

Somerset School Safeguarding

2024/2025

ISSUE TWO



Welcome to October



Hello all,

Welcome to the October edition of the new school newsletter. As I'm sure you will see in this edition, September has been a busy month here at Somerset School. From our first trips of the year going out to the start of year 11 studies, the students body have been very busy indeed. We'd like to thank you for all your support and assistance, without it these activities would just not be possible. Staff are working hard to plan and develop more wonderful trips and activities over the coming

months. October and November will see the launch of both our Children In Need and Remembrance Day celebrations, and we look forward to sending information about both home in the coming weeks.

Another area of development that we are actively looking to progress with is that of student voice. Over the coming months we will be finding new and interesting ways to gain the opinions and ideas of our student body. The first measure related to this area can be seen in this very newsletter, with the launch of a series of student interviews. Other activities currently ongoing by the students are an investigation into our

common room activities and student led proposals to develop these further as well as a student group planning potential Christmas activities and celebrations (Something that feels very early to be writing as I look out of my window at a warm and sunny October's day!)

Callum Murphy

Deputy Head

Dates of Interest

11TH OCT

CLIFTON SUSPENSION BRIDGE
HISTORY TRIP

16TH OCT

BRISTOL ART &
PHOTOGRAPHY TRIP

23RD OCT

TAUNTON MUSEUM
ENRICHMENT TRIP

24TH & 25TH OCT

INSET DAYS

Termly School Lunch Menu

SOMERSET SCHOOL - LUNCH MENU - AUTUMN TERM 1



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	SAUSAGES, MASH & BEANS.	JACKET POTATOES WITH BEANS & CHEESE.	SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE.	CHICKEN CURRY & RICE.	WRAPS
WEEK 2	SAUSAGE ROLL, WEDGES & BEANS.	PASTA BAKE.	STEAK PIE, ROAST POTATOES, VEG & GRAVY.	HUNTERS CHICKEN & RICE.	WRAPS



Somerset School Safeguarding Team

At Somerset School we are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our learners. Every child has the right to feel safe no matter who they are or what their circumstances.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. If you are concerned about risk of harm to yourself, a young person or vulnerable adult, please contact the safeguarding team within school.

At Somerset School the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is **Paula Wilkins** and the Deputy DSL Team is **David Fielding, Callum Murphy & Kathrine Stapleton**



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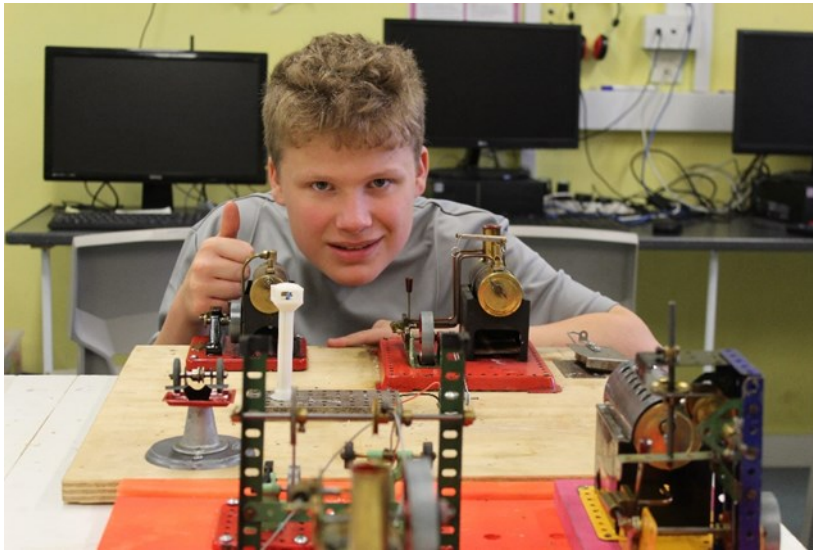
Somerset School Safeguarding Team

The Student Interviews

Our students have requested that short staff interviews are included within the newsletter. These interviews will only contain questions that the students have created and have specially selected for the staff member being interviewed.

	Henrietta 	Jodie 
What do you do at school?	Art Teacher	Learning Support Assistant
What is your favourite animal?	As a child I loved my guinea pigs and now I think I am in awe of the swallow and its 3000 mile annual migration, or the orangutan	If you can count a unicorn as an animal, if not a sloth!
What's the furthest you've ever been away from home?	Central America – Belize and Mexico	Antalya in Turkey
What's a random fact you know?	People painted animals on the walls of caves 40,000 years ago	Octopus have a brain in each tentacle allowing them to move and think independently as well as a central brain
Why do you work here?	Because I think creativity is vitally important and love my subject Art and Design, and seeing young people expand their artistic selves	I work at school because I didn't have a great educational experience and I want to be a part of making their school day great and help them thrive...and the kids are pretty cool!

School Steam Project



AF with his restored steam engines

Over the past year, AF and I have engaged in dedicated lessons focused on the repair and renovation of model steam engines. We typically acquire these engines online, often in less than optimal condition, with ages ranging from 50 to 80 years old per engine. After restoring each engine, we perform safety tests using compressed air before operating them on solid fuel. Both AF and I fabricate the necessary accessories using retro Meccano or by designing them in Tinkercad. Followed by 3D printing on the school 3D printer. A future project, inspired by AF, will involve operating a record turntable powered by steam, utilizing gears to achieve the correct speed. Meanwhile, we are also working on a vintage drilling machine as we gather the necessary components for the steam project. These endeavours not only provide valuable life skills such as soldering but also deepen AF's understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).



AF with the drilling machine.

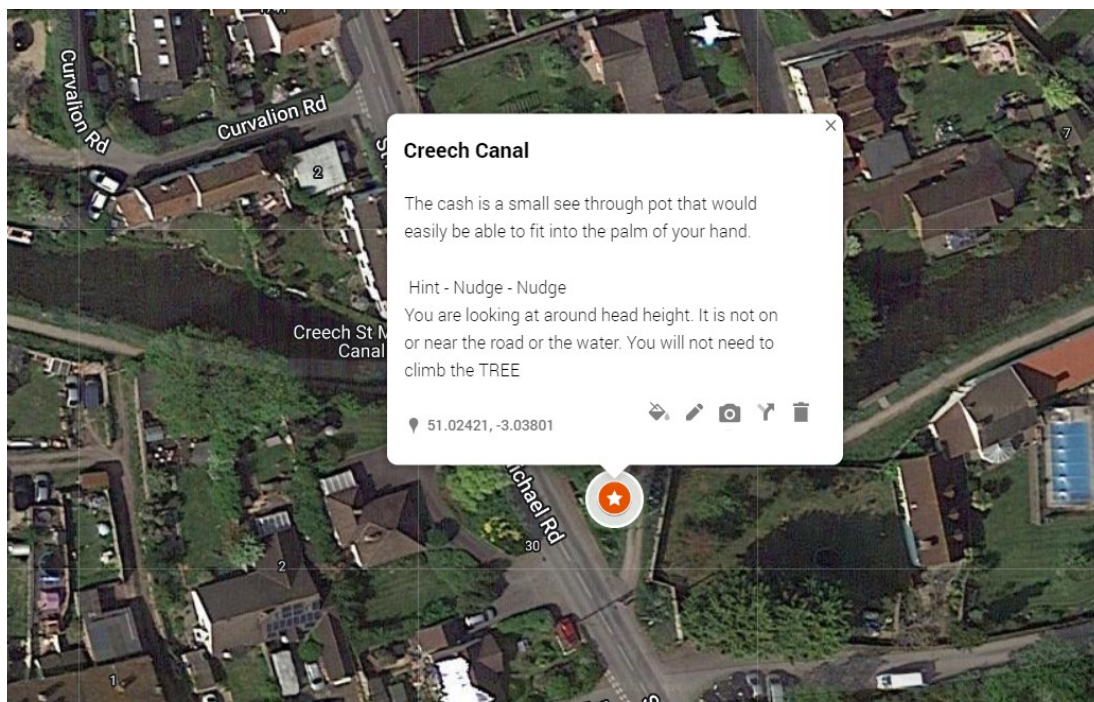
Archery




Over the course of the half term we have been able to welcome Dave Oxenham from Leap-of-Faith to school every other Friday. Dave has been helping develop additional outdoor education experiences for our students in partnership with our existing outdoor education department. Dave was recently able to run a morning of Archery sessions for students in the school sports hall. During these sessions students were taught safety sequences and key skills required within archery. Students were also taught the official scoring system and were then challenged to a competitive shoot off against both Dave and other staff members. The students involved posted some amazing scores and also showcased an exceptional level of patience and understanding throughout the entire session. Dave is looking forward to creating further sessions for the students over the coming weeks.


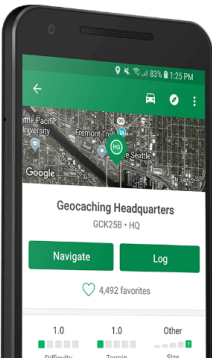


Geocaching






CM has recently been researching and creating a new geocaching course both within the school grounds and out in the wider community. CM has been researching geocaching as part of his Outdoor Activities modules of the Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Sports Studies course. After initially discovering that geocaching is “a bit like a treasure hunt but nearer really”, CM has been out in our local community using the Geocaching® app to discover previously created locations. CM discovered that our local community has a limited number of locations with a limited level of challenge. He has subsequently been able to design and position a series of new locations for our students to discover over the next few months. The task has enabled CM to develop his understanding of ways to promote activity in people via small challenges and will help him in his future course work in the subject. The Geocaching app can be found on both Apple and Google app stores and offers a good level of free locations with its free and basic sign up. Geocaching can be used as a great activity to help encourage inquisitive students become more active.

 **GEOCACHING** [Play](#) [Community](#) [Shop](#) [Sign up](#)



Get the official app for geocaching.



Coates Willow Centre Trip



The trip to Coates English Willow Centre was much enjoyed by three students on Thursday 19th September, accompanied by Jodie and Henrietta. This local business grows willow and uses this natural material to create baskets, caskets and it has a rich history which now includes selling charcoal around the world. We saw the growing, drying, stripping and making with the willow, the museum and an explanatory film. We were shown around by Nicola who was a fantastic guide and showed the processes and creation of different products, people and machines involved. The students have written a thank you card to Nicola

This trip was especially organised to see how to make a Guardsman's Bearskin for MB and he is making great progress in its construction.



Okehampton Castle Visit

On Tuesday 8th October, ASF, BP, C, LP and SC travelled with Mel and Phil to visit Okehampton Castle.

To start with, we explored the castle grounds using the audio tour as our guide. We started by the entrance and finished up on the top of the motte at the keep. The pupils were challenged to find the Norman toilet and LP was the first to spot it, which simply consisted of a chute that guided people's waste outside of the building – yuck!

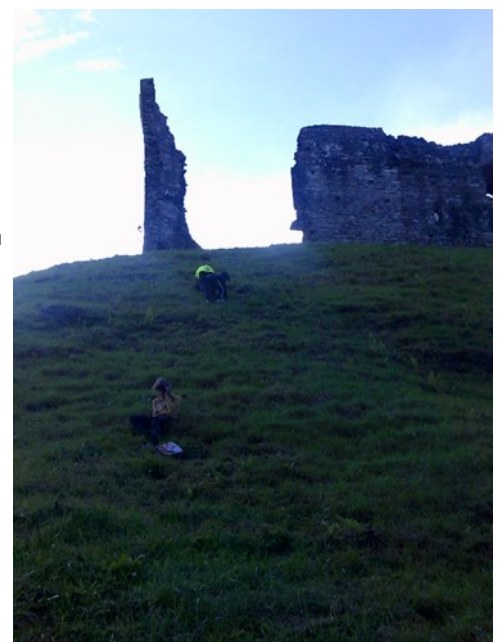


After getting a good idea of the grounds, SC and C thought it might be fun to find out what it would have been like to try and attack the keep by climbing the motte – the huge earth mound that the keep sat atop. The picture may make it look easy, but don't be fooled for it is much steeper than it appears in real life.

After all that strenuous climbing, it was time for something a little more sedate, so we played some games of hide and seek before stopping for lunch. Unfortunately, as it decided to pour down at this point, we had to eat lunch in the car. However, all was not lost as the rain stopped after we had finished eating and we managed to get in a couple more games of hide and seek before heading back to school.

ASF and Mel even managed to squeeze in a 1-mile walk around the castle via the woodland walk, too.

Although we'd picked the wettest day of the year for our trip, we all had a great time and the pupils were asking before we had even left the car park, "When can we come again?"



Black History Month

Black History Month UK is a celebration of black history that takes place 1-31 October every year. This year (2024), the 36th UK Black History Month will be celebrated. In school each class will be joining in with Black History Month in different ways. To celebrate Black History month we are celebrating different individuals where possible linked to the class topic of what they are learning about. The children have been challenged to research them and present what they find. Here are a few examples of work produced so far.

Black History Month

Barack Obama

1st black President of the USA



Background

- Barack was born on August 4, 1961.
- Obama was born in Honolulu
- His mother was from Hawaii and father from Kenya
- He graduated from Columbia University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science
- He worked as a community organizer in Chicago
- 1988, Obama enrolled in Harvard Law School, where he became the first black president of the Harvard Law

How he became President

Before winning the presidency, Obama represented Illinois in the U.S. Senate (2005–08). He was the third African American to be elected to that body since the end of Reconstruction (1877).

On August 27 Obama became the first African American to be nominated for the presidency by either major party and went on to challenge Republican Sen. John McCain for the country's highest office.

Why was this so important?

He became the first African American President of the USA in 2008

Other achievements

He was awarded the Nobel peace prize

In 2009 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."



Has won 105 races and is still performing and hoping to improve this more

Wears the LGBTQ+ flag on his helmet to raise awareness and show support to others

Only black driver in the history of F1

Born in Stevenage near London

Biggest inspiration is Nelson Mandela

Lewis Hamilton has been formally recognised with a knighthood in the 2020 New Year's Honours for his outstanding achievements and contribution to motorsports.

Gave £20 million to charity to help children get better at engineering

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LEWIS HAMILTON



Black History Month

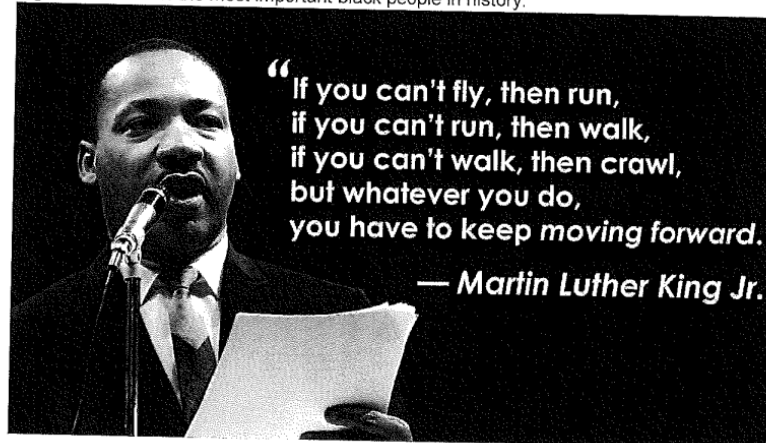
Martin Luther King

Was a very influential person involved in rights for black people he gave many speeches all across the USA and was vital in securing rights for black people across the globe some of his most famous quotes are

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree"

"Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us"

However, all along the way he was under constant threat of assassination with multiple attempts to blow him up and someone even firing a shotgun into his lounge he is widely regarded as one of the most important black people in history.



Celebrating Black history month.

We are now looking at two famous groups of black people, who did significant things for the world.

The Tuskegee airmen up and famous boxer Mohammad Ali bottom.



The Tuskegee airmen up and famous boxer Mohammad Ali bottom.

During world war 2 the Tuskegee airmen were the first black airmen to fight in world war 2. Almost 1,000 Black men were trained at the Tuskegee army air field.

What significant things did the Tuskegee airmen do for the world?

They were the most effective Bomber assist unit out of the entire U.S air force of ww2. Hence, they were recorded for the least number of lost pilots, compared to the rest of the U.S air force.



Ali.

Mohammad Ali was a famous Boxer. Mohammad hand-delivering food and medical supplies to hospitals, street children and orphanages in Africa and Asia.



Yr 11 - College and Next Steps

The time has come to consider the next steps for your child. This is something that will be discussed further during your next annual reviews, this will allow the O-25 team to send out consultations to the correct placements for your child. Below is a list of open days for colleges in our area. It would be highly profitable if you take your son or daughter to any open days so they can start thinking about what they would like to go on and do after leaving Cambian Somerset School.

As a school we will not be doing college visit until the local authority have agreed to consult with the provision you have requested. If you have any question please contact P.

Bridgewater & Taunton College	Cannington Campus Sat 9th November 10am-1pm
	Bridgwater Campus Weds 15th January 6pm-8pm
	Taunton Campus Thurs 16th January 6pm-8pm
Strode College	Sat 19th October 6pm—7pm
City of Bristol College	Thurs 21st November 5.30pm-7.30pm
Exeter College	Weds 20th November 4pm-8pm
Bicton College	Sat 18th January 10am-12pm
Petroc College	Tiverton Campus Tues 12th Nov 5pm—7pm
	Devon Weds 6th Nov 5pm—8pm



UK Health
Security
Agency



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Term Dates 2024/25

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AUTUMN TERM

4th September - 23rd October

Half Term - 24th October - 3rd November

4th November - 20th December

Christmas Holidays - 21st December - 5th January

SPRING TERM

6th January - 13th February

Half Term - 14th February - 23rd February

24th February - 3rd April

Easter Break - 4th April - 21st April

SUMMER TERM

22nd April - 23rd May

Half Term - 24th May - 1st June

2nd June - 23th July

School Year Ends - 23rd July

Padlet - Further Support

We have recently created a web based library of further support links solely for the use of parents and carer's. We will endeavour to update this as and when we discover new information.

This can be found on the padlet platform - which can be accessed via the QR code here or via the following link



<https://padlet.com/somersetschool/additional-support-home-e5gfk5hpbgciwrx>

