

# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER | AUTUMN 2023

*OUR AIM: To develop articulate, resilient and ambitious students, regardless of background, with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and habits to excel in modern Britain.*

At Bournville School, in addition to a broad academic curriculum, every one of our students has the opportunity to experience a wealth of personal development activities. This newsletter gives you an insight into some key highlights from the past half term.

## Careers Education/PSHE

Careers and Ambition is the focus of PSHE lessons. We teach a spiral curriculum, with each year group returning to the Careers theme but with an age-appropriate focus eg.

- Year 7 – Self-review and learning from failure
- Year 8 – Labour Market Information
- Year 9 – Employability Skills
- Year 10 – Work Experience prep and study skills
- Year 11 – Post 16 Options & Revision skills

On 7<sup>th</sup> November our annual Careers Fair takes place and all year groups will attend. Over 20 local colleges, sixth forms and employers will be there.

## Character Education

We teach our students to STRIVE for success. This half term our work focused on developing 'Initiative'.

Students are encouraged to do the right thing, without being asked. They should be 'ready' to learn with smart uniform, the correct equipment and attitude and be prepared to challenge themselves to achieve their best. Next half term our focus is 'Tolerance'.



## Extra-curricular programme



We have a wealth of extra-curricular activities on offer to students. This includes, art, drama, music and sport. We are encouraging participation through the use of the extra-curricular loyalty card which can lead to house points and prizes. Students can participate in the Winter Showcase, an opportunity for our talented students to perform in front of the school community. We are also organising a Christmas Fayre.

Academic support is also provided for Y11 students with after-school revision sessions in most subjects in preparation for mocks.



### Student Leadership

We have elected a range of student leaders in different capacities as we value their contribution to the school community. Our **Y11 prefect team** has designed their programme of activities for the academic year. They have already participated in a National Relationship Reset Summit, young people across the country working together to make a difference in issues such as sexual harassment and consent. They are also peer mentors, supporting tutor groups in Y7. At Open Evening our **student ambassadors** impressed visitors with their professionalism as tour guides. Our **school council** is already feeding back student views to inform school development. We are also advertising for **House Captains**.



### House Events

All staff and students belong to a house; Boulton, Cadbury, Tolkien or Austin. This provides them a community to belong to. Students are encouraged to keep their positive points each day and to participate in a range of house activities to be in with a chance of winning the house cup at the end of the academic year. So far students have decorated tutor rooms in house colours. Well done to winners 8Tolkien! They have learned about the role models that their houses are named after and are selecting house charities to fundraise for. Great to see so many students apply for House Captain positions, a student leadership position which will be used to organise house events next half term.

### Educational Visits

Visits are arranged to give students memorable experiences, to engage them in the curriculum they are learning and to develop cultural awareness. Trips arranged in the first half term include theatre visits to see 'The Lion King' and 'Macbeth', Blackwell Court, Think Tank and the Black Country Museum. There is a lot more planned.



### Assemblies

Every week students have an assembly delivered by a school leader. Assembly themes in the past half term were:

- ✓ Week 1: Our school priorities
- ✓ Week 2: Quality of Education
- ✓ Week 3: Safeguarding
- ✓ Week 4: Character and Personal Development
- ✓ Week 5: Black History Month
- ✓ Week 6: Mental Health Week
- ✓ Week 7: A positive mind-set
- ✓ Week 8: Celebration and rewards



### Tutor time programme

We believe the role of the tutor is key and all students see their tutor first thing in the morning and at the end of each day.

Tutors follow a curriculum which includes:

- ✓ **Numeracy Ninjas** – an engaging mental arithmetic programme
- ✓ **Literacy Engine** – reading and comprehension about topical issues
- ✓ **Votes4Schools** – a discussion and debate session developing cultural awareness
- ✓ **Character Education** – teaching and developing character
- ✓ **House Activities** – encouraging participation and involvement in house events and competitions

### Fundamental British Values & SMSC

It is our responsibility to teach our students British Values and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) education so that our students understand expected behaviour from British citizens, preparing them for their life in modern British society. Some examples include:

- Students experienced the democratic process by electing school council leaders
- Black History Month is used as a vehicle to promote diversity and encourage respect and tolerance
- Students are taught the difference between what is right and wrong and are encouraged to be 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' but they also learn through sport where they develop skills of fair play and sportsmanship

### Key Dates

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov – Back to School
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov – Careers Fair
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov – Y11 Parents' Evening
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov – School Remembrance
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov – AVFC visit
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov – Y10 Christmas Carol visit

### Communication

We are regularly posting on social media, celebrating school achievements and keeping you aware of what is happening in school. Please follow us on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram @BournvilleSch

Our website is also a useful source of information: [Bournville School – Part of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust.](#)

