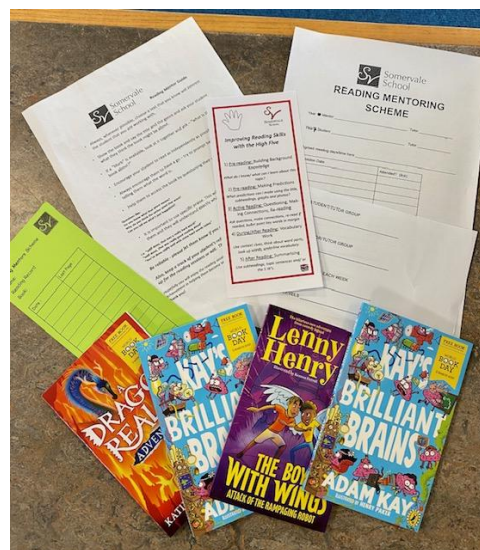
© Books for Topic

Reading Mentoring Scheme

Our Student Reading Mentoring Scheme launched the last week of term.

Student volunteers, some of which are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, will mentor year 7 students during tutor-times in the library.

The Mentors will help the younger students with their reading, quizzing and choosing books, as well have discussions around reading and helping with any challenges students are facing in achieving their reading goals.



English Department

This term our Year 11 students successfully completed mock exams as part of their GCSE preparations. For their GCSE English Language mock exam, they had to produce pieces of creative writing – they had the choice to describe a picture (shown below) or write a story about an event that cannot be explained.

Despite the pressure and the time constraints, some of their pieces were very. Below are extracts from a small selection of Year 11's best work.

A ghostly wind hurtles the gated entrance, howling gleefully as it danced and tormented the once loved and remembered graves. It cackled as it shook the trees with supernatural power, leaving only their cobweb-ridden spines. Creaking gates once guarded the entrance like soldiers, now swing in the spine-chilling breeze – daring you to enter. Ivy spreads like a disease over the walls and discarded headstones, swallowing away the past. An ominous fog engulfs the path ahead: allowing only the twisted, mangled canopy of bones above to poke out, malicious and menacing. The moon watched in fear as it cast its solemn spotlight over the archway entrance. You had to be mad to go inside... **S.C. 11MGE**



My child. It was my child! One whom I had lost many years ago calling my name, summoning me into a melancholy trance. How I miss him! His hair slick and oily with curls only one could imagine! His smile so infectious one could catch it as easily as the common cold. His face, the true definition of elation. But why was he here? The only question I became inquisitive about. Without a chance to blink, the ever-growing clouds turned and rolled across the sky, emitting an opaque grey colour with what seemed to be infuriation. **T.W. 11EDY**

Snow Day 2023

On 8th March, the unexpected snow forced us to work from home. Some of our Year 7 gifted poets wrote inspired lines about the day. Below is a sample of the work submitted to us on the day.



Winter Snow by **M.W.C. 7EKD**

The soft, crunchy winter snow
Watch the children come and go
A friend of theirs come knock on their door
And some of them may fall to the floor

It really is just pure delight
When balls of snow fly left and right
The bright white snow settles on the trees
That are all barren of their leaves

English Department

Snow Day 2023



The Lonely Snowman by **H.D. 7DWT**

Someone built me in the snow
A hat, scarf and a carrot for a nose

Then they left me and went home
I felt so lonely all alone

Then one day some more people went
past
They built a snowy friend for me at last!

We both melted when the sun came
out
But at least they were my friend without
a doubt

Snow Day Poem by **T.F. 7SHO**

The snow is falling everywhere,
On the ground and in my hair,
Softly swirling, endlessly twirling,
Snow is in the air.

Shimmering like arrays of stars,
That drift in space with the planet Mars,
Evergreens coated with ice,
Oh, how winter is nice.
The bitter wind whisks the flakes around,
Until they flutter to the ground,
When snow is found,
Cheers all round.

When the warm sun rises,
The snowflakes of all sizes,
Disappear without a trace,
As if it never was in this place.



Snow Day by **E.H-P. 7PSE**

Winter, winter as cold as ice,
A mug of hot chocolate would be nice,
Winter, winter long dark nights,
Kids bundle up for snow ball fights,
Winter, winter hat, scarf and glove,
We walk out the door and slip on the
sludge,
Winter, winters closed schools for days,
I can't wait for the amazing spring phase.



News

“Talking the Talk”

Back on the 20th February (which feels an awful long time ago now), 7Y6 spent the day working on workshops with ‘Talking the Talk’, who specialise in helping young people find their voices, and encourage them to develop their skills in talking.

Though it might not always seem the case, a lot of young people struggle with getting up in front of others and talking, and at first 7Y6 found the prospect a bit daunting. With Tim’s help, they discussed what a good argument looked like, and chose topics that they felt they could talk about. Working in smaller groups they helped each other construct and perfect what they wanted to talk about, and then one by one they addressed the group. They were brilliant!

As their English teacher, who had been lucky enough to spend the day observing what they had managed to achieve, I was incredibly proud of them...and I hope they were too! I am really looking forward to using the skills we have started to develop within our English classes. Watch this space...

Mrs Parker



Eco Council News

Somervale's Eco Council attended an amazing Climate Conference at Hayesfield School on Thursday 9th March.

We listened to keynote speakers, including Megan Hine. Megan explained how the future of green technology is dependent on who controls rare earth metals, which are needed for solar panels and EV batteries. She encouraged students to rethink the way they view empty shelves in the supermarket. The end of abundance is good news for the environment. Megan encouraged students to 'tread lightly' on the earth by avoiding things like fast fashion. Generation Z and Alpha are able to influence big companies and their consumer choices will be powerful.

Catriona Mellor encouraged students to go out into nature because it has a huge benefit for mental health. She argued that caring for nature begins at home and that young people can be agents for change. Small things make a big difference. Students could do things like growing vegetables in their garden, plant a tree or be part of a community regeneration project that encourages wildlife into urban spaces.

Our Eco Council did a fantastic job sharing their actions at Somervale School. We proudly discussed how we have reduced our energy usage and carbon footprint by signing up to Energy Sparks. Somervale now has solar panels. The Eco Council have worked hard to spread news about how students can be more eco friendly in their everyday lives. This year we will be planting the oak saplings that we have been growing. A special thank you to Ben Thomas for his excellent presentation skills.

The Eco Council say 'Let's turn Gloom to Bloom!'

Ms C Merriman, Eco Council Lead.



Snowperson Competition



Somervale
School



Beky 11OBA



Abigail 9KMA



Martha
(7CPA)



Joscelin 9BDU



This is Darlek
I made it with
my sister

Olivia (10CKE)



This is Steven (top)
and Martin
(bottom)

Tim (11EDY)



This is Bob
He felt left out and
looks evil



News

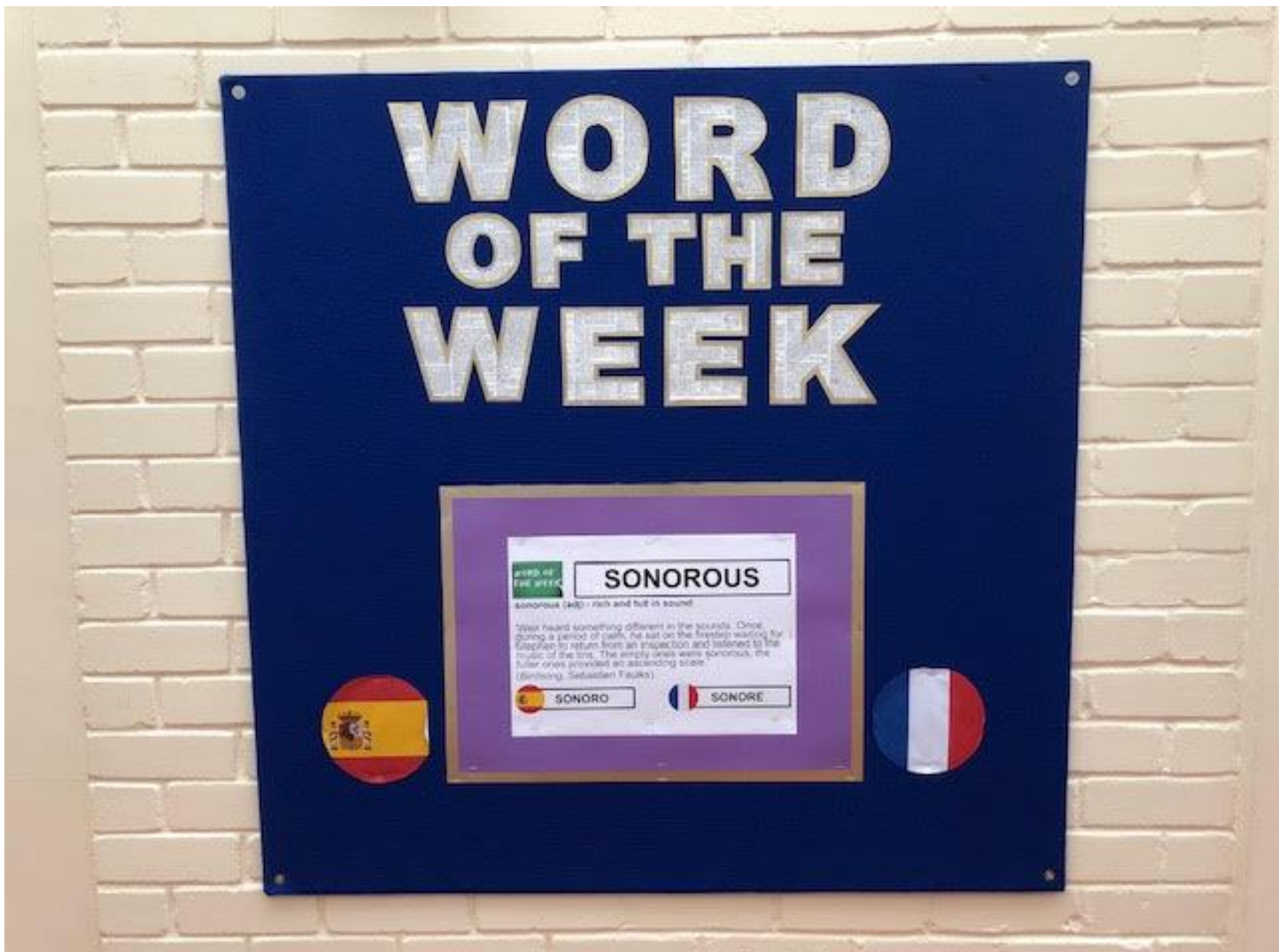
Word of the Week

This term, in our bid to expand students vocabulary and raise aspirations, we have launched 'Word of the Week'. Each week, a new word is displayed outside Ms Postlethwaite's office together with a definition and example of the word in use from a classic text. Mr Sequeira has also added translations of the word into French and Spanish.

Students are challenged to learn the new word in tutor time and then use it in their lessons - either written or spoken. Students who do so successfully receive a merit. So far, students have learnt the words 'oscillate', 'mutability' and 'sonorous'.

We'd like to encourage parents and carers to keep asking students about the 'Word of the Week' which will also be published on Somervale's Twitter profile [@somervaleschool](https://twitter.com/somervaleschool) and Facebook page [@somervaleschool](https://www.facebook.com/somervaleschool). Thanks for your support!

Mr Herron
Deputy Headteacher



NEWS

KS3 Achievement Awards

I am delighted to say that a number of students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have recently been recognised for their excellent attainment and progress. Students listed below were issued with certificates from Mr Herron during assemblies in the final week of term together with a chocolate egg! Those with the highest achievement and progress in each year group will also have the opportunity to meet with Ms Postlethwaite for hot chocolate in the Headteacher's office in recognition for their exceptional achievement.

Aspiration is one of our key values at Somervale and we encourage all our students to aim high and do the very best they can, regardless of their ability or background. We're incredibly proud of all our students at Somervale and those achieving these awards should take credit for the hard work they put into their studies. Keep up the good work!

Mr T Herron
Deputy Headteacher
Curriculum & Standards



NEWS

Springboard Futurechef Cooking Competition

Congratulations to Lucy in Year 10 for all her preparation and effort in the Springboard Future Chef School Regional Heat held at Bridgewater and Taunton College in February, having won the Local School Heat in December.

Lucy was very professional and showed great determination in producing her dishes, focusing on the wonderful local ingredients we are so lucky to have around us in Midsomer Norton. The standard of competition was very high and all the participating students executed and presented their dishes to restaurant level.

The three judging chefs commented that it was one of the hardest competitions they have had to judge. Each student received individual feedback and Lucy was an excellent ambassador for the school. Only one student went forward to the final to be held in London, and unfortunately it was not Somervale this year.

Thanks to Lucy for all her dedication and to all the students who entered the Local School Heat at Bath College; Charlie, Caelan, and Finley.

Well done also to all the Year 10 Catering students who participated in the Somervale School Heat, and of course, a big thank you to all parents for their support.

Mrs Cox



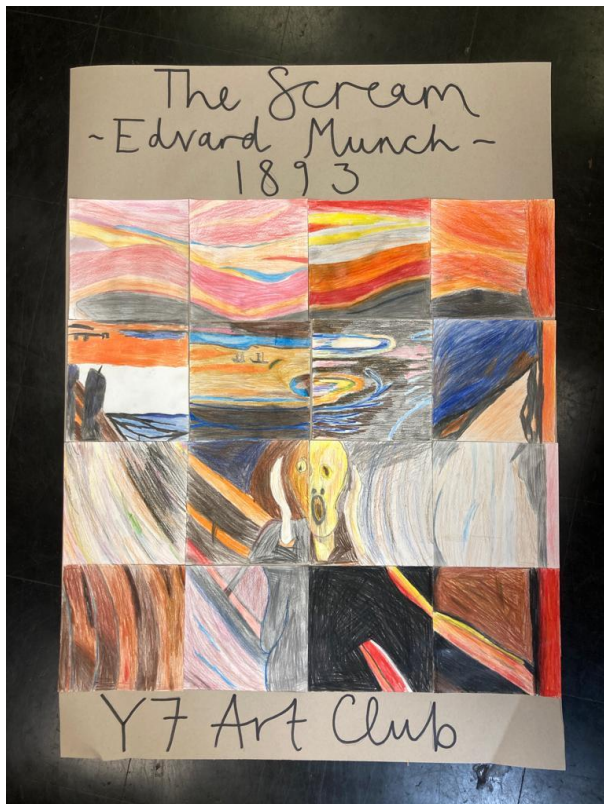
News

Art Club News

Year 7 students have been attending Art club on a Monday after school with Miss Kidd.

They have explored lots of different materials and produced some collaborative work.

After Easter, we are hoping Years 8 and 9 will join in so that we can produce some work for the Midsomer Norton Arts trail - more information to follow next term!



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Feeling unwell at school?

Please can parents and carers be reminded that, should a student feel unwell, they need to report this to their respective Key Stage Office. Staff will then contact home for the student to be collected if this is necessary.

Students are not to contact parents first for collection from school.

Information

We are looking to recruit staff to join our Cleaning Team at Somervale. If you are interested please click on the link below. Please share with family/friends too!

<https://www.eteach.com/careers/somervalsecondaryschool/job/cleaners-1318056/?lang=en-GB>



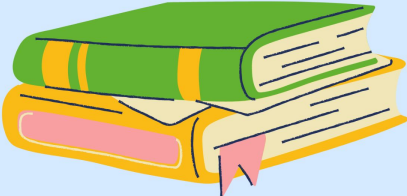
GOT BOOKS?

**10th March -
31st March**

**SOMERVALE SCHOOL
READING DONATION DRIVE**

We are planning to complete another book drive next term.

If you received a book last term please bring it back for others to enjoy.



If you are able to donate suitable books, please drop them into our main school reception.

SOMERVALE SCHOOL

**SCHOOL
UNIFORM BANK**

We are setting up a School Uniform Bank


Please can you support and donate any unwanted school uniform you have

Please donate any of the following:

- School Jumpers
- School Ties
- School Coats
- School Skirts
- School Trousers
- PE Kit

www.somervaleschool.com/key-information/school-uniform.htm

Please drop off at the Main School Reception



Exam Dates

Exam Information Summer 2023

15th May - First Exam

21st June - Last Exam

8th & 15th June - Contingency Afternoons

28th June - Contingency Day

24th August - Results Day

Term Dates 2022-23

Academic Year 2022/2023

Term 1

Thursday 1st September 2022
Friday 21st October 2022

Term 2

Monday 31st October 2022
Friday 16th December 2022

Term 3

Tuesday 3rd January 2023
Friday 10th February 2023

Term 4

Monday 20th February 2023
Friday 31st March 2023

Term 5

Monday 17th April 2023
Friday 26th May 2023

Term 6

Monday 5th June 2023
Friday 21st July 2023

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Thursday 1st September 2022

Inset day 2

Friday 2nd September 2022

Inset day 3

Friday 21st October 2022

Inset day 4

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Inset day 5

Monday 17th April 2023

National Bank Holidays:

Monday 26th December 2022

Tuesday 27th December 2022

Monday 2nd January 2023

Friday 7th April 2023

Monday 10th April 2023

Monday 1st May 2023

Monday 29th May 2023

Monday 28th August 2023