

# PARENT NEWSLETTER: WINTER



## Update from the Head of Sixth

Hello!

Welcome to our first newsletter. Following feedback from parents, we will be emailing a newsletter home at several times over the year. This will give information about what we have been doing in the Sixth Form, some key dates and some useful information for you.

The start of the year has been very busy, with new learners joining us, a range of talks available and the first trips days of the year. Details of which are included in this newsletter.

When we return in January it is a short period of time before our mocks which are held for all learners. This will give us a good understanding of the level our learners are working at, so I encourage all our learners to prepare thoroughly for these.

I wish all our learners and their families a very happy Christmas

Gary Parsons  
Head of Sixth



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<https://www.sixth.sgscol.ac.uk/news>



## KEY DATES - 2024

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### 3rd January

Learners return after the Christmas Break

### 8th - 12th January

Y1 Criminology controlled assessment week

### 19th January - BTEC exams

Exams for those doing Biomedical or Forensic Science

### 22nd - 26th January

Mock week - Mock exams are held in classes in all subjects. This is extremely important for learners to prepare thoroughly

### 12th - 16th February

February Half Term

### 7th - 8th March

Trips days - A range of trips are offered in multiple subject areas on these days. Learners can sign up for the trips which are offered by teachers.

### 13th March

Year 1 - Parent's evening - An opportunity for you to speak to teachers about progress.

### 28th March - 12th April

Easter break

### 9th May

A Level exams start (mostly A2 exams, Core Maths, Y2 Forensics and Criminology Y1 exams)

### 27th May - 31st May

May Half Term

### 10th - 14th June

End of year mock week for Y1 learners. Learners are expected to achieve DDD, or equivalent in Applied Science to progress into the second year.

### 17th - 21st June

Y1 Work Placement Mop-up week - An opportunity for year one learners who require a block week for their Work Placement to undertake this.

### 24th - 25th June

Y1 Review Days - Year 1 learners receive their mock results and have their final lessons before the summer break



## WHAT IS PARENT PORTAL?

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Parent Portal is how parents can keep up to date with assessment grades, teacher comments and attendance and punctuality.

This is also where you can see termly reports, known as 'Census Points' in each subject.

To sign-up for Parent Portal, please visit:  
<https://www.sgscol.ac.uk/parent-portal>



## KEY CONTACTS - 2024

### A Level Year 1 - Contacts

#### Year 1 - Heads of Year

Rebecca Wheeler - Rebecca.Wheeler@sgscol.ac.uk

Wendy Thomas - Wendy.Thomas@sgscol.ac.uk

#### Year 1 - Progress Mentors (Tutors)

Rob Aldridge - Rob.Aldridge@sgscol.ac.uk

Chelsey Price - Chelsey.Price@sgscol.ac.uk

Mary Gliddon - Mary.Gliddon@sgscol.ac.uk

Frances Fahy - Frances.Fahy@sgscol.ac.uk

Holly Gibbs - Holly.Gibbs@sgscol.ac.uk

Steven Monnery - Steven.Monnery@sgscol.ac.uk

Simon Greely - Simon.Greely@sgscol.ac.uk

Lamin Sanneh - Lamin.Sanneh@sgscol.ac.uk

Eva James - Eva.James@sgscol.ac.uk

Evie Hemmings - Evie.Hemmings@sgscol.ac.uk

Maddie Peace - Maddie.Peace@sgscol.ac.uk

Marcus Nel - Marcus.Nel@sgscol.ac.uk

Romana Maric - Romana.Maric@sgscol.ac.uk

Paul Hiatt - Paul.Hiatt@sgscol.ac.uk

Jodie Jones - Jodie.Jones@sgscol.ac.uk

#### Year 2 - Head of Year

Camilla Gentry - Camilla.Gentry@sgscol.ac.uk

#### Year 2 - Progress Mentors (Tutors)

Jodie Jones - Jodie.Jones@sgscol.ac.uk

Maddie Peace - Maddie.Peace@sgscol.ac.uk

Vaia Adamaki - Vaia.Adamaki@sgscol.ac.uk

Camilla Gentry - Camilla.Gentry@sgscol.ac.uk

Rebecca Wheeler - Rebecca.Wheeler@sgscol.ac.uk

Evie Hemmings - Evie.Hemmings@sgscol.ac.uk

Mark Jones - Mark.Jones@sgscol.ac.uk



## WHEN SHOULD I CONTACT A PROGRESS MENTOR (TUTOR)?

### What is the Progress Mentor there for?

The Progress Mentor is your first contact for any query that you may have. They can help direct to any support, help with any issues in subjects and be the key liaison for any important information.

### Who is my child's Progress Mentor?

All learners have a Progress Mentor, they will know who theirs is. Alternatively, you can check on Parent Portal or contact one of the Heads of Year who can help you.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE HEAD OF YEAR?

The Heads of Year are the figureheads for each year group cohort.

They will intervene if a learner is particularly struggling or has particularly low attendance. They will also help organise events which learners across the year group might benefit from.

The Heads of Year also assist with questions around next steps such as helping to submit UCAS statements.



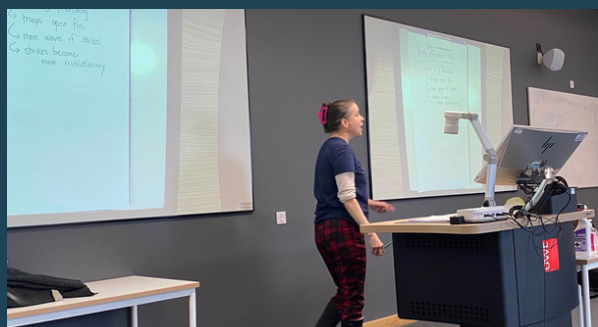
# WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN THE SIXTH FORM?

## TRIPS DAYS

On the 28th and 29th November we held the first of our Trips Days of the Academic Year with learners being able to go on many interesting and varied trips



A Level English Language learners visited the offices of 'the Guardian' newspaper in London and took part in a workshop entitled 'Behind the Headlines' focusing on opinion writing. They also got a guided tour of the newsroom to see journalists at work. The learners also enjoyed some sightseeing around London, seeing Piccadilly Circus and Buckingham Palace.



A Level Economics learners were invited to the Business School at UWE and took part in some economic taster sessions. These included an introduction to the role of the Bloomberg Trading Suite and a lecture with current degree students on the economic history of events leading up to the First World War. Lastly the learners also benefitted from a tour of the campus and the opportunity to ask student ambassadors about university life.



L3 Criminology, A Level Sociology and A Level Law learners visited Shepton Mallet Prison. Whilst there they had a tour of the prison site that included the execution room and the cells. They also learned about historical punishments and retribution and engaged in a lively debate on the pros and cons of capital punishment.

A Level Law learners also were able to visit Bristol Magistrates Court to sit in on some magistrate's hearings. This was a valuable opportunity for Law learners to see the law in action and the learners received compliments from the clerk of the court of how engaged they were in the proceedings.

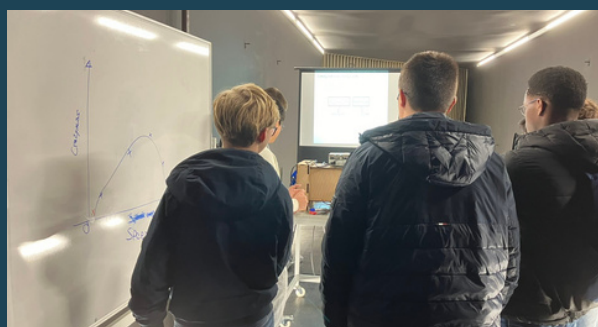


A Level Geography and Biology learners were able to glimpse behind the scenes of the recently closed Bristol Zoo and use their classrooms to undertake a study of the human impact on ecology on The Downs in Bristol. They used a variety of different methods to investigate the distribution of organisms and collect data on flora percentage before analysing their results, putting classroom theory into practice.

## TRIPS DAYS



A Level Psychology learners enjoyed a trip to UWE's Glenside Campus to visit the Glenside Psychiatric Hospital Museum. The hospital used to hold Psychiatric patients until 1994 and has multiple exhibits detailing historical treatments of mental illnesses like trepanning and the lobotomy.



Lastly, A Level Physics learners visited the Engineering Department at the University of Bath and had a tour of the labs of the Mechanical Engineering department. They shown how to use a wind tunnel, discussed fluid dynamics and took part in a demonstration of tensile testing. They also to look around the University of Bath campus and saw the sports centre of the university.

## TALKS



SGS Sixth learners have experienced a wide-range of different talks by experts so far this academic year.

These have included:

How generative AI (Chat GPT) will change the skills we need for Mechatronics and Design Engineering - Dr Ioannis Georgilas, University of Bath

Engineering: It's not Rocket Science, but it can be... - Dr Russell Haines, MBDA Missile Systems

Careers in Surgery - Melanie Orchard, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon, NHS

Fatal Car Offences - Carwyn Evans, University of South Wales

Careers in Clinical Psychology - Kesta Purt, Clinical Psychologist

Psychology at UWE - Darren Ellis, UWE

## CHILDREN IN NEED

Sixth Form learners raised over £130 for the BBC's Children in Need appeal with a bake sale and 'wear sports clothes to college' day.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING OVER THE NEXT TERM?

### MOCK WEEK

Mock week is the 22nd - 26th January with the majority of lessons suspended for this week. The January mocks are very important as they give a clear indication of how all of our learners are progressing and are required as evidence in the event of any disruption to the summer exams. It is therefore extremely important our learners prepare thoroughly for these mock exams.

The exams will run in the following format: if a subject is taken in the first period of the day, or is the first period on a Monday afternoon, that will be the allotted time for the mock exam.

Due to Y2 Criminology classes being off-timetable on the 15th - 19th of January due to controlled assessments, this subject will still have its morning lessons in this week.

Day	Morning	Lunch	Afternoon
Monday	09:00 - 12:10 - Matrix A lessons have their mocks	Lunch	13:10 - 16:20 - Matrix C lessons have their mocks
Tuesday	09:00 - 12:10 - Matrix F lessons have their mocks	Lunch	13:10 - 16:20 - GCSE Combined Science third paper
Wednesday	09:00 - 12:10 - Matrix D lessons have their mocks	Lunch	13:10 - 16:20 - GCSE Matrix E lessons have their mocks
Thursday	09:30 - 12:40 - Matrix B lessons have their mocks	Lunch	13:10 - 16:20 - Independent Study
Friday	09:00 - 12:10 - A Level Matrix E lessons have their mocks	Lunch	13:10 - 16:20 - Independent Study

## WHAT IS HAPPENING OVER THE NEXT TERM?

### TRIPS DAYS 7TH - 8TH MARCH

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English Language - Trip to the British Library to attend a workshop on regional accents in Britain from an expert in the field. Learners will also have the opportunity to do some sightseeing in London afterwards.

Film and Media - Learners will visit Aardman Productions in Bristol.

English Literature - Trip to The Globe theatre to see a production of Othello for A2 learners.

Biomedical and Forensic Science - Visit to NHS Blood and Transplant. Overview of the functioning of a working laboratory and the health and safety considerations. Simulation of processes using VR experience.

Law - Year 1 learners to visit the Crown Court to view some cases and speak to a judge.

Physical education trip to Planet Ice at Cribbs Causeway to have a skating session. This will link in with anatomy and skill acquisition units with the PE course.

LGBTQ+ Group - Trip to the LGBT museum in London.

History and Philosophy - Trip to Westminster Abbey to have a tour and talk and the Imperial War Museum to visit the Holocaust exhibition rooms.

Sociology - Trip to Black Country Museum

#### Trips and events currently planned outside of trips week

1st February - Behind Closed Bars day - An event for Sociology, Law and Criminology learners

26th - 28th February - Geography Field Trip

12th March - Second year Psychology learners will take part in a full day Tutor2U day conference on exam technique.

30th April - Criminology Hydra Trip. Hydra is a sophisticated piece of technology that is used to teach police officers to use specific skills and develop their understanding of the law in a variety of policing situations.

### YEAR 1 LEARNERS - PARENTS EVENING

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Due to the increase in numbers this year, we have had to split the parent's evenings so each is dedicated to a year group. This is to ensure there are enough slots for parents to be able to book in with teachers

The Year 2 parent's evening was held on December 5th, with the Year 1 parent's evening taking place on Wednesday 13th March. It will be held online with learners and parents being given a link to be able to make a booking.

Slots are eight minutes long and once you have booked a slot, you will be emailed a link in which to join the meeting.