



**CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL**

Term 2 - Friday 20th December, 2024

Parent Bulletin

Updates for the parents/guardians of students at Cheltenham Bournside School



"The morning after celebrating the achievements of our students at our annual Awards Ceremony, I find myself reflecting on the words of our guest speaker, Dr Sam Guglani. His poetic speech drew together his understanding of the scientific world and his appreciation of the beauty of our existence. He talked about how, on the shortest day of the year (in just a few days' time) the tilt of the world's axis is furthest from the sun and that this teaches us of "our closeness to the light and also our distance from it" and how this "shows us we are precarious ... that we're always at the threshold of the light, that we lean into it, into the world and into other lives".

Christmas is a contradiction: it's the darkest time of year and yet it is a time of light. The literal lights are all around us, of course: the fronts of homes, the trees, the high streets. The metaphorical lights, however, are not always so easy to spot. But they're there. They were there when the sixth formers sang Christmas carols in the local care home; they'll be there when staff and students raise money for Lion Aid by running around the field in their Santa outfits; they're there when a student leaves a present on their tutor's desk or takes the time to say, "Thank you" to their coach after a sports fixture. In his lyrical manner, Dr Guglani said, "Funny how things persist in this way / one to the next connecting something done now / like the famous wings of a butterfly / might amplify through history". He was drawing on that common analogy that the beat of a butterfly's wings can be the start of a storm. The tiniest of actions can bring great consequences. Or, to put it another way: the smallest of candles can illuminate the darkness. That, perhaps, is the spirit of Christmas: lighting someone else's darkness through a quiet supportive word, a small gesture of friendship, a private act of kindness.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!" - **Mr Jefferies**

School Awards 2024 - [See all of the pictures our website](#)



Santa Fun Run brings our charity fundraising total to more than £2000!



Bournside's first Santa run took place this week raising an incredible amount of money for our Charity of the Year, Lions at Large, with the current total standing at over £2,200!

The run was planned and organised by Sixth Form student Izzy Burfitt, with the help of friends and staff.

A huge well done to all of the students (and staff!) who took part. The run took place on a beautiful evening and most participants run 10K. That's quite a few laps of the field. An amazing effort!

[Sponsor a runner here :](#)



School news and updates

Christmas digital design competition winners



Emily Leung
Year 10
Frank

🎁 1st Place: £20 Amazon Gift Voucher



Lanna Wachs
Year 10
Parks

🎁 3rd Place: £10 Amazon Gift Voucher



Achazia Wong
Year 8
Owens

🎁 2nd Place: £10 Amazon Gift Voucher

Thank you to everyone who entered the Christmas Digital Design competition. The winning design can be found at the top of this newsletter and on our Facebook header too!

"We were so impressed with the detail in all of the entries. From the ties hanging in the trees, 'our school' being highlighted and how each individual entry celebrated the school's values. They were all fantastic. Emily's entry though, caught the judging panel's attention with Olive and Lottie taking centre stage in a simple Christmas scene. The glowing bauble under Olive's paw was a lovely touch. Well done Emily!"

- Mr Waters, Deputy Headteacher

School news and updates

House Points Celebration on Ice



This week we took 100 students across Years 7-10 to Cheltenham Ice Rink for the top House Point earners of the Autumn term award. Congratulations to all the students involved and well done to Chloe Szczepanski, Sophie Bond, Tarryn Draper and Abi Walker for showing the students "how it's done!!"

West Midlands Police Museum & Magistrates' Court Criminology trip to Birmingham



Criminology students in Year 12 and Year 13 went to West Midlands Police Museum in Birmingham this week. Here they toured the museum which used to be a lock-up, had a talk from the longest serving police officer in the UK who is also highly decorated and gave some advice on careers, and took part in subject specific workshops related to forensics and punishments.

Two of the groups interested in Law also visited the Magistrates' Court and witnessed cases they found interesting, seeing the court process first hand. Students also had the opportunity to dress up in uniforms, experience the city and have a look around the German Christmas market. The museum volunteers were very knowledgeable and helpful and commented on how well the students conducted themselves. A great trip!

- Mrs Ryland, Head of Criminology

School news and updates

A Warm Welcome to a Night at the Theatre



This February, the Cheltenham Playhouse Company are inviting Bournside students and their families and friends to a special, relaxed performance of William Shakespeare's 'Much Ado about Nothing' at the Playhouse Theatre in Cheltenham.

In our adaptation of this romantic comedy a group of World War Two servicemen come to stay at a house in the country that is home to a family of newly independent women – and much drama and laughter soon unfolds!

On Tuesday the 4th February at 7.30pm we will be running a relaxed performance, with a less formal approach aimed to be inclusive for all, and ticket prices at a concessionary rate of £5 per seat.

As a former Bournside pupil, local resident, Teaching Assistant, and now cast member, I am very excited to be a part of offering this experience of live theatre to our whole school and wider community.

For further information, including access arrangements, please email the Playhouse Box Office at admin@cheltplayhouse.org or call 01242 522852. We look forward to welcoming you to a night at the theatre!

- Mr Jones, Teaching Assistant

Parent & Carer Workshops



Parent & Carer Workshops

January - February 2025

Are you worried about your child's well-being?

Parenting is rewarding yet challenging, especially when concerns arise. You are not alone.

Are you worried about your child's mental health & wellbeing?

OUR FREE PARENT & CARERS WORKSHOPS ARE FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11-18 LIVING IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Who: Tailored for Gloucestershire parents & carers of ages 11-18

When: Weekly sessions for 6 weeks, 1.5 hours each. Choose daytime or evening

Where: Gloucester or online via Teams

TIC+ run **FREE** Workshops that meet face-to-face or virtually via Teams

Discover strategies to nurture resilience, guided by trained facilitators.

Share experiences, learn and grow in a safe space.

Visit the Parent Support pages on our website www.ticplus.org.uk or scan the QR code



Who can attend? Parents & Carers of young people aged 11-18 living in Gloucestershire.

Where? Sessions are delivered remotely via Zoom or face-to-face in venues across Gloucestershire.

When? Times vary. Please visit our website for the full timetable of dates.

How do I book?

Head to www.ticplus.org.uk/parents-carers/parent-carer-support-groups/



Or you can book by scanning this QR code with your phone.

GROUPS ARE WEEKLY FOR SIX WEEKS AND LAST 1.5 HOURS - DAYTIME AND EVENING GROUPS AVAILABLE

07 JAN - 04 FEB
6:30PM - 8:00PM
TEAMS 9

13 JAN - 10 FEB
7:00PM - 8:30PM
TEAMS 10

22 JAN - 26 FEB
10:00AM - 11:30AM
GLOUCESTER

09 JAN - 06 FEB
10:00AM - 11:30AM
CHELTHENHAM

BOOK NOW!

January - February 2025

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
07 Jan - 04 Feb	Tuesday	6:30pm - 8:00pm	Teams 9
09 Jan - 06 Feb	Thursday	10:00am - 11:30am	Cheltenham
13 Jan - 10 Feb	Monday	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Teams 10
22 Jan - 26 Feb	Thursday	10:00am - 11:30am	Gloucester





Cheltenham: Working towards becoming the Cyber Capital of the UK

Gloucestershire has the largest cluster of cyber security companies outside of London, and is home to Government Communications HQ (GCHQ) and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). The demand for cyber security solutions has accelerated because of a rising number of cyber-attacks, and with that comes a growing demand for students with the right skill sets.

New £5.8 million cyber and digital centre opens at University of Gloucestershire

Officially opened in December 2024 by the director of GCHQ, FuturePark is a brand-new, £5.8 million cyber and digital centre at the University of Gloucestershire which is set to play a key role in cementing Cheltenham's position as cyber capital of the UK. The University of Gloucestershire's [Cyber Security BSc \(Hons\) - University of Gloucestershire](#) is one of a small number of universities to have their degree certified by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), a part of GCHQ.

Who wants to be a hacker?

For students interested in Cyber Security - why not attend the **NCC Group's Inspire Breakfast Lecture on Thursday 13th February 2025** on how to become a penetration expert. James Conlan, Penetration Testing Expert for the NCC, will be joining us to share his experiences of a career in cyber security and will be on hand to answer student's questions.



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“**Inspiring lives through learning**”



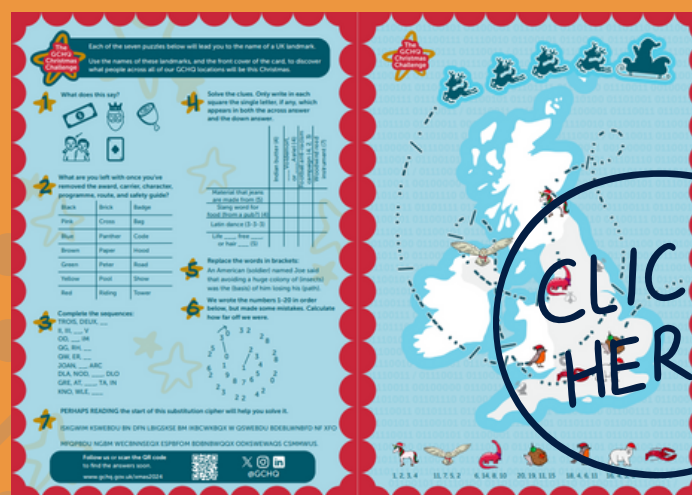
🎄 Have you got what it takes to work for GCHQ? - Why not take the GCHQ Christmas Challenge?❄️

Every year, GCHQ publishes a special festive challenge for 11 to 18-year-olds. It comprises a downloadable PDF with brainteasers and puzzles.

The puzzles are not designed to be solved alone and therefore encourage children not only to think laterally, but also as a team. Their task is to decrypt the names of UK sites in this year's puzzle, which tests their mathematical, lateral thinking, and codebreaking abilities.

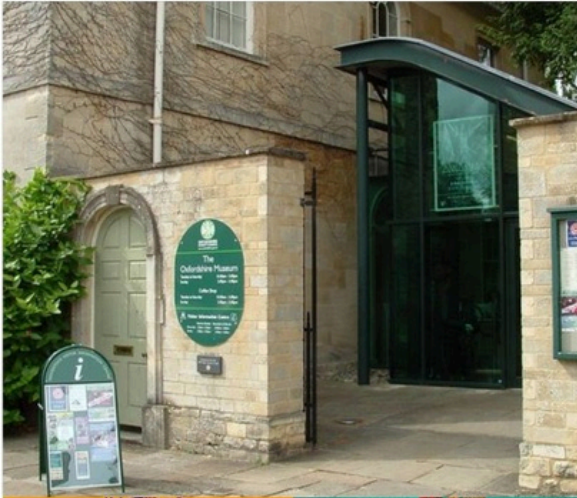
The agency says: *"At GCHQ, we believe the right mix of minds enables us to solve seemingly impossible problems."* If your child hasn't done this year's challenge - why not make it a family affair to solve it?

HAPPY CHRISTMAS from the Careers Department! 🧑‍🎄



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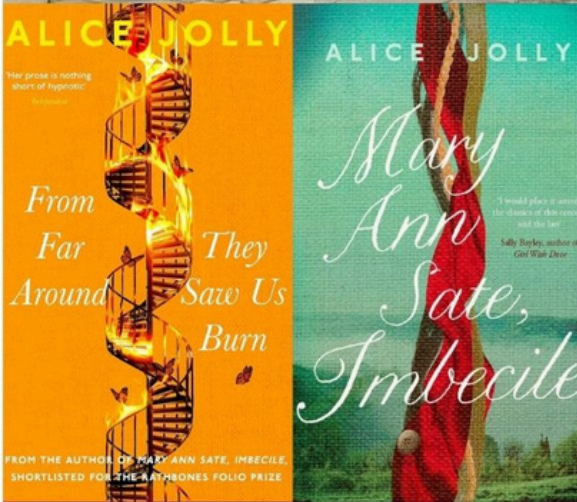
“ Inspiring lives through learning



Archaeology: A career springboard

Friday 17th January, 2025
8.00 - 8.30am, Sixth Form

Angie Bolton, Curator of Archaeology,
Oxfordshire Museums Service



Becoming an Author

Wednesday 22nd January, 2025
8.00 - 8.30am, Sixth Form

Alice Jolly
Author, playwright and university lecturer



My journey to becoming an entrepreneur and having my own business

Thursday 30th January, 2025
8.00 - 8.30am, Sixth Form

Zara Reed, Bournside student/entrepreneur

ZR Ventures Ltd



February 2025

Please see the Careers team or complete the sign up form to attend:



Job roles in Wildlife & Conservation

Tuesday 4th February, 2025
8.00 - 8.30am, Sixth Form

Jennie Denton
Learning Coordinator, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust



My Path to Parliament with Max Wilkinson - Lib Dem MP, Cheltenham

Friday 7th February, 2025
8.00 - 8.30am, Sixth Form

Max Wilkinson
Your Lib Dem MP for Cheltenham



Who wants to be a hacker? Learn about becoming a penetration expert.

Thursday 13th February, 2025
8.00 - 8.30am, Sixth Form

James Conlan
Penetration testing expert, NCC Group



The RAF: No Ordinary Job

Wednesday 26th February, 2025
8.00 - 8.30am, Sixth Form

Sgt Liam Kavanagh, RAF

