



SBL Academy On the Radar



sblacademy.org.uk | t: 0117 456 5900

October 2023



Happy new school year! I am very grateful to staff, students and the wider community for giving me such a warm welcome as the new Headteacher of SBL. In my

inaugural assemblies with each year group at the start of term, I outlined the inspirational life of Sir Bernard Lovell himself. As you may know, he was born in 1913 and lived in a cottage on the corner of West Street and Court Road, just a stone's throw from the school site in Oldland Common. He is well known for designing and constructing the world's largest telescope which enabled many discoveries to be made about our solar system. In 1972, Sir Bernard Lovell returned to his childhood community to open our school which was named in his honour. My assemblies reflected on the qualities of Sir Bernard Lovell the person and how in many ways his life demonstrates the values we want to instil in our students including ambition, determination, curiosity and humility.

I am pleased to say that I have seen these characteristics being demonstrated by many of our students in my interactions with them in the corridors and during my learning walks when I have been dropping into

lessons. To celebrate the heritage of our wonderful school, a stunning mural of Sir Bernard Lovell has been painted just inside the student entrance by Mr Pickering from the Art Department (see below).

We are excited to have launched our 2030 vision project in a twilight after-school session with staff and in a meeting with the student leadership team. SBL Academy is a very good school and as the new Headteacher I want to build on its strengths to provide a truly exceptional education for the young people in our community. The aim of the 2030 vision project is to develop a collaborative vision for what an exceptional education will look like at SBL in the future, together with a long term strategic plan of how we will achieve this vision. Be reassured, this won't involve radical change because there is so much exemplary practice already in place across the school but a sustainable year-on-year incremental improvement.

We are very keen to involve the parent/carer body in helping to inform and shape our 2030 vision. Whether your child has just started in Year 7 or has been at the school or sixth form for a number of years, we are interested in your thoughts and ideas of how SBL can continue on its journey from good to exceptional. Therefore, we would like to warmly invite you to one of our 2030 vision and values parent/carer evenings which will take place in school on Wednesday 15



A message from the new Year 11 student leadership team

Having been elected as Year 11 student principals at the end of last year, we are really looking forward to playing our part in further improving SBL Academy this year. We have already started work meeting as a team with Mr Jones and we are looking forward to speaking to families at the upcoming open evening.

November from 6-7pm (for parents/carers with children in Year 7-9) and on Thursday 16 November from 6-7pm (for parents/carers with children in Year 10-13). We will write to you closer to the time with further details.

We are currently in a busy period with Open Mornings running from 28 September to 9 October and our Open Evening on 5 October for prospective pupils and their parents/carers. Also coming up is our Post-16 Open Evening on Thursday 19 October. We would like to thank the hundreds of willing students who have volunteered to help make these events a success and to parents/carers too for facilitating their involvement.

Robin Bassford, Headteacher



Troy is aiming high!



Year 13 student, Troy Thornell, is a member of the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association (CPSA). Troy has been shooting with his Dad since around 8 years old and in the last few years, gained a sponsor and began competing.

In this short time, Troy has made huge accomplishments in his sport. Some of Troy's achievements include:

- Junior Preliminary Champion at the Worlds for class and category
- 2nd at Beretta World Championships in juniors
- Three medals at the Pro One Challenge (picture attached): One Gold, two Silver
- Junior 2023 County Champion for Gloucestershire in ESP, Sportrap and ABT

- Wadwick Country Stores Junior Champion 2023

Troy trains regularly in Swindon and has a couple of upcoming competitions. Soon, he is trialling a new competition which has been designed to be more exciting for spectators.

Troy dreams of becoming an Olympic shooter and was recently approached to try some of the Olympic disciplines.

We are suitably impressed and very proud of Troy's achievements to date and wish him continuing success.

Mrs Edwards Post-16

Mathematical marvels: Year 11 and 13 students excel!

The Maths Department would like to congratulate this year's Year 11 and 13 students for their amazing outcomes:

- Over 60% of students gained a Grade 5 or above
- A quarter of students gained a Grade 7 or above
- A record-breaking *thirteen* students achieved the top grade 9

We know that we help our students to achieve this not by "teaching to the test" but by providing a challenging curriculum that both deepens and accelerates students maths learning, and brings together different areas of maths so that students' confidence in problem-solving becomes exceptional.

An example of some work linking together two areas of maths is shown above, where area and perimeter knowledge is linked with algebraic manipulation, so that students are practising two skills simultaneously, and also learning how maths is not a series of unconnected skills.

By Mr Rossiter Head of Maths

Challenge: Find an expression for the area & perimeter, in simplest form

Nasal Flu Immunisations

Children in Reception to Year 11 are being offered flu vaccinations this winter to help protect them from flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

Vaccinating your child will also help protect you, your family and friends. The flu vaccine is administered using a nasal spray, this vaccine is free and painless, please ensure you complete your [consent form](#).

If your child is unable to receive the nasal flu vaccine, community catch-up clinics will be available, please contact sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net or 0300 1245515 for more information.



Olivia Lee

Programme Manager – School Aged Immunisations

Tel: 0300 124 5515

www.sirona-cic.org.uk/

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

Key dates

- 2nd – 3rd October: Year 6 open mornings
- Thursday 5th October: Year 6 open evening
- Monday 16th October: Year 9 and Year 11 Photos. Full uniform as usual
- Thursday 19th October: Post-16 open evening
- Friday 20th October: last day of term 1
- Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December: Nasal flu for Years 7 – 11 inclusive.

School admissions

Is your child due to start primary or secondary school in September 2024?

The application process for places is now open. Read South Gloucestershire Council's webpages and admission guides.

- Secondary school application deadline: 31 October 2023.
- Primary, infant and junior application deadline: 15 January 2024.

Job opportunity

Clerk to our Local Governance Committee

For information about this role please see the [job advert](#) (Pdf).

If you would like to apply please email Susie Pannell spannell@futuralearning.co.uk in the first instance.

The closing date is 11.59pm on Sunday, 8th October, 2023.

Unlocking hope: join us in making a difference

Home-Start Bristol is a local charity that offers a lifeline to families in need. We are heavily dependent on recruiting volunteers to support families and are about to start a new training course.

Home-Start Bristol is a local charity that offers a lifeline to families in need. Our volunteers are trained and supervised, and for many it can be a step into a new career.

Families say their volunteer helped them to keep going in tough times.

Our volunteers gain training, confidence and experience allowing them to go on to further education or employment.

Personally, as a volunteer, I find it most rewarding to watch parents better able to engage with their children and enjoy being together.

Thank you for your time and support!

Maroussia
Volunteer rep



Home-Start Bristol
11 The Greenway Centre
Doncaster Road
Bristol BS10 5PY

Tel: 0117 9501170

Web www.homestartbristol.org.uk

The School Health Nursing Team

Your School Health Nursing Team is made up of School Health Nurses and School Health Assistants who are experienced in working with children and young people and providing young people-friendly services.

There is a named School Health Nursing Team for all schools with an allocated link School Health Nurse.



Emotional Health



Healthy Eating



Healthy Relationships



Dental Health



Drugs, Alcohol & Smoking



Physical Health Concerns



LGBTQA



Sleep



Continence

This service is provided by Sirona care & health as part of the Community Children's Health Partnership.



Community Children's Health Partnership

Let us know what you think and get involved

T: 0300 124 5300*
E: sirona.hello@nhs.net
W: www.oohp.nhs.uk

*Calls from a landline are charged up to 10p per minute; calls from mobiles vary, please check with your network provider. This is not a premium-rate number.

Registered Office:
Sirona care & health CIC,
2nd Floor, Kingswood Civic Centre,
High Street, Kingswood,
Bristol BS15 9TR
Company Number: 07585003



School Health Nursing Service

Information for parents and carers of children starting secondary school in Bristol and South Gloucestershire



How we can help

Healthy children have a better chance of learning. We work with children, young people and their families to:

- Provide health information, both in groups and individually
- Identify health promotion/health improvement initiatives, together with your child's school

We also liaise with and can make referrals to other professionals. We will discuss their involvement with you and make a referral, if appropriate, with your consent.

Starting secondary school

Transition to secondary school can be an emotional and challenging period. Students and parents can gain support and advice from the School Health Nursing Team as well as from the school itself.

In most secondary schools the School Health Nurse runs a confidential drop-in. These sessions can be useful for seeking advice and support around many issues including emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships and healthy lifestyles.

Healthcare needs in school

Your School Health Nurse works with school staff and other professionals to ensure young people's health needs can be supported when they are in school. This enables all young people to access education and achieve their full potential.

As your child becomes a young adult they will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and lifestyle.

Privacy and confidentiality

All information received by the School Health Nursing team is treated as confidential, unless there are safeguarding concerns. Any information shared with relevant agencies will always be done in the best interests of your child.

Keeping your personal information safe and secure is important to us. For more detailed information on how we protect your information you can read more on our website: www.oohp.nhs.uk/privacy-policy

Other useful information

Immunisations

Your GP will have arranged for your child to have a booster immunisation at around 4 years of age.

Further information about immunisations will be offered throughout your child's school life and are subject to change according to Department of Health recommendations. Some of these will be offered in school.

For more information, please visit www.nhs.uk/vaccinations.

Dentist/opticians

It is advisable that your child attends the family dentist and optician at regular intervals. These services will see your child free of charge.



For up-to-date contact details, resources and more, speak to your child's school or visit the CCHP website:

www.oohp.nhs.uk/school-health-nursing