



SBL Academy On the Radar



sblacademy.org.uk | t: 0117 456 5900

July 2023

Welcome

It is a great privilege to have been appointed as the new Headteacher of Sir Bernard Lovell Academy and I am very much looking forward to starting in September. I bring to the job over 15 years of school leadership experience, including 5 years in my current role as Senior Deputy Head at Hardenhuish School, a large 11-18 high performing academy in Chippenham.

Since my appointment in April, I have been working closely with Mr Anderson and other members of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure a smooth handover so that SBL continues to go from strength to strength. As you are probably aware, Mr Anderson has secured a promotion to the role of Director of Secondary Education in the Futura Learning Partnership and so will continue to work closely with me as the new Headteacher, as well as the other five Futura secondary schools. I would like to honour the great work that Mr Anderson has done during his 6 years as Principal of SBL. I like the well known mantra of the New Zealand All Blacks rugby team of 'leaving the jersey in a better place'. This captures the All Blacks commitment to enhancing the reputation of the team for as long as they wear the shirt and leaving it in a better place for the players that follow them. This is certainly the case for Mr Anderson who leaves the school in a very good place having achieved his vision to make SBL the school of choice for the local community. Our bumper intake for 2023/24 is evidence of this with about 260 new Year 7 students joining us in September.

Talking of which, it was a joy to welcome our new Year 7 students during their induction day on Tuesday 4 July. They enjoyed a busy programme of taster lessons, time with their tutor and an assembly with me at the end of the day. It was also a pleasure to meet the parents and carers of the new Year 7 pupils at the induction evening and start to build the all important three-way partnership between home, school

and student. Earlier in the month, I very much enjoyed greeting our large intake of new Year 12 students on their induction days. One of the themes of their programme which I spoke about in my talk to the students was about seizing opportunities which provide experiences for personal growth and development. Our Sixth Form at SBL is committed to providing a broad range of opportunities for our young people which open doors for their future success.

During my other visits to SBL over the last term, I have been struck by the positive, purposeful and orderly environment in the school. I am very grateful for the warm welcome that existing students have given me in the corridors and the courtesy they have shown through little things, such as holding doors open for others. I know that come September our current students will help to demonstrate to those new to the school the high standards we expect at SBL. We will also be calling on our students to help showcase our wonderful school at the open evening for Year 6 pupils and parents/carers on 5 October 2023 as well as during the open mornings which run from 27 September to 11 October.

In the meantime and as Term 6 draws to a close, I would like to wish everyone in the SBL community a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Best regards,

Dr Robin Bassford,
Headteacher Designate



Note from the editor:

As we come to end of another school year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the contributors we have had this year. The On The Radar newsletter continues to go from strength to strength showcasing all of the fantastic things that go on in our great school every day. In this final edition of the year, I am particularly pleased to include a lead article from our incoming Headteacher Dr Bassford. Wishing everyone in our school community a safe and restful summer break when it comes.

Key dates

Friday 21 July: Last day of Term 6, Students Finish at 1.25pm
Friday 1 September: Inset Day
Monday 4 September: Inset Day
Tuesday 5 September: Inset Day
Wednesday 6 September: Start of term 1



SBL Ski Trip, Cimone 2023

During the February half term 49 very excited students and 7 equally excited staff boarded the coach for the 2023 ski trip to Cimone, Italy. This was a much anticipated trip, as it was the first ski trip post the pandemic. The journey out to Italy was excellent with a pleasant channel crossing and minimal stops allowed us to reach the hotel in plenty of time to settle into our rooms and have our evening meal. ...Continued

SBL Ski Trip Cimone 2023,
continued from page 1

The students adapted well to being woken up nice and early each morning, and the coach journey to the slopes gave them the opportunity to chat about the day ahead and where they may end up going on the mountain.

The snow conditions were excellent, considering the issues around Europe with snow fall in the weeks leading up to the trip. We had blue skies every day and the cold was certainly not an issue for many of us. The students made fantastic progress each day and by the end of the week almost all of the students made it to the top of the mountain. The students received superb feedback from the instructors and they should be very proud of how they participated in their lessons. The led instructor commented, "I love teaching your students, they listen to what I am asking them to do and they even ask my how they can improve further, I wish all my groups were like this." Well done everyone.

It was a wonderful week for everyone involved, getting to know the students outside of school was a pleasure and something that the staff team enjoyed. We were able to share all the highs and lows together as a group. The students particularly enjoyed capturing evidence of teachers falling over (Mr Tilley, a lot), tobogganing into safety netting (Mr Forsyth) and even falling off a chair lift! (Miss Harriott).

I would like to thank all of the students for their excellent behaviour and attitude on the trip, as well as the staff for giving up their half term and all of the support they gave to

the students during the week.

Mr Shiells, Curriculum Team Leader for PE



All Aboard Water Sports

Some of our Year 9 students took part in a fantastic opportunity to join a project that is designed to develop qualities such as self-esteem, resilience, and the confidence to work out of their comfort zone.

The All-Aboard Water Sports programme is run by the charity All-Aboard, who are based in Bristol's Floating Harbour. The students learnt to row, sail and kayak over a six-week period, culminating in a regatta.

I was most impressed with how their teamwork and communication skills developed over the 7 weeks. This was

particularly evident when they took part in the races during the regatta. With a few changes to the crew members in each vessel, both our rowing and katanoe teams won their events, which was an amazing achievement.

Well done to all of those who took part and I really hope you can use this new found confidence to make a real difference moving into Year 10.

Mr Shiells , Curriculum Team Leader for PE



SBL Academy Football 22-23' Review



Boys:

Year 7:

- * South Gloucestershire District U12 Semi Finalists

Year 8:

- * Reached Last 32 Teams in U13 ESFA National Cup Competition
- * South Gloucestershire District U13 Champions
- * City of Bristol U13 Champions
- * Gloucestershire County U13's Runners Up

Year 8 & 9:

- * First experience playing in Last 64 of ESFA U14 ELITE National Cup Competition
- * Successful talent identification evening vs. Forest Green Rovers Academy U14s
- * Trial evening with Forest Green Rovers Academy Scout

Year 9:

- * Reached Round 3 in U14 ESFA National Cup Competition
- * Reached Round 2 in U14 'B' ESFA National Cup Competition
- * South Gloucestershire District Quarter Finalists

Year 10:

- * South Gloucestershire District Pool U15s 3rd place finishers

Year 11:

- * Reached Round 2 in U16 ESFA National Cup Competition
- * South Gloucestershire District U16 Semi Finalists

Girls:

Year 7 & 8:

- * Reached Last 32 Teams in U13's 'New Teams' ESFA National Cup Competition

Year 9 & 10:

- * Reached Quarter Finals of U15's 'New Teams' ESFA National Cup Competition

Year 7/8/9:

- * Gloucestershire Schools U14's 7 A-Side 3rd Place Finishers
- * Gloucestershire Schools U14's Semi Finalists.

Notable Points from the season:

- * School partnership formed with Forest Green Rovers Academy
- * A number of players selected for trial at EFL Academies, with contracts offered
- * Biggest Team entry EVER next season for both ESFA & GSFA competitions.

A HUGE thank you to staff who have helped grow our Football programme this year - a special mention to Mr Brooke and Miss Mills for their time and effort across the season but also Mr Beeson, Mr Downer, Mr Tiley and Mr Perry.

Thank you to all parents who have helped and supported us throughout the course of the season both Home and Away - we couldn't do what we do without you!

A fantastic year for the Academy. BRING ON SEPTEMBER!

Mr Laverick, Head of Football

MediSoc @ SBL 2022-23

Well done to all those who were a part of MediSoc this year!

We had 15 MediSoc sessions during this first year of MediSoc@SBL, of which 5 sessions were with invited guests that included Dr Sophie Kenyon (Doctor of Obstetrics and gynaecology), Junaid Hameed (5th year medical student at Oxford University), Lavinia (Head Nurse), Lisa Pullen (Palliative Nurse) and one face to face session with Sally Darby (Dietician at BRI). The other sessions covered topics including medical ethics and getting into Med School.

The past few sessions of MediSoc were run exclusively for KS3 students as the KS4 were busy with their exams. We held the 'Step into NHS competition session' where the students researched the various opportunities on the 'STEP into NHS website' and took part in an online quiz on what job suits them best. They are currently working on their competition entry — a poster advertising an NHS job they have researched and are interested in.

MediSoc also had its first invited guest/visitor, Sally Darby, who is working as a dietician in NHS. This session was very interactive with students asking lots of questions on how the diet of patients with neurological disability is managed by the NHS.

The students who are regular attendees for Medsoc and have contributed to these recent sessions are:

- Katie, Year 9
- Bethany Year 9
- Alistair Year 8
- Pru Year 8
- Lilly Year 8
- Benjamin Year 8

MediSoc also had the following attendees from KS4:

- Isabella, Year 10
- Isabella, Year 10
- Lucy, Year 11
- Amelie, Year 10
- Sebastian, Year 10
- Bethany, Year 9

In the next academic year, MediSoc plans to include sessions with professionals such as a pharmacist, a veterinary student, a neurologist, a dentist and a PICU nurse to mention a few!

Do express your interest by emailing me or by scanning the QR code on the poster on the next page. I look forward to being a part of your journey into a world full of opportunities and excellence!

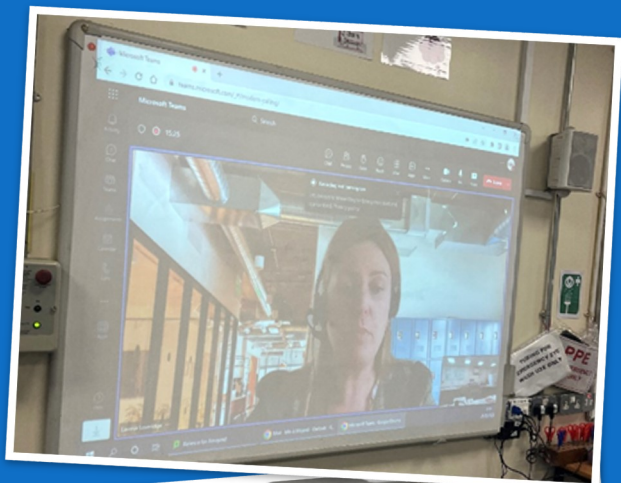
Below are some of the comments of our MediSoc attendees...

"In my opinion, I believe that MediSoc is a welcoming environment for students to thrive and enrich their understanding and knowledge of the shadowed regions in the medical and scientific fields. My experiences have been nothing but joy and I have learned a lot from the resources and information it provides. I'm truly privileged to have such

a program and I believe many others who want to learn more about science and what it can offer should join this as well. I recommend this to anyone who is interested as it is a haven of knowledge. If you don't seem that interested, still come along for a 'trial' session to see what it's like. You never know as you may be intrigued by its content and want to come again. Good opportunities are hard to come by so take them whilst you still have the chance!" Benjamin, Year 8

"It was a positive experience, such as the session being done by a qualified professional and the clarity of information. It would be nice if there were some more people at MediSoc, to give more of an atmosphere and make it a bit more lively." Alistair, Year 8

Mrs Majeed, Science Teacher



Medsoc @ SBL



CALLING ALL YEAR 10, 11 AND 12 PUPILS

Is any the above your dream career or are you just contemplating these career choices? If so then come along to **MedSoc**, every fortnight starting soon. Medsoc will feature talks by experts from these professions, discussions on the issues surrounding the NHS, different university courses,

We will look at how best to prepare for the UCAT and BMAT (biomedical admissions tests), UCAS application, tips for interviews and much more. Use the link to express your interest and choose the best day of the week for you to attend. **MedSoc** will be held on the day chosen by the majority of you. Looking forward to seeing many of you.



Ms Majeed

<https://tinyurl.com/medsocatsbl>

Year 8 Battlefields Visit

Year 8 enjoyed a fabulous trip to the WWI Battlefields this July. We had an action packed 3 day tour of the WWI trenches and memorials of Northern France and Belgium.

Our key highlights included a pilgrimage for a student to visit his great grandfathers grave in Arras. A tour around Newfoundland Park exploring the trenches, stories and memorials of the Somme; including the opportunity to dress in uniform and handle WWI weaponry. Finally, exploring the chocolate shops of Ypres and sampling Belgian confectionery!

A big thank you to all students and staff who participated on the visit- a great time was had by all!

Mrs Ward, Curriculum Team Leader for Humanities



Science Speaks!

We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of the Science Speaks Senior competition for Year 10! Over the past two weeks, our students have showcased their incredible research and presentation skills in this highly anticipated event. Science Speaks provides a platform for our young scientists to delve into any scientific topic of their choice, fostering their oracy and public speaking abilities in the process.

After intense classroom heats, where students demonstrated their knowledge and passion for science, we witnessed a gripping final in the school hall this Thursday 13th July. The competition was fierce, and the judges were impressed by the depth and creativity of each presentation. It is with great pride that we congratulate our overall first place winner, Sam, who mesmerised the audience with his captivating presentation on, 'How to boost your productivity.' In second place, we applaud the finalist from 10Cop, who provided us with a fascinating insight into, 'Why are F1 cars so aerodynamic?'

We extend our congratulations to all the finalists who participated in Science Speaks Senior. Your dedication, hard work, and commitment to scientific exploration has truly impressed the science faculty. We are already looking forward to running the competition again next year, not only for Year 10 but also our Year 8 students. We firmly believe that Science Speaks will continue to nurture our students' passion for science and empower them to communicate their ideas confidently.

Mrs Radford-Cole, Curriculum Team Lead for Science



Courgettes!



We are pleased to share that the first courgette has been harvested! Mia, Alanna and Flo are taking very good care of them.

Miss Myers, Geography Teacher

SBL Band plays at the Keynsham Music Festival and World Famous St George's Hall

To end what has been a fantastic year for the band, we were asked to open the Keynsham Music Festival again this year. In a much better display of weather than last year we were able to play in the courtyard which allowed an audience of a much larger size to be able to watch us. A crowd of around 150 stood on the balconies singing along to the songs: New Born by Muse, Mamma Mia by Abba and there was rapturous applause when the band finished Don't Stop Me Now by Queen.



The following week we were asked to perform in St George's Hall in Bristol, which has been played by artists such as Gary Numan, The Drifters and James Vincent McMorrow. Again, the band opened the whole evening however, instead of 150 audience members we played to over 400. The students are all very grateful for the opportunity, and they would love to play there again.

Finally, on the 12th July we had an evening of celebrating all of the music that happens at Sir Bernard Lovell Academy. The band opened and closed the evening, and performed a collaboration with the SBL choir (Grease - You're The One That I Want). The evening also saw solo performances of songs by Guns N Roses, The White Stripes, and even some original content by some of our Year 9 and 10 students. We hope to see music continuing to evolve and grow in SBL, and are looking forward to seeing what the next year brings.

Mr Oakley, Head of IT & Computer Science

More from the Summer Concert...



Art and Photography Exhibition



On July 12th, we celebrated the fantastic work of the A Level and GCSE Fine Art and Photography students at the Academy.

Well done to all of our students who have completed these courses.

Mrs Draper, Art Teacher



WEST OF ENGLAND
MUSIC
ALLIANCE

Folk Music Workshop

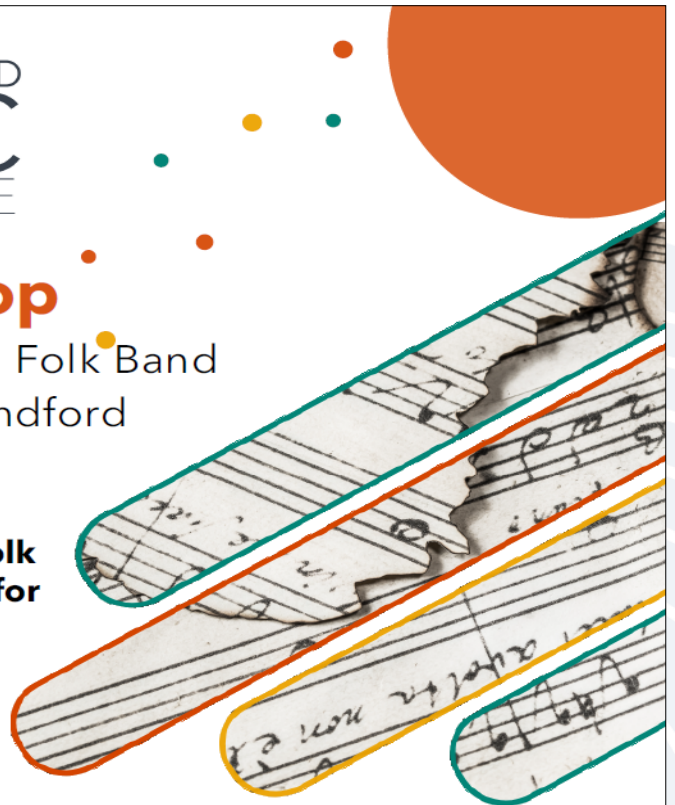
A Sunday Session with Bath Youth Folk Band tutors Rachel Barrett and John Sandford

This session is open to all players of 'C' instruments and percussionists. An opportunity to try your hand at playing folk music if it is new to you but also suitable for existing folk players.

Where: St John's RC Primary, Bath

When: Sunday 16th July, 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Course fee: £10 / free for students on FSM



Sign up here:
<https://bit.ly/3Jgc7FO>



Bath & North East
Somerset Council



Supported using public funding by
Department for Education
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

Student Achievements!



Toby, Year 8, recently achieved his purple belt in Karate.



Daisy, Year 7, has worked so hard this past year with Bristol City and has been given another years' contract playing for the U13s.



Finley, Year 9, was awarded Managers Player of the Year for Warmley Rangers.



Kade, Year 9, had a great catch during his first fishing lesson.

Student Achievements!



Jack, Year 7, has passed Stage 8 and Silver Stages in swimming.



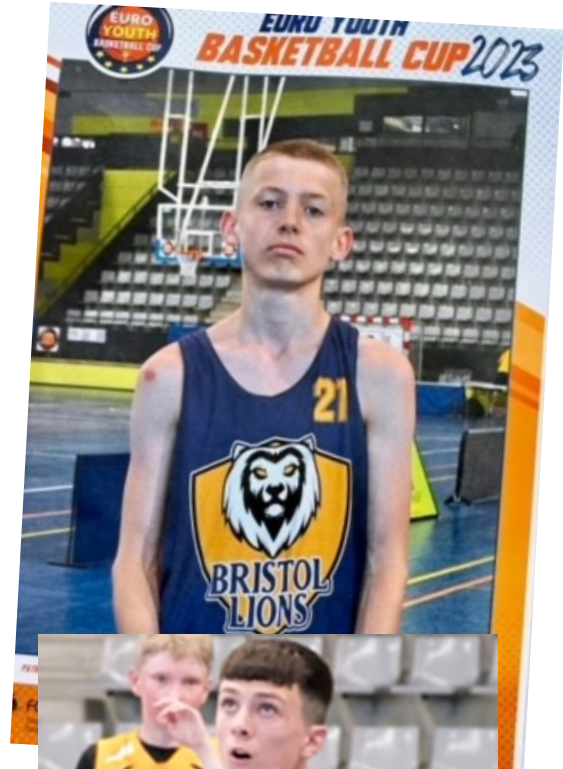
Jack, Year 10, runs and competes for Yate and District Athletics Club, competing in 100m, 200m and relays. He was picked up this year to compete for Avon Upper Youth District League representing the county for U17s. Jack has knocked nearly a second from his PB in 100m and just recently got his first sub 12 seconds with a time of 11.90 seconds. Jack was also really fortunate enough to have the opportunity to carry out relay drills and training with Ex Olympian Jason Gardener who is now a coach at Team Bath at a decent YDL event.

Student Achievements!

Finlay, Year 10, and Louie, Noah and Joe, Year 9, recently attended the Basketball Euro Cup in Barcelona. They worked really hard, coming 4th out of 20 competing teams from all over the world.

Both of their respective teams reached the semi-finals showing resilience and grit against extremely strong opposition.

It was an incredible experience for them all.



FamilyFirst

Helping millions of families stay
bored-free this summer

It's 100% FREE for all parents- Enjoy!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Free Family Days Out ✓

Family Travel ✓

The Great Outdoors ✓

What's On This Summer ✓

Parenting Hacks ✓

Children's Fashion ✓

Healthy Recipes ✓

Toys & Games ✓

Children's Sport ✓



Like & follow us on

facebook