



A note from Mr Jefferies: Smartphones

This week marks the start of our **"Smartphone Free at KS1,2 and 3"** campaign. It does exactly what it says on the tin. Working with local primary schools we're encouraging families to hold off giving their children smartphones until they reach Year 10. Of course, it's not for us to tell parents what they can or cannot do with their children - that's certainly not what we're trying to do! However, we know from countless conversations with parents that they'd like to be able to hold off giving their children phones but, because "everybody's doing it" it's really difficult to say, "No". So we're hoping that by running this campaign, you'll know that if you choose to hold off giving your children a smartphone until the start of Year 10, you have our support.

For students that already have a smartphone (or a phone of any kind), the rules have not changed. Mobile phones should be switched off before coming into school and must not be taken out or used during the school day.

One thing that will be good for you to know: your son or daughter will not need a smartphone to access any of the websites or apps that are used at KS3. We've carefully audited our curriculum and have checked that all the systems we use can be accessed via a computer or through parents' phones on their child's behalf.

You'll find the first "Smartphone Free at KS1, 2 and 3" letter on page 5 of the Bulletin. If you'd like to pledge your support, please sign the **Smartphone Free Children Parent Pact** online.



Diary dates

w/c 3rd March

- National Careers Week

Tues 11th March

- Macbeth, Roses Theatre - Y11

Thurs 13th and Fri 14th March

- Year 11 mock interviews/Sixth Form application discussions

Thurs 20th March

- Year 11 PTC

w/c Mon 24th March

- KS3 Star Reading Assessment Fortnight

Thurs 27th and Fri 28th March

- National Theatre Connections

House points

Attenborough Frank

Hawking

40727



35322

38142

Owens

Parks

Rowling

35852

37922

34285

Half term ski trip - Andorra!



Half term ski trip - Andorra!



Ski Course to Grandvalira, Andorra with Interski

The recent ski course to Grandvalira in Andorra with Interski was an unforgettable experience for all involved. Over the course of the trip, students demonstrated remarkable progress in their skiing abilities, taking full advantage of the excellent snow conditions. Their resilience, endeavour, and teamwork shone through in every aspect of the course, making it a truly rewarding experience.

From the outset, the students showed a keen enthusiasm for learning and improving their skiing skills. With expert instruction from the Andorran ski instructors, they quickly gained confidence on the slopes, refining their techniques and tackling increasingly challenging runs. The superb snow conditions provided the perfect setting for skill development, allowing students to experience a variety of terrains while building their competence and control. Whether complete beginners or more advanced skiers, every student embraced the opportunity to push their limits and enhance their abilities. The progress made over the duration of the course was truly impressive.

Beyond the slopes, the students embodied the values of teamwork and perseverance. They supported each other through challenges, celebrated successes together, and approached every task with a positive and cooperative attitude. Their camaraderie and encouragement created a fantastic group dynamic, making the trip enjoyable for all. It was heartening to see students helping one another, whether adjusting ski equipment, offering words of motivation, or sharing in the excitement of conquering new runs.

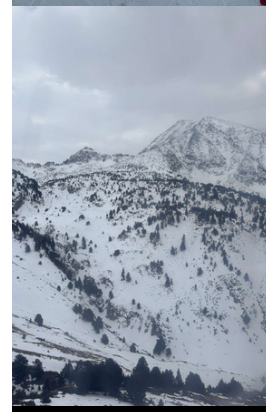
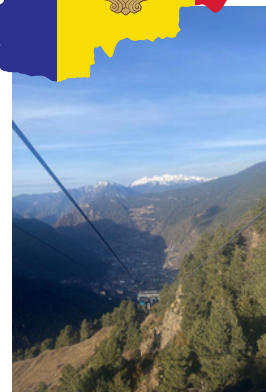
The trip also included enriching cultural and recreational activities. A visit to the capital city, Andorra la Vella, provided an opportunity to explore the local culture and take in the unique charm of this stunning mountain destination. Students enjoyed strolling through the vibrant streets, experiencing the local atmosphere, and learning about Andorra's fascinating history and way of life.

Another highlight of the trip was the pizza night, where everyone shared a delicious meal and reflecting on their achievements. The evening was filled with laughter, conversation, and a strong sense of community, reinforcing the bonds formed throughout the week. The group also headed to a ten-pin bowling alley for a friendly competition, where the students showcased their competitive spirit.

Throughout the trip, the students conducted themselves with maturity, enthusiasm, and respect. They were a credit to the school and their families, embracing every aspect of the experience with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. Their exemplary behaviour and teamwork contributed to the overall success of the trip, making it a pleasure for staff to accompany them.

The ski course to Grandvalira was an unforgettable adventure that provided students with valuable life skills, lasting memories, and a passion for skiing. Their superb progress, resilience, and teamwork were truly commendable, and we look forward to more exciting trips in the future.

- Mr Penny, Deputy Headteacher



School news and updates

In Memory of Andy Tickner, former Head of Art (13.02.1954 - 25.12.2024)

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Andy Tickner on December 25th, 2024. Andy was Head of Art at Cheltenham Bournside School from 1990 until his retirement in 2017. His passion for art and education left a lasting impact on students and colleagues alike.

Under Andy's leadership, the Art & Design department flourished, achieving 'outstanding' Ofsted results and Specialist Visual Arts status in 2002. He also led the Art & Design PGCE course at the University of Gloucestershire, shaping the careers of future teachers.

Andy led memorable annual art tours to Rome, Florence, and Barcelona, offering students a chance to experience world-renowned art and culture. His innovative work in art education saw him present at the National Gallery and the Ashmolean Museum.

We are grateful for his significant contributions to Cheltenham Bournside School and the wider community. He will be greatly missed.

International Mother Languages Day - Friday 21st February



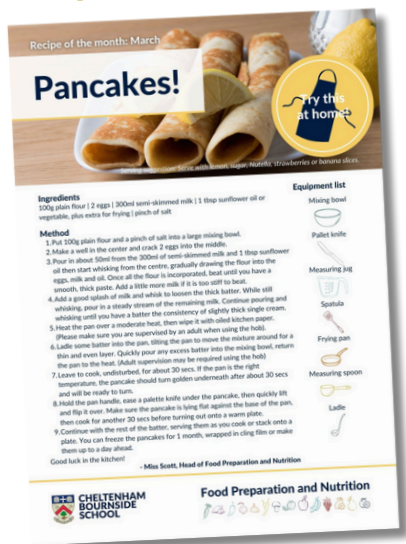
International Mother Languages Day fell during half term this year. It is a day to celebrate and promote awareness of linguistic diversity, cultural diversity, and multilingualism around the world. As our school community has over 50 different Mother Languages, we have taken time this week to celebrate our own diversity and multilingualism!

- More languages added to our amazing Mother Languages Map
- New Bilingual books in over 20 different languages are now available to borrow from the library
- Tuesday's EAL Social Club had fun sharing some of the stories in Ukrainian, Romanian and Hungarian
- Students took part in a tutor time quiz to explore how different languages are connected by similar words.

Thank you to everyone who helped us to celebrate!

- Mrs Haines, EAL Coordinator

Recipe of the Month - Pancakes for March!



The Bournside Food Preparation and Nutrition team have introduced a new recipe of the month and are challenging students to have a go at home!

With March being the first month, it had to be pancakes! Shrove Tuesday is on Tuesday 4th March. Click the image to open the recipe card. Let us know how you get on!

Miss Scott
Head of Food Preparation and Nutrition





**CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL**

SMARTPHONE FREE AT KS1, 2 & 3

February 2025

Screens and teens: it's a combination that's become increasingly tricky to navigate over the last decade. This is at the heart of a [fascinating article in the Independent](#) published last year in response to the government's drive to ban mobile phones in schools.

You may have seen the [two-part Chanel 4 documentary, Swiped](#), over the Christmas break. It follows Emma and Matt Willis supporting a research project led by the University of York in challenging a group of year 8 pupils to give up their smartphones for 21 days.

As **Designated Safeguarding Lead** for the school and as a parent of a teenager, I found the findings compelling and the future potentially bleak and troubling for our young people as they grow up. It provides powerful arguments and evidence about how smartphones, and in particular social media apps such as Snapchat and TikTok, can quickly become addictive, dangerously influence your child's thoughts and habits, expose them to harmful and adult content and reduce their emotional and social development significantly. I would strongly encourage you to watch this documentary, alongside your older children. It is not an easy watch, but an important one.

As a school, Cheltenham Bournside has, for several years, embedded a policy that bans mobiles from being heard or seen in the school day. Crucially though, the impact of mobile technology and social media on our young people is not just an issue that is a problem in school. It is about their use and engagement throughout the day, at home, at school and during their social time. It's how they use it to interact with the world they are growing up in and with people they know and those they don't.

These concerns were reinforced by a [significant study](#) that has been reported on by the BBC. Dr Victoria Goodyear, the study's lead author from the University of Birmingham, told the BBC the findings were not "against" smartphone bans in schools, but **"what we're suggesting is that those bans in isolation are not enough to tackle the negative impacts"**. She said the **"focus"** now needed to be on **"reducing how much time students spent on their phones"**, adding: **"We need to do more than just ban phones in schools."**

We strongly believe that we all have a responsibility to teach and help our children manage their online behaviours and relationships and we should all be actively promoting online safety. In our commitment to keeping our children safe, we address these issues regularly within our Education4Life and Computing curriculums.

Over the coming weeks and months, we are committed to further supporting you and your children in changing the norm on smartphone use for the better. In the meantime, we encourage you to watch the Channel 4 documentary, talk with your children and engage with what they are doing online.

Mrs Sally Lees, Assistant Head & Designated Safeguarding Lead
sal@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk



Cheltenham Bournside School is working with local primary schools and parents to encourage the delayed use of smartphones. We have created Smartphone Free at KS1, 2 and 3 to help us achieve our goal.

#NCW2025

**3RD - 8TH
MARCH 2025**

National Careers Week

3rd - 8th March 2025



National Careers Week (NCW) is a one-week celebration of careers guidance. Its aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways.

Virtual Careers Fair

The [#NCW2025 Virtual Careers Fair](https://ncw2025.co.uk/#students) will go live on day 1 of Careers Week. Visit <https://ncw2025.co.uk/#students> to explore tons of opportunities from a wide range of employers.



Unifrog Virtual Events

Don't forget all Bournside students have access to a huge range of careers and work-related learning content via Unifrog. There are **4 Careers Weeks events**, looking at the world of work, including [Hidden Careers in the Creative Industry](#) which takes place on Monday 3rd March at 4.30pm and a Parent and Caregivers session [Career Options and Supporting Decision Making](#), on Tuesday 4th March at 5.30pm.



Hidden careers in the creative industry For students

Part of Careers Week: the world of work event series >

When you think of careers in the creative industry there are many which don't spring to mind straight away such as roles in finance, law, software development, business management and marketing. Join professional experts from the BBC, Royal Ballet and Opera, and Into Film to find out about these careers and many more in the industry, to highlight roles which could become your dream career!

> Monday 3 March @ 16:30 UK time - 45 mins - [sign up](#) >



March 2025

Open to students in Year 10-13. Please see the Careers team or complete the sign up form to attend:



Promoting the Year 10 & Year 12 Summer residential

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

Outreach Team,
University of Gloucestershire



Learn how sustainability consultancy shapes the way businesses work

Friday 7th March, 2025

8.00 - 8.30am, Sixth Form

Sam Pickering,
Sustainability & Portfolio Management,
Incendium Consulting



Steam: A Key Ingredient? Discover how Spirax Sarco uses steam

Tuesday 11th March, 2025

8.00 - 8.30am, Sixth Form

Mariella, Pahi & Caitlin
Global Graduate Programme
Spirax Sarco

