



Newsletter for Families 15th March 2024

Our vision is to create an excellent school that gives every child no matter their background or beliefs, the opportunity to live happy and fulfilling lives, go to university or pursue the career of their choice.



Principal's Message

As a parent I know how difficult it can be to get children to read regularly - especially as they move into the older teenage years. As such, I want to share with you some exciting findings from recent research regarding a simple yet powerful technique that can significantly boost your child's reading skills: turning on subtitles while they watch TV or videos. It turns out that those subtitles, often seen as a distraction or annoyance, can actually serve as an effective tool to enhance literacy.


Studies conducted by various educational researchers have highlighted the positive impact of subtitles on children's reading abilities. One such study published in the *Journal of Educational Psychology* found that children who regularly watched TV shows or videos with subtitles showed notable improvements in their reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition compared to those who did not. This phenomenon occurs because subtitles provide visual reinforcement of spoken words, helping children make connections between the sounds they hear and the corresponding written words.

So, how can you harness the power of subtitles to support your child's literacy development? It's as simple as pressing a button on your remote control. The next time your child sits down to watch their favourite show or movie, consider turning on the subtitles. Encourage them to follow along with the words on the screen as they listen to the dialogue. This practice not only reinforces their reading skills but also cultivates important literacy-related abilities such as phonemic awareness and word recognition.



Incorporating subtitles into your child's screen time routine can make learning feel less like a chore and more like a fun and engaging activity. By seamlessly integrating literacy-building exercises into their entertainment choices, you can instill a love for reading and learning that will serve them well throughout their academic journey and beyond.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we will be running our Tea and Tours again in April and I have attached a Teams form for parents and carers to use to sign up.

Thursday 18th April	KS3 Years 7, 8, 9	 <p>Tea & Tour Events Years 7 - 11 April 2024</p>
Friday 19th April	KS4 Years 10, 11	

[Click here to book.](#)

British Science Week

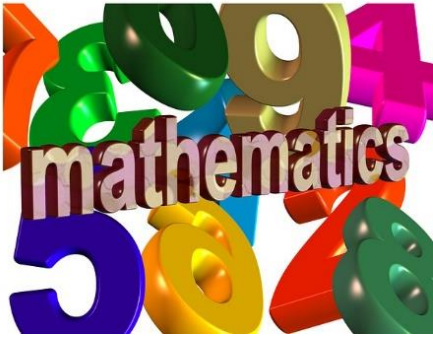
This week we have been celebrating British Science Week. Miss Fleming has led assemblies for all students on the theme of time where they were introduced to the theories exploring whether time travel is an actual possibility. In lessons this week, KS3 students have been designing their own sand and water timers as a replacement to a conventional clock and using their scientific skills to evaluate how effective these are as timekeeping devices.

As part of the celebrations, today, we welcomed 120 year 5 children from local primary schools. They were looking at the life cycle of a frog, including tadpoles from our own eco-garden, and investigating in their classes who had the fastest reaction times.





Maths KS3 & KS4 – Jess Barry, Head of Maths



We have run the Intermediate Maths Challenge this term, which was open to years 9,10 and 11. Excitingly, we had the largest number of students competing since I joined Coleridge! The follow-on Kangaroo rounds will be taking place on Thursday 21st March, these challenges are invitation only. Next term we will be running the Junior Maths Challenge, which is open to years 7 and 8, where approximately 90 students will be taking part.

In our curriculum, we have had a proportional reasoning and understanding focus this half term. Year 7 have been covering Fraction Manipulation and Addition and Subtraction, Year 8 have continued developing these skills with Fractions, Decimals and Percentages and Ratio. Year 9 have been covering Algebra skills to prepare them for Key stage 4, such as solving equations and sequences.

In Key stage 4, Year 10 foundation and higher students have been covering Ratio problems. This is a very important topic for GCSE, as these skills cover approximately 30% of the foundation paper and 25% of the higher paper.

We have been very proud of the effort and attitude to learning of year 11 in their mock exams this half term. These mocks really help to prepare students for the summer exams and help identify areas that we still need to work on. We will be using Sparx to support with this, as each student will be given a personalised fix up task-based topics identified from their mocks. This will be available on the Sparx website from Wednesday 27th March, so this can support student's revision over the Easter holidays.

[KS3 Curriculum Plan](#)

[KS4 Curriculum Plan](#)



Head of Year 9 – Jen Worth

Year 9 students have now completed and submitted their GCSE options choices, after a very informative Options evening. It has been lovely to hear all the conversations Year 9 students have been having about their future career and 6th form plans.

The next step in the process is that each student will have a one-to-one meeting with a senior member of staff next week to check that their choices are the best options for their future plans. Students will then learn which options they will be studying during next half term.



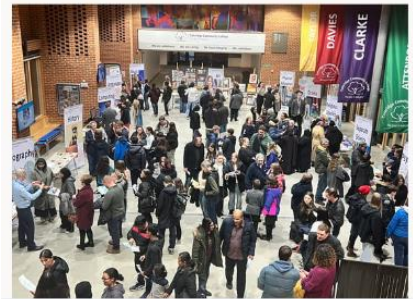
A group of Year 9 rowers have now followed in the Year 10s footsteps and ventured onto the water for their first rowing session in boats. This is after they have been working hard on their technique and stamina on the ergs in rowing club. Later this year they will also be participating in a water safety course at the Leys School which will mean they are able to compete in races and be even more involved. We are incredibly proud of these students who are involved in the rowing project.

In Music Year 9 students are preparing for the grand finale to the year – the Year 9 Bands module. In this unit, students all form bands and then select their song to perform. They will learn new instruments, find their music, work together as a group to overcome the challenges of forming a band. This is all done independently with very minimal input from Miss Lewis. Bands can request her feedback and support when they need, but are encouraged to problem solve themselves where possible. The end point for this project is the opportunity to perform at the Cambridge Junction main stage venue. Students will have the full experience of being a pop star and will have a full technical rehearsal with lighting and sound technicians. They can then perform in front of parents, family, friends and also a music scout! This is always a great highlight at the end of the year so keep your eyes and ears open for tickets next term.

Year 9 Options Evening

GCSE

Options!





Dates for your Diary:	
Wednesday 20 th March	VOX Open Rehearsals
Saturday 23 rd – Friday 29 th March	Italy Ski Trip
29 th March – 12 th April	Easter Holiday
Tues 2 nd April – Fri 5 th April	Easter School – Year 11 Only

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An archive of our weekly bulletins can be found on our website.