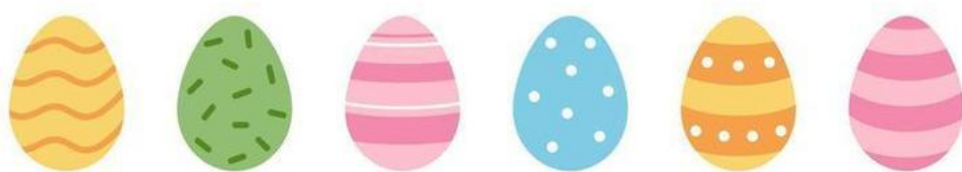




# SOMERVALE



## Newsletter Term Four



**MN** Midsomer Norton  
**SP** Schools Partnership



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

# Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another busy term. Year 11 have completed their second round of mock exams and have started the count down to the final exams. We continue to be extremely impressed by how hard they are working and the large numbers that are engaging with the after school booster sessions. Year 11 parents evening last night was really well attended and for some parents it marked the end of attendance to these events after a very long relationship with us over a number of years and children.

As always we are running sessions during the holidays for students in coursework subjects to come in and work in small groups with their teachers to help them meet the deadlines that are fast approaching. We are extremely grateful to the members of staff who are giving up their precious holiday time to run these sessions.

It has been a busy week in school with all the fund raising events for the upcoming trip to Morocco on Sunday and we are really thrilled to be taking over a large donation to pass on to the local school children we will be visiting to help them with their fundraising for a well in the village.

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.

We have had confirmed numbers of students joining us in September. We are delighted to have another year group of 150 students. We have made the decision to stick to our admissions number (rather than breach as we have for the last two years) to enable us to keep the school at a size below 900 so that it keeps its unique feel in the local community.

There is going to be a large amount of work taking place on the site over the holidays. This includes the revamping of the floor in the hall which has seen better days. I would like to thank in advance the site team, the cleaners and the all year round staff who work tirelessly during the holidays to make the school ready for the students return.

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

I'm off to start packing my bag for Morocco and looking forward to some lovely sunshine!

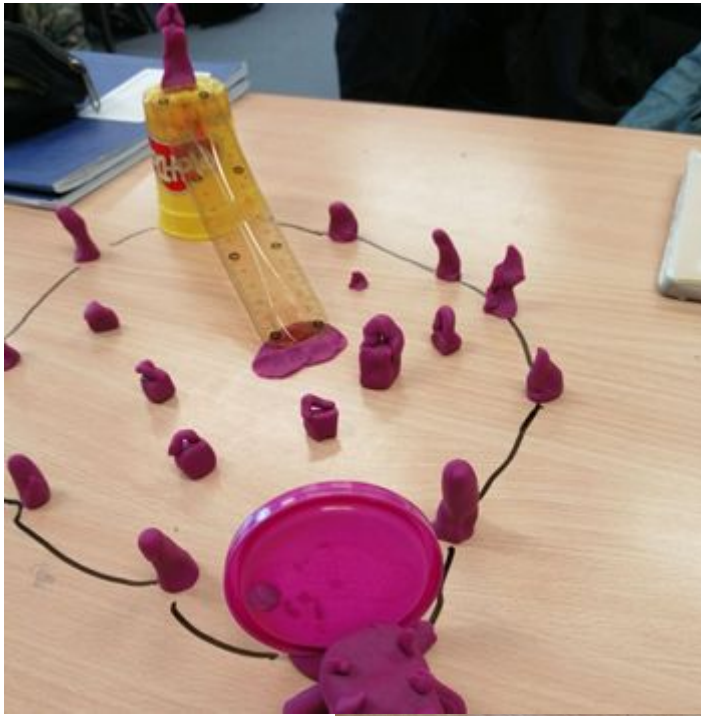
Best wishes

*Joanna Hethwaite*





# History Department



In History with Year 7 this term we have been creating Motte and Bailey castles out of playdough to reinforce our discussions about these Norman buildings. Here are some that have been created by 7X3! Students are currently working on an ELP homework on this too, so we are looking forward to seeing what they come up with! Mr Holt





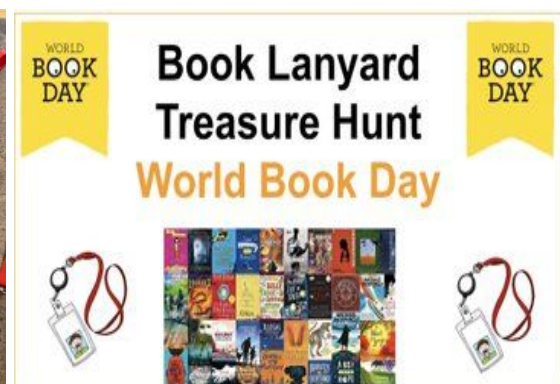
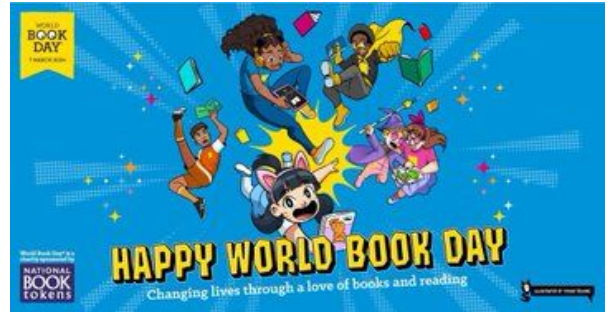
# Library News

## World Book Day 2024

We had a whole week celebrating this year's World Book Day!

Students in KS3 took part in 'take 10 to read' extracts from the award winning novel Skellig, by David Almond, during the morning, followed by our big [#worldbookday2024](#) quiz at lunchtime and a fab staff 'Book Lanyard Treasure Hunt' throughout the day! Plus we hosted our staff v student Scrabble and Chess challenges during lunchtimes throughout the week!

Well done to our lunchtime Scrabble winners, Jos and Arthur who beat Mr Richards, and also congratulations to Miss Wilkinson for her win against the year 11 students!





# Library News

## Library Reading Mentoring Programme

This term we also launched our annual Reading Mentoring Programme with year 9 mentors & year 7 mentees.

Students will do one-to-one reading mentoring during an afternoon tutor time, twice weekly, with some of the year 9 students mentors volunteering as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award



## Read for Good - Sponsored Readathon

During our week of celebrating World Book Day, we also launched our sponsored readathon for years 7, 8 and 9. Students are invited to read as much as they can, raising money for the Charity Read for Good, who support seriously ill children in hospital, by providing new books and storytellers who visit the hospitals. Each student also received their £1 World Book Day book and £1 WBD Book Token to get them started on their sponsored reading journey!

**Deadline 15th April!**

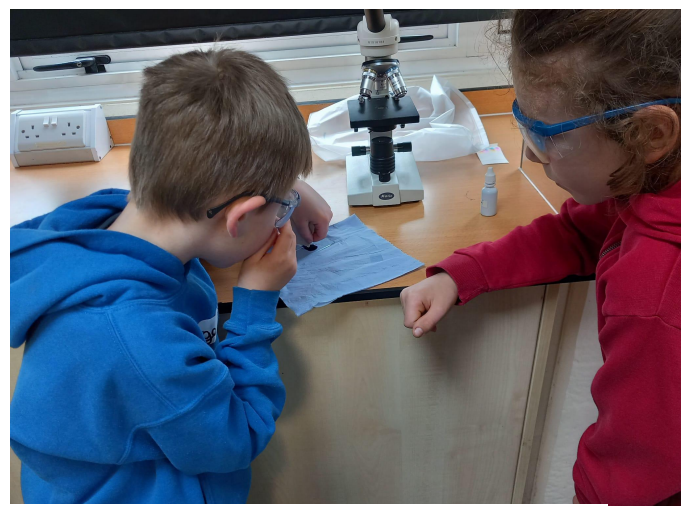
**Bring your card and money to school or you can sponsor online**





# Science Department

This March, we celebrated Science Week with a visit from Welton Primary School students. Pupils ranging from Year 3 to Year 6 got stuck into a workshop run by Miss Low that related to their scientific curriculum. Not only did the students get an opportunity to see a sheep's pluck for the first time, but they also had an opportunity to view their own cheek cells by making some slides and viewing them under the light microscope. The pupils were incredibly enthusiastic and showed some great scientific skills - we look forward to welcoming them back in the near future!



# English Department

## Westminster Abbey Trip: The Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration

On Monday 11th March, a group of Year 10 students were invited by the Royal Commonwealth Society to take part in the Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration at Westminster Abbey.

It was a great chance to enjoy the pageantry and do a bit of sightseeing around London. The students had the opportunity to see members of the Royal Family, including Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales as well as a range of artists, politicians, athletes and key cultural figures from around the Commonwealth such as Nigerian-British poet Sir Ben Okri, English performer Geri Halliwell, and Ugandan dance troupe Ghetto Kids, among many others.





# English Department

## The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Writing Competition: Enter the QCEC2024!

The theme for the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which will take place in Samoa in October 2024, is 'One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth'.

Nearly half of Commonwealth countries are Small Island Developing States like Samoa that are disproportionately affected by climate change. Communities across the Commonwealth are also facing a range of challenges, including economic growth, peace and security. Creating strong and resilient societies is now more important than ever.

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2024 asks entrants to consider how they deal with adversity, and how community and culture can be used to encourage resilience and hope in a world with a growing number of global issues.

**The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2024 is now open for entries until 15 May 2024.** To find out more, follow the link <https://www.royalcwsociety.org/essay-competition/qcec2024>



THE QUEEN'S  
COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2024

## Our Common Wealth

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**TOP PRIZE**  
The top two winners from each category will be awarded with a trip to London for a week of educational and cultural events, culminating in a special Awards Ceremony at a royal palace.

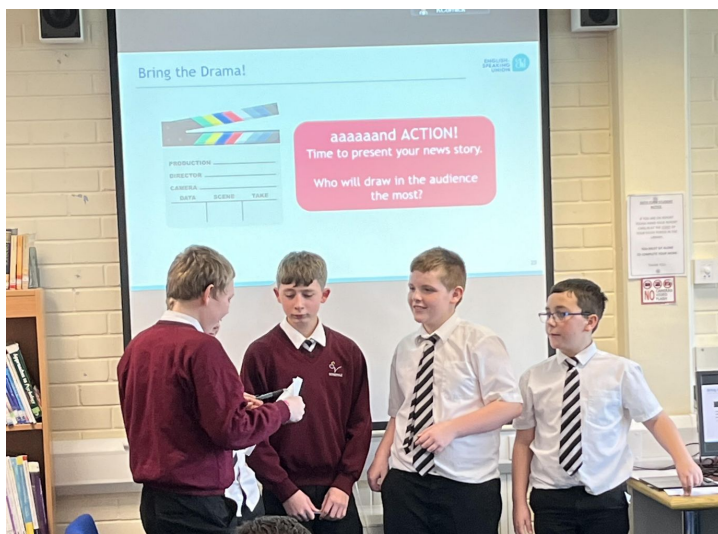
**AWARDS**  
All successful entries will receive a Certificate of Participation and a number of entrants will receive Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards for excellence in writing.



# English Department

## Oracy Update

Some of our best speakers in year 7 and 10 were selected to take part in a workshop with a specialist from the English Speaking Union. Year 7 were given an excellent introduction to the art of debating and year 10 took part in activities to improve their public speaking skills. The students were brilliant and our visitor was very impressed!



# English Department

## Poetry by Heart

Congratulations to all of our amazing year 8 students who took part in their class Poetry by Heart competition. The final was held in school on the 9th February 2024 and over 30 students delivered their performance poems to an expert judging panel. Our winners have now filmed their winning entries and these have been submitted to the national competition.





# Term Dates 2024-25



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership  
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## Term Dates Academic Year 2024/2025

### **Term 1**

Monday 2nd September 2024  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### **Term 2**

Monday 4th November 2024  
Friday 20th December 2024

### **Term 3**

Monday 6th January 2025  
Friday 14th February 2025

### **Term 4**

Monday 24th February 2025  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### **Term 5**

Tuesday 22nd April 2025  
Friday 23rd May 2025

### **Term 6**

Monday 2nd June 2025  
Tuesday 22nd July 2025  
(Friday 18th July last day for students)

## INSET DAYS

### **Inset day 1**

Monday 2nd September 2024

### **Inset day 2**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### **Inset day 3**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### **Inset day 4**

Monday 21st July 2025

### **Inset day 5**

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

### ***National Bank Holidays:***

*Wednesday 25th December 2024  
Thursday 26th December 2024  
Wednesday 1st January 2025  
Friday 18th April 2025  
Monday 21st April 2025  
Monday 5th May 2025  
Monday 26th May 2025  
Monday 25th August 2025*