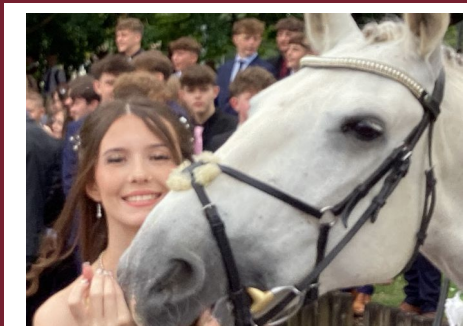


Somervale School

Newsletter: Term 5



Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

I can't believe that we are nearly at the end of another school year. It doesn't seem that long ago that I was looking out of my window at all the wind and rain. Activities Week has been another roaring success with students gaining those important special memories and experiences outside of the classroom. There is more information in the newsletter on all the fun stuff they have got up to. Year 10 have been out on work experience and I am looking forward to returning in September to read all the amazing feedback on how well they have done. Once again we are extremely lucky to have so many local businesses that are prepared to support our students with gaining an insight into the world of work. Many students in other local schools do not get this opportunity. We have had another busy term. After the heatwave causing us to close the school, we had to reschedule Year 11 Leavers Day and Prom. I would like to extend a massive thank you to Paulton Rovers for supporting us so quickly with the date change as well as all the parents and carers for their understanding and support at what was a slightly challenging few days. Our rescheduled day was a fantastic event. The students looked so smart and so grown up! It was wonderful seeing them all arrive in their unusual transport. I do think some of my favourites were the ice cream van and mobility scooter. However I think my top had to be the lovely Izzy and her horse. She looked like an actual Disney Princess! The evening was spent celebrating and dancing in-between taking photos in the photo booth and eating a lot of pick and mix! Neither event would have been possible without all the hard work and organisation from Mrs Davis, Mrs Jay and Miss Jones. Year 11 have grown into such a fantastic year group and we are extremely proud of them and look forward to seeing their results this summer. A few weeks ago we welcomed our new Year 7 students for the day. The students got to meet others in their tutor group and experience lessons at secondary school. It was a brilliant day, the students left tired but happy. The evening was well attended by parents and we are looking forward to a fun packed three days of summer school next week.

Headteacher

As with the end of any year we have a number of members of staff who are leaving us at the end of term; Both Mr Holt and Mr Gentle are moving on to roles in other schools outside of the Trust. Ms James is returning to Norton Hill now that Mrs Bendrey has returned from maternity leave and Mr Netto (who has been based on our site for a long time) is moving up to a new Post 16 classroom on site at Norton Hill. We will miss them all and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for the hard work and dedication they have offered the school over the years. I would also like to thank you for the support you have offered me over the last year. The year has flown by and I can honestly say I have had another fantastic year as headteacher of Somervale School. As I have mentioned in previous newsletters we are still awaiting a visit from OFSTED but I have no doubt that will be a positive experience where we can showcase all the fantastic things about our school.

Please can I draw your attention to the uniform guidance later on in the newsletter. Please can I remind you that our expectations around this has not changed and we are now into our second year of house ties and the old style tie is not acceptable to be worn.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support with this change in making sure that our students look smart and are appropriately dressed for learning each day. Any students who choose to not compile with this change are risking being sent home to change or being placed in isolation until they rectify the issue.

I would like to wish you all a long, sunny and restful holidays and look forward to seeing all the students in September.

Best wishes

Joanna Postlethwaite

Ms J Postlethwaite



School Uniform

School Uniform Expectations

As we approach the end of another school year, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of Somervale School uniform expectation.

- Black trousers (not jersey material, including leggings or similar fabric in a flared style)
- Black pleated skirt (which should be knee length and NOT rolled up)
- Black socks (with no branding or logo)
- A white shirt that buttons to the neck
- A house school tie (the old colour ties are not acceptable)
- A school jumper
- Black leather or synthetic leather shoes

Our uniform expectations can be found on our website.

[Somervale School Uniform and PE List](#)

Please can we ask that you use the summer break to ensure all uniform fits and is correct. Anyone that returns to school in the incorrect uniform is at risk of sanctions.



School Trousers: Black school trousers



School Skirt: Black box pleated school skirt, measuring a reasonable length, ideally to the knee

Attendance

It has been an incredible year for school attendance here at Somervale. We continue to set the tone for not just only the local community but the area of BANES and beyond. I am delighted to update everyone that we sit over 2.2% above national attendance data and a huge 9% better when looking at persistent absence figures, this places Somervale within the top 96% percentile across the whole of the UK.

We have finished this academic year with the incredible Attendance Summer Showdown event which included events such as volleyball, garden games, tug of war, live bands and culminating with a silent disco. These events have again strengthened the sense of belonging that our attendance approach is rooted within here at Somervale.

I would also like to share that we have celebrated with over 250 students who have achieved outstanding attendance across this whole academic year and over 350 who have improved their own attendance in comparison from the previous academic year.

We know the importance of outstanding attendance underpins academic success as well as building resilience, strengthening positive relationships and building lifelong memories and that by being in the classroom engaged in learning is where the magic happens. We are also aware that this level of consistency is a team effort and we are incredibly grateful for your vital support at home in making this possible. It remains a privilege to partner with you, and we look forward to continuing to this supportive relationship throughout every child's journey here at Somervale School.

Please take a moment to check on next years term dates and we wish you a fantastic Summer.

Mr B Pearce

Deputy Headteacher

Year 11 Leavers Day



Year 11 Leavers Day



Year 11 Leavers Day



Celebration Evening

On Thursday 9th July 2026 we held our annual Celebration Evening, this celebration is to recognise students for their outstanding achievement in a particular subject for this academic year.

Congratulations to all who were nominated.



Humanities Department

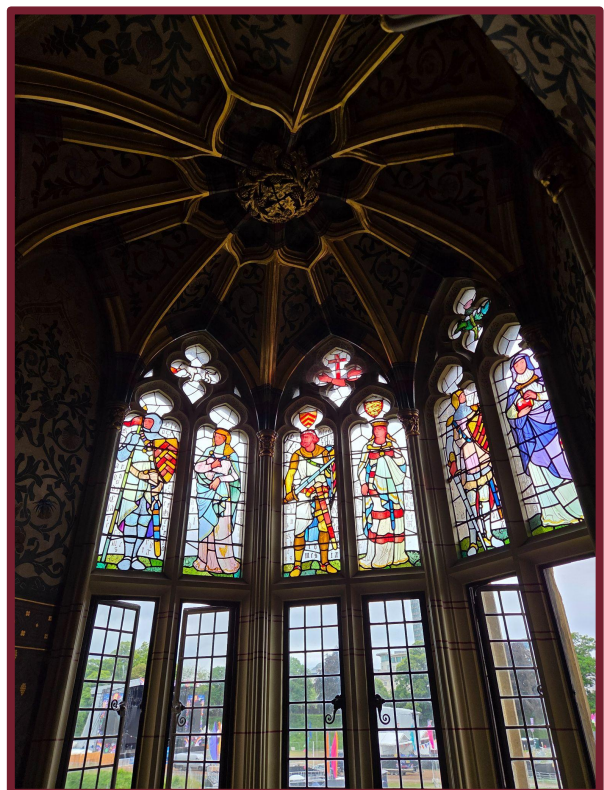
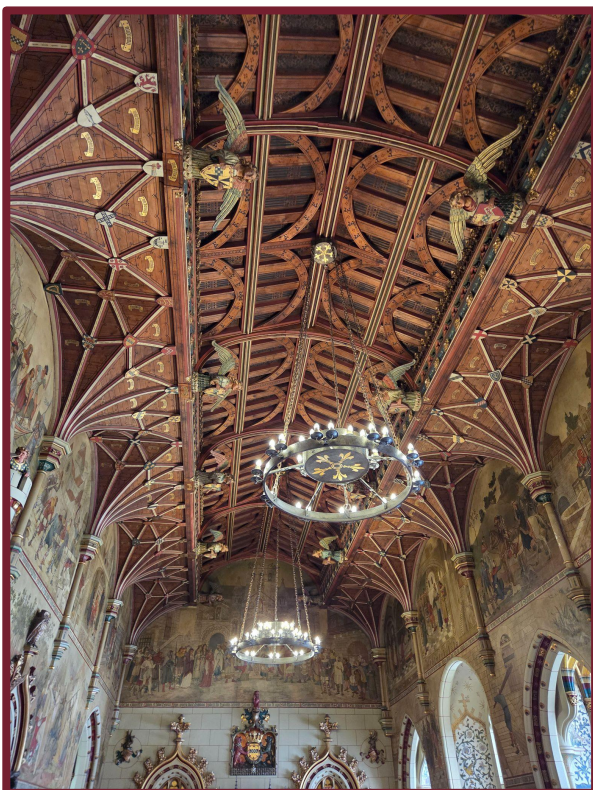
Year 7 Humanities Trip

Year 7 had 2 excellent trips out this term to Cardiff Castle and The Big Pit. These linked into their lessons this year about local industry and medieval life.

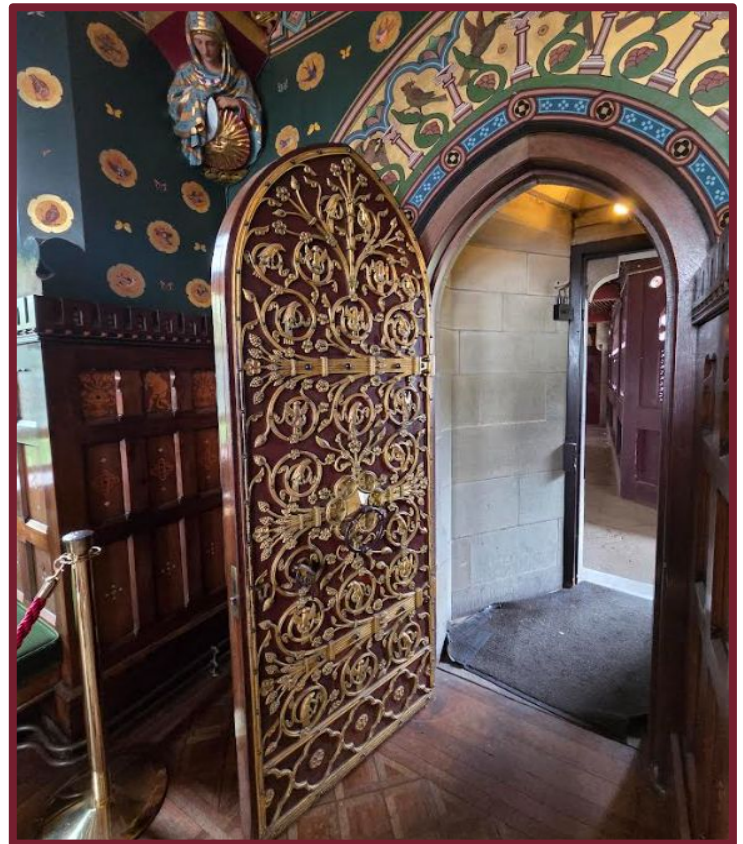
At Cardiff Castle they had guided tours of the site, and saw first hand the Norman parts of the castle. We also had a talk and watched a demonstration, this included medieval weapons. The students enjoyed dressing up and pretending to be medieval warriors for the day.

At The Big Pit they experienced a glimpse of life for miners, picturing what it would have been like to work there in the past. They were guided through the mines and also visited the many buildings required to run such a large operation.

Overall the trips were fantastic, and the students had an amazing time.



Humanities Department



RSE Consultation

Last month you would have received information from Mr A Williams in relation to the Trust consultation on the RSE curriculum.

Please find below links to further information on the RSE curriculum delivered at Somervale School and a link to a parental feedback form if you would like to share any feedback with Mrs Bendrey (Head of PSHCE)

[Somervale School Key Stage 3 Curriculum Plan 2025.pdf](#)

<https://www.somervaleschool.com/curriculum-and-exams/pshe-curriculum.htm>

<https://sites.google.com/somervaleschool.com/somervale-curriculum/subjects/humanities>

<https://sites.google.com/somervaleschool.com/somervale-curriculum/subjects/pshe>

<https://forms.gle/q81e4LYhA5Ud8QwS9>

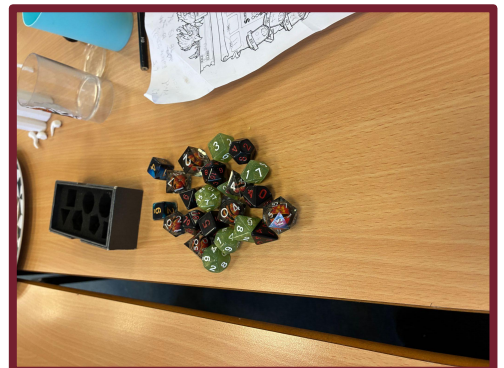
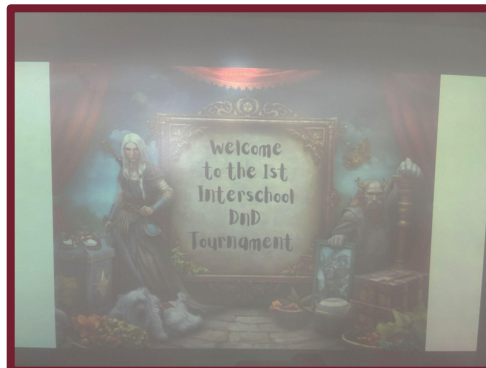
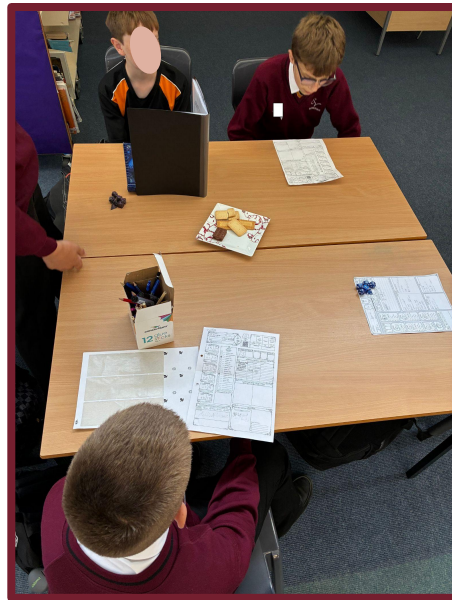


Library News



We held our very first Dungeons & Dragons campaign against Norton Hill School on Monday 6th July. Our 'battle team' of 12 Somervale students, lead by Dungeon Masters, Joe and Arlo, challenged Norton Hill to a game of strategy. Our players showed incredible teamwork, using clever buffs to support one another and making some clutch saving throws under pressure.

With no overall winner declared on this occasion - we are already preparing our character sheets for a thrilling rematch this December, which will be hosted right here in our own "tavern" at Somervale!



Library News

Library Reading Ambassadors

During the final weeks of this academic year, we appointed our new Somervale Library Reading Ambassadors!

After taking part in student panel interviews, these Ambassadors were appointed for their dedication to, and enthusiasm for reading across the curriculum.

Ambassadors will work on highlighting and promoting various library activities and events, and with a focus to encourage all students to continue on their reading journey



Library News

Accelerated Reader 'Word Millionaires'

Our KS3 Accelerated Reader programme continues to thrive, with over 30 students achieving 'Word Millionaire' status this academic year. This shows their commitment to reading and passing their quizzes consistently. We celebrated all their fantastic achievements with an end of year party in the library!

Hollie Sc **1st**

Lucy W **2nd**

Thomas R **3rd**

Erin B

Harrison F

Edie S

Noah R

Sienna W

Keira M

Lily M

Ciaran S

Calley P

Freya W

Yutsu TP

Albert C

Caitlin G

Flo A

Jenny F

Evelyn D

Evie T

Willow J

Mollie M I

Hannah R

Tilly W

Lacie V

Reece W

Evie B

Holly C

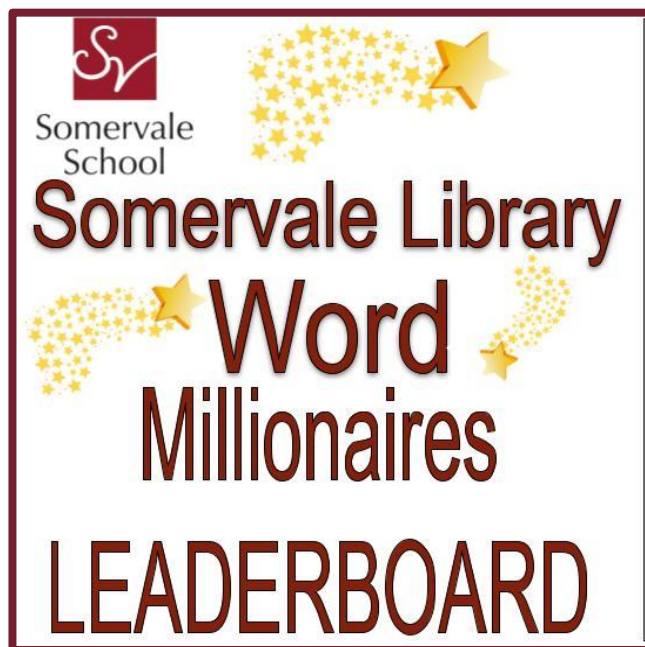
Lyra P

William H

Aiden W

Owen T

Izzy F



Library News

Keep Reading All Summer Long with Sora!

Summer break is the perfect time for students to relax, but we want to make sure their minds stay active too! Reading just a few minutes a day helps prevent the "summer slide," keeps vocabulary sharp, and sparks incredible adventures. To make reading easy and fun wherever your summer travels take you, all students have 24/7 free access to **SORA**, our school's digital reading app. Through Sora, students can borrow thousands of fantastic ebooks and audiobooks on any phone, tablet, or computer.



Library News

Lunchtime LEGO Club Launch

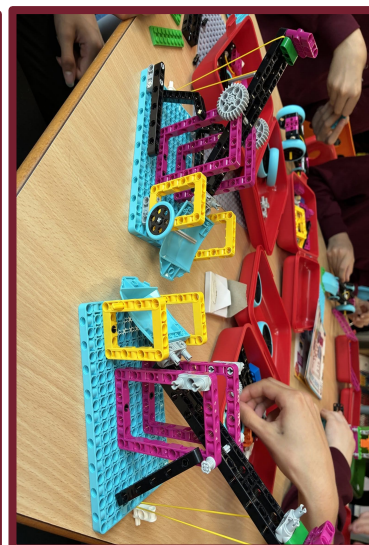
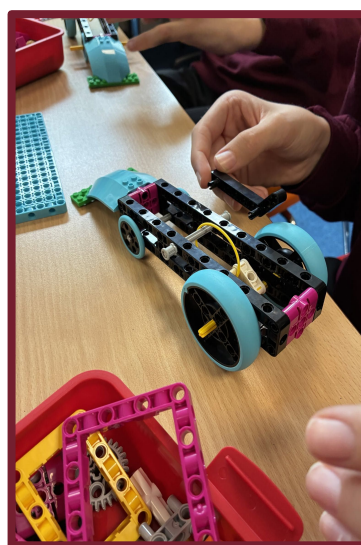
This term marked the launch of our brand-new Student LEGO Club, and to say it was a hit would be a massive understatement!

Our Library was buzzing with creativity, engineering, and some seriously impressive builds.

This club was made possible thanks to the incredible work from our science technicians, and the funding we received from the Tesco Blue Token Appeal.

A huge thank you to everyone in our community who dropped their blue tokens in our box—you helped make this happen!

The response from our students was so overwhelming that we actually had to turn some eager builders away. We simply ran out of bricks before we ran out of enthusiastic students!



Donations Needed



LEGO CLUB



We are asking for LEGO donations. If you have any spare LEGO gathering dust at home, we would love to give it a second life in our club.

What we're looking for:

Loose bricks, plates, and wheels

Complete or partial sets

Mini-figures (always a huge hit!)

Baseplates

**Donations
needed!**

How to Donate

If you have any LEGO to spare, please drop it off at the School Main Office during school hours. Every single brick helps us expand the club and include more of our amazing students!

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a place where creativity thrives. Let's get building!



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh



Sports Day

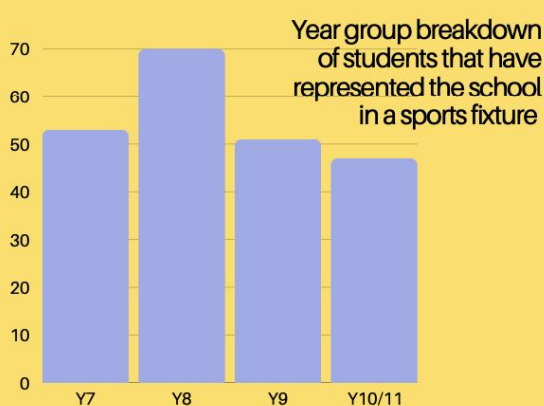


Physical Education

Year in Review:

We are extremely grateful to all the students that give up their time to represent the Somervale School so successfully. Below you can see a breakdown of all the amazing clubs and competitions we participate in and all of the students that take advantage of the offering. We have a lot of exciting events in the calendar and can't wait to see you all at clubs next year!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN NUMBERS 2026



221

Number of students that have represented the school in a sports team or event

140

Number of clubs run this year

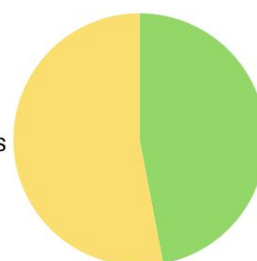
127

Number of fixtures run this year

PERCENTAGE OF GIRLS AND BOYS ATTENDING FIXTURES & EVENTS

BOYS
53%

GIRLS
47%



Physical Education

Rounders

We have had some brilliant rounders games and training happening this term with an excellent bunch of students! Recently, our YR9 and YR8 team played St Greg's away where the Year 8's won and the Year 9's lost by a few rounders. Special mention to Chloe M who gained player of the match and Isla K for getting coaches player for the Year 9 team! In the Year 8 team, Poppy B got coaches player and Josh G gained player of the match for scoring a rounder on every bat he had!



Physical Education

Unit 54 Gym trip - YR10 NCFE Health & Fitness

On the 29th June, the YR10 NCFE Health & Fitness class made their way to Unit 54 in Paulton. They undertook an amazing session that included a detailed warm-up, strength and conditioning and a detailed workout led by a qualified fitness instructor Joe. The students enjoyed taking part in the session and found it interesting learning about the body in a practical sense and understanding gym programming which will help them massively with their coursework in year 11! A huge thank you to Millie and Joe for providing this service!



Physical Education

Cricket & Athletics

The weather this year has made cricket & athletics fixtures difficult to play due to the extreme conditions. Despite this, we have managed to have some fun with local teams as well as some excellent success in regional and national athletic events. A huge congratulations to Minnie & Will for their success at the Avon Athletics Championships.



Sports Leaders



This year, our amazing Sport Leaders have run 8 events, supporting hundreds of primary school students to access sport and physical activity. A HUGE thank you for giving up your time. Below is a picture of just a few of our amazing leaders.

Physical Education

Student Success

Congratulations to one of our Year 11 students, Ben. Ben has recently signed his scholarship contract for Forest Green Rovers Football Club. We know you have worked really hard for this moment. We wish you every success in your future.



Wimbledon Visit

Somervale Goes To Wimbledon

On Wednesday 8th July a group of students had a very early start as they set off for a very exciting opportunity to attend day 10 of Wimbledon. Students were able to enjoy a match at the highest standard. It was a very warm but unforgettable experience at one of the UK's elite sporting venues. Thank you Miss Tanner for organising such a fantastic trip.



English Department

Welcome Baroness Barran to Somervale

On Friday 19th June, we welcomed Baroness Diana Barran to Somervale. Baroness Barran has wide expertise in youth and education having been a member of previous governments in recent years.

She spoke to a group of students in Year 9 about her work in the House of Lords and her involvement in drafting bills - especially one affecting them the most: the social media ban for under 16s which is coming into force next year.

Our students were very inquisitive and engaged in the discussion of this topic; most of them were still talking about it hours after Baroness Barran had left.

It was a great experience; and what an opportunity to talk in person with one of the members of parliament who has been directly involved in decision making which is so close to their hearts.



English Department

2nd SVS Oracy Day Public Speaking Competition

On Tuesday 23rd June - and despite the sweltering temperatures - we held our 2nd SVS Oracy Day Public Speaking Competition.

Well done to all students involved: it was a great experience and everyone did a great job! A special mention goes to Jacob B, Minnie P, Dylan C, John M, Hollie S and Freddie D for their sterling job representing Somervale School. And many congratulations to Freddie, who got best questioner of the competition.

Special thanks to our judges Helen Wells from the English Speaking Union, Mr Davis (MNSP Director of Science), Mr Netto (MNSP Sixth Form); our hostesses Emily W and Cara W; and Miss Casey from Norton Hill for bringing down her team.

Welcome Helen Wells from the English Speaking Union



English Department

We were delighted to host Helen Wells from the English Speaking Union at Somevale School for our Oracy Day 2026: Big Talk Energy.

Helen has many years of experience as a teacher and public speaking judge; she has worked extensively with the English Speaking Union raising the profile of public speaking across the country.

We invited Helen to help some of our students in Year 10 prepare for their Spoken Language Endorsement, which is part of their GCSE English qualification.

Her masterclass included practical advice on how to plan, structure and deliver a powerful speech, and students relished the opportunity to practise some of those skills and get feedback from Helen.

Oracy Day 2026 - Big Talk Energy

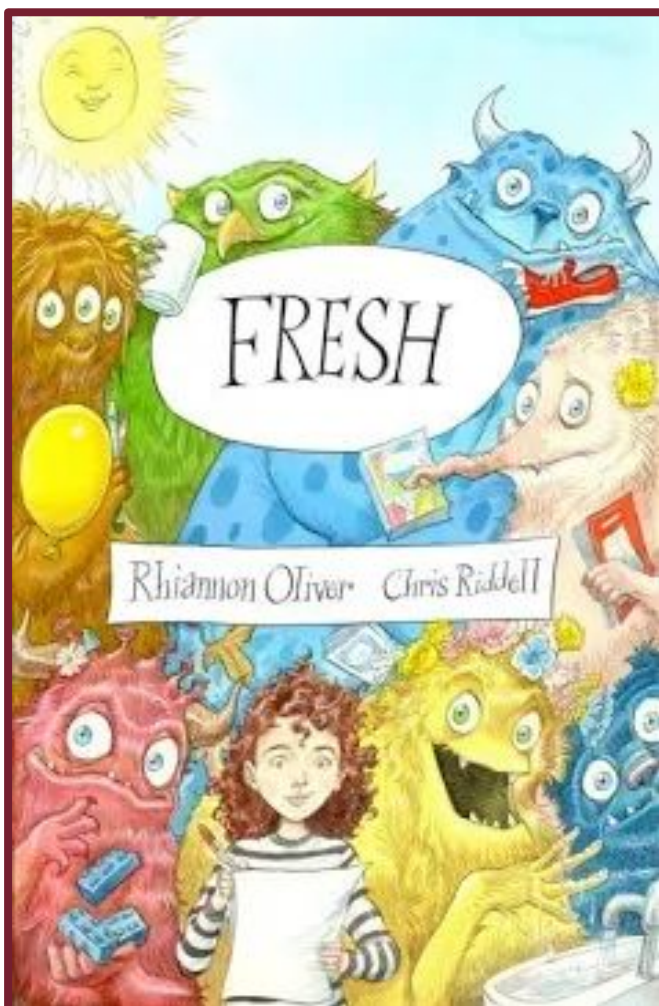
On 23rd June we held our annual Oracy Day for the third year running. Our students were amazing as always, embracing the heat and making purposeful talk their priority in lessons.



English Department

A big thank you to our special guests. The wonderful poet Rhiannon Oliver who signed copies of her new book *Fresh* for Year 7 and delivered an assembly and two fantastic performance poetry workshops. Actress and drama specialist Kirsten Lane who enthused our Year 8 students with drama games and Brechtian techniques. Finally, Ffion from the Speaker's Trust who delivered an energetic and engaging workshop to a group of very excited Year 9s. Ffion will be visiting us again in September to deliver a second workshop and help some of our students to prepare to enter the *Speak Out Competition*.

Congratulations to all the students who received certificates and merits for their excellent talking throughout the day.



Pockets

I carry kindness in my pockets
And sprinkle it like seeds.
I pick up rubbish, smile at dogs,
And other thoughtful deeds.

'Miss, I like your dress,' I say.
'Dad, you're looking smart.'
I take the time to compliment
My baby brother's 'art'.

I thank the entertainer,
Thank the driver on the train.
I sometimes thank my welly boots
When it starts to rain.

I tell the lovely cook at school
How much I like her chips.
I scatter please and thank yous
When we are out on trips.

I hold the door, I wait my turn,
I help to lay the table.
I sprinkle-sow my kindness seeds
Whenever I am able.

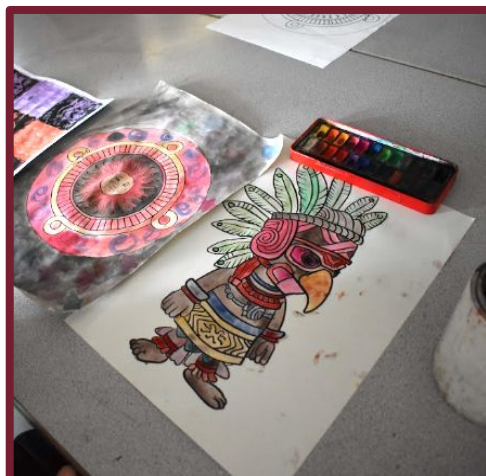
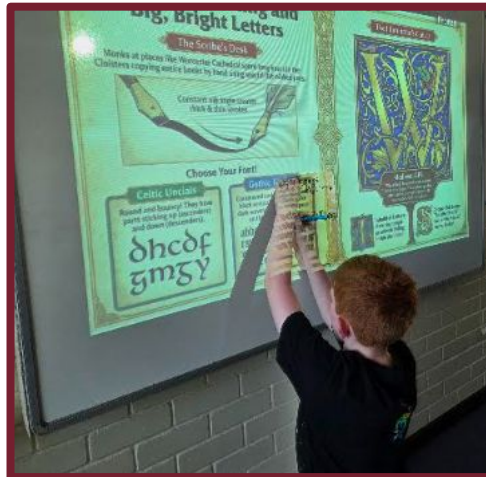
It's just a few seeds here and there,
They never weigh me down,
But the seeds grow into kindness flowers
Dotted round the town.



Activities Week

Monday

Bowling, Aqua Park, Mexican, PE & Time Travelers Day



Activities Week

Tuesday

Go Ape, Wild Project, Footgolf, Treasure Hunt, Asian Food, Drama Day



Activities Week

Wednesday

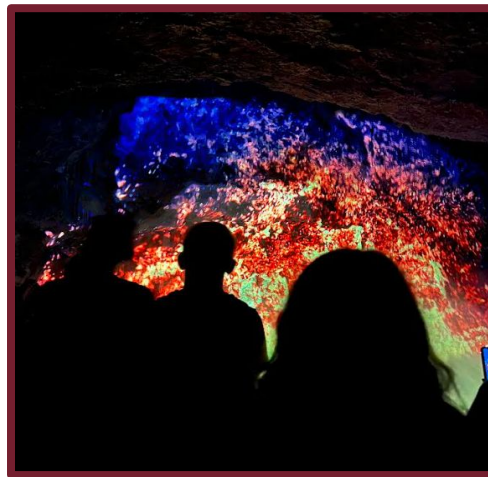
Splashdown, Paddleboarding, Longleat, Jewellery Making, Board games & Basketball Day



Activities Week

Thursday

Bowling, Harry Potter Studio, Wookey Hole, Thorpe Park, STEM, 3D Sculpture, Sustainable Textiles & World Cup Day



Activities Week

Friday

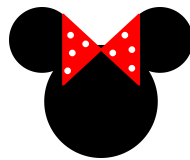
Brean, Inflatables, Wake The Tiger, Treasure Hunt, Marvel & Cluedo Day



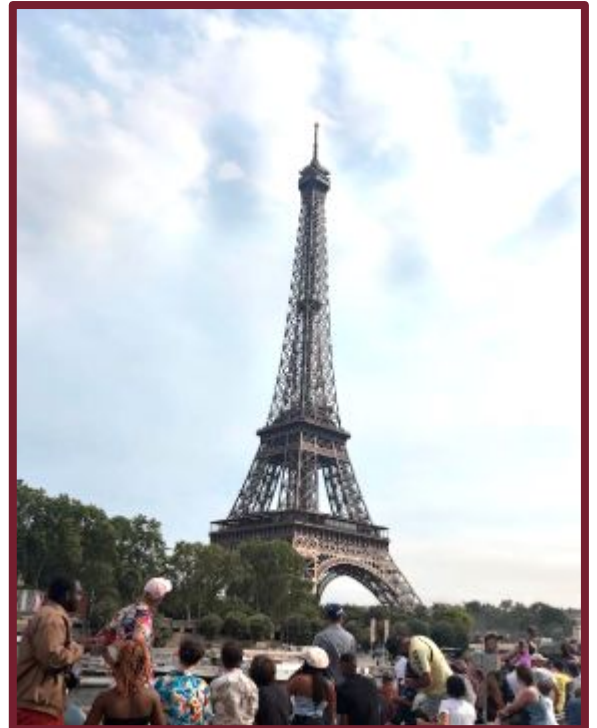
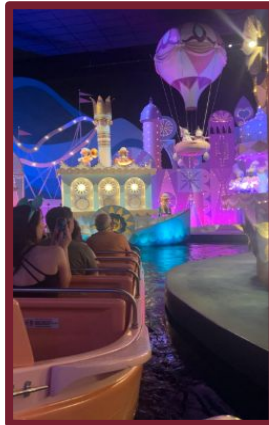
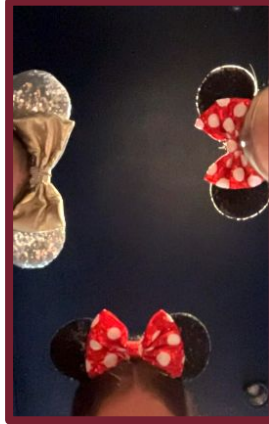
Paris Trip

Activity Week Trip To Paris

This year, as part of our Activities week, 30 students had the opportunity to spend the week in Paris. As you can imagine this trip was hugely popular with lots of students eager to experience some French culture, food and Paris highlights. They definitely made the most of their time there with a viewing of Arc de Triomphe. Visit to Louvre Museum and Notre Dame Cathedral. A Language lesson with native speakers, A boat Cruise on River Seine. A Visit of Eiffel Tower with an optional trip up to the viewing platform. Finished off with a day trip to Disneyland Paris plus lots of shopping in between. Students (and staff) had a wonderful time, we were so proud of how well behaved the students were.



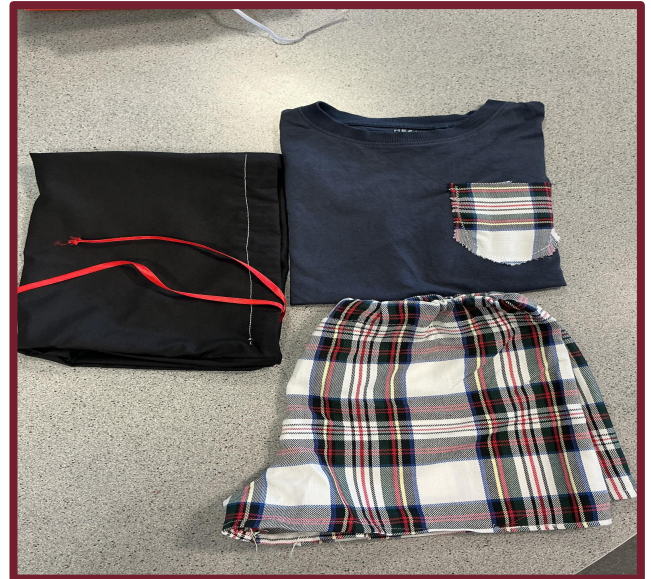
Paris Trip



Design and Technology

Year 8

Look at the amazing projects our year 8 have done this term in Design Technology. We look forward to seeing what our students will produce next year in year 9. Well done everyone!



Pastoral

United Against Bullying

Throughout the year, Somervale students have been introduced to our new Anti-Bullying stepped approach, with a variety of assemblies and involvement from both pupils and staff. Our aim, as an United Against Bullying School, is to ensure that bullying behaviour is dealt with, parents/carers are kept informed and provide further education where necessary to reduce recurring incidents. Students have spent tutor time discussing the definition of bullying, with a particular focus on the difference between “banter” and “bullying,” as well as the impact bullying behaviour has on others.

Our students have responded brilliantly, embracing our message and volunteering to get involved. I am pleased to introduce **Hollie, Minnie, Alfie, Harrison, Amos, James, Naomi, Maisie** and **Issy** as our brand new Anti-Bullying ambassadors. Our ambassadors will be a link between pupils and staff, creating an extra avenue to report any bullying behaviour, as well as creating a sense of community within our school to unite against bullying. It is great to see so many students working together!



Pastoral



Lifeboats

Struggling in the water?



FLOAT TO LIVE

Photo: RNLI

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (2096005), Scotland (SC037735), the Republic of Ireland (CIPY 2576) and 20053320, the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (73546 and 0053034), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1H2


#RESPECTTHEWATER

20.12.2019

Pastoral

SUPPORT FOR OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Kooth - free online support.
kooth.com

YoungMinds - for resources.
YoungMinds.org.uk

SHOUT - text 85258

Samaritans - for when in crisis.
116 123

Childline - childline.org.uk

Southside - Children and family
groups

OTR website - offtherecord-banes.co.uk for downloadable
resources.

School Office

Making this summer more
affordable for families across the
country



GOV • UK Campaign

[Gov.uk Link](#)

SEND Department

Summer 2026 Support, Resources, and Activities Guide

The upcoming summer holidays can bring a mix of excitement and routine disruption, so we've tried to gather some of the best local support networks, educational tools, and budget-friendly activities to help your family over the coming months:

Spotlight: Parent Carer Forums & Advocacy

Connecting with other parents and being able to access help when schools are shut is vital. These local forums and services offer support, a chance to voice your opinions, and invaluable guidance:

- **BaNES Parent Carer Forum:** Your local voice for shaping services for children with SEND. A fantastic network for peer support. [Visit Banes PCF.](#)
- **Somerset Parent Carer Forum:** Providing support, information, and a community voice for families across Somerset. [Visit Somerset PCF.](#)
- **SENDIAS BaNES:** Offers free, confidential, and impartial information, advice, and support on education, health, and social care. [Visit SENDIAS BaNES.](#)

Learning & Development Resources

Whether you want to understand neurodiversity better or need quick resources for home learning, check these out:

SEND Department

- **Free Open University Course:** "Understanding Neurodivergent Children." A free resource for parents and professionals looking to deepen their understanding and support strategies. [Access the OU Course.](#)
- **SASS BaNES Padlet:** A digital noticeboard packed with updated documents, guidance, and resources from the Specialist Autism Support Service.
[View the SASS Padlet.](#)
- **Twinkl SEND Summer Support:** A blog post detailing practical ways to support families with SEND children through the summer, complete with activity ideas.
[Read the Twinkl Blog.](#)



Summer Activities & Inclusive Fun

Finding inclusive, accessible, and budget-friendly things to do can be a challenge. Here is a list of local options:

Local SEND Directories

Live Well BaNES is your ultimate directory for local services. Check out their dedicated sections for:

- [SEND Services and Organisations](#)
- [Social, Leisure, and Community Groups](#)

SEND Department

Accessible Activities and Things to do

- **SWALLOW Charity Activities:** Offering inclusive activities and groups aimed at supporting teenagers and adults with learning disabilities. [Explore SWALLOW Activities.](#)
- **Fun with Teenagers in Bath:** Here is a guide to keeping teens entertained across the city, from city activities to days out. [Read the Teen Guide.](#)

Budget-Friendly and Free Days Out

- **Free Things to Do in Bath:** From beautiful parks to museums with free entry for locals, explore the city without breaking the bank. [View Free Bath Activities.](#)
- **Somerset Family Adventures:** A list of budget-friendly outdoor adventures, walks, and nature spots across Somerset, perfect for burning off some summer energy. [Explore Somerset Adventures.](#)

Are you parenting a child with a disability/special need?

Join The BANES Parents Plus Special Needs Programme and meet other Parents/Carers in a supportive group.

Weekly from **Monday 7th September – 19th October 2026**
(excluding school holidays or Bank holidays)

at Bath Children and Family Centre, 12 Charlotte Street, Bath, BA1 2NE
from 10.00am to 12:00pm

For more information or to reserve your place please contact:
DCT_parentingprogramme@bathnes.gov.uk

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives

Important Dates

Term 1

Thursday 3rd September - Inset Day 1

Friday 4th September - Inset Day 2

Monday 7th September - Year 7 Only

Tuesday 8th September - Whole School Return

Monday 21st September - School Photos

Thursday 24th September - Open Evening

Wednesday 30th September - Flu Vaccinations Session 1

Wednesday 21st October - Last day of term

Thursday 22nd October - Inset Day 3

Friday 23rd October - Inset Day 4

Term Dates 2026-2027

Term Dates Academic Year 2026/2027



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership

Term 1

Thursday 3rd September 2026
Friday 23rd October 2026

Term 2

Monday 2nd November 2026
Friday 18th December 2026

Term 3

Monday 4th January 2027
Friday 12th February 2027

Term 4

Monday 22nd February 2027
Thursday 25th March 2027

Term 5

Monday 12th April 2027
Friday 28th May 2027

Term 6

Monday 7th June 2027
Friday 23rd July 2027

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Inset day 2

Friday 4th September 2026

Inset day 3

Thursday 22nd October 2026

Inset day 4

Friday 23rd October 2026

Inset day 5

Wednesday 25th November 2026

Inset day 6

Monday 4th January 2027

National Bank Holidays:

Friday 25th December 2026
Saturday 26th December 2026
Monday 28th December 2026
Friday 1st January 2027
Friday 26th March 2027
Monday 29th March 2027
Monday 3rd May 2027
Monday 31st May 2027
Monday 30th August 2027