



SBL Academy

On the Radar



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March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to March's edition of On the Radar! Term 3 was an extremely positive and successful term and this has continued into Term 4. School attendance has seen its challenges nationally, however attendance continues to be strong at SBL Academy and we saw this throughout Term 3. Thank you to Parents/Carers for continuing to support the education of your child, ensuring that they attend regularly and punctually.

Our Year 11 students have been working extremely hard sitting their internal examinations. This is their last opportunity to practise sitting exams in a formal setting and it has been pleasing to see how well they have conducted themselves during this time. Some students have already sat formal examinations for their subjects, including Performing Arts and Computing. There will be opportunities that will continue to be offered to Year 11 to attend after-school revision sessions, as well as additional sessions during the Easter break so that students have the best possible chance of succeeding this summer. We appreciate that the examination season can be an intense and stressful period for young people and their families. If you feel that your child would benefit from extra support, please do not hesitate to contact their tutor or House Team via enquiries@sblacademy.org.uk. You may also wish to explore the following link, which shares [strategies for when young people are sitting exams](#).

There continue to be many extra-curricular opportunities offered in the way of school trips. Since Christmas, we have had a music trip to receive a masterclass from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; art trips to the Tate Modern Gallery in London and Wake the Tiger, Bristol, a ski trip to Italy during half term; a Post-16 trip to Parliament, as well as an apprenticeship fair. In the coming months we will have language trip to the continent and further expeditions for those students signed up attempting to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Award. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those staff involved in giving up their time to lead these highly memorable experiences and opportunities - moments that the students will look back on for many years to come and opportunities that provide invaluable experiences beyond those received in the classroom.

We continue to have weekly House assemblies (and Post-16). Term 3 included inward-looking assemblies, giving 'food for thought' on themes such as healthy relationships, the benefits of physical activity and contributing to a team spirit. For this term, we are more outward-looking, approaching global themes such as positive steps to tackle climate change and lessons learned from Covid-19. During week commencing 27/02/23, students received an assembly on health, including the launch of South Gloucestershire's Online Pupil Survey. This is an anonymous and voluntary questionnaire that our school community have been invited to complete. It gives young people the opportunity to share their voice and shape positive change.

A letter explaining the process has been shared with parents/carers via email and instructions on how to complete the questionnaire have been shared with students via BromCom.

Mr G Lyle
Assistant Principal

KEY DATES

W/c 6 March: Year 11 Internal Exams continue

Thursday 9 March: Year 8 Parents/Carers Evening

Tuesday 21 March and Wednesday 22 March: Year 11 Performing Arts Exam

Thursday 30 March: Year 12 and 13 parent/carer evening

Friday 31 March: Last day of term 4

Monday 17 April: First day of term 5

2023 Ski trip: Cimone, Italy



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 pandemic. The journey out to Italy was excellent, 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...*

2023 Ski trip: Cimone, Italy (cont)

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 student 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 student 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 Leader for PE and Ski Trip Leader

Driver Care on Local Roads

We have been approached by members of our local community to request that parents and carers do not park on the double yellow lines in Pennine Road. Parking on these lines is prohibited in law and has been causing danger to local residents and other road users.



Lily has made it into the Somerset South Girls ERDPP and has been selected to play in a match at Sherbourne and will be representing them again in an RFU festival in March.

Well done Lily!

We work hard to provide the best environment possible for our students with autism. If you are interested in finding out more about autism and how it effects children then you may be interested in [watching the bbc programme](#).

Huge well done to our U13's ST Olli, who completed his first training session with Forest Green Rovers' Academy on Friday evening. Olli is our first player to be invited up since the formation of our partnership with the club. Due to unforeseen circumstances Olli was the only one of our three selected players able to make the



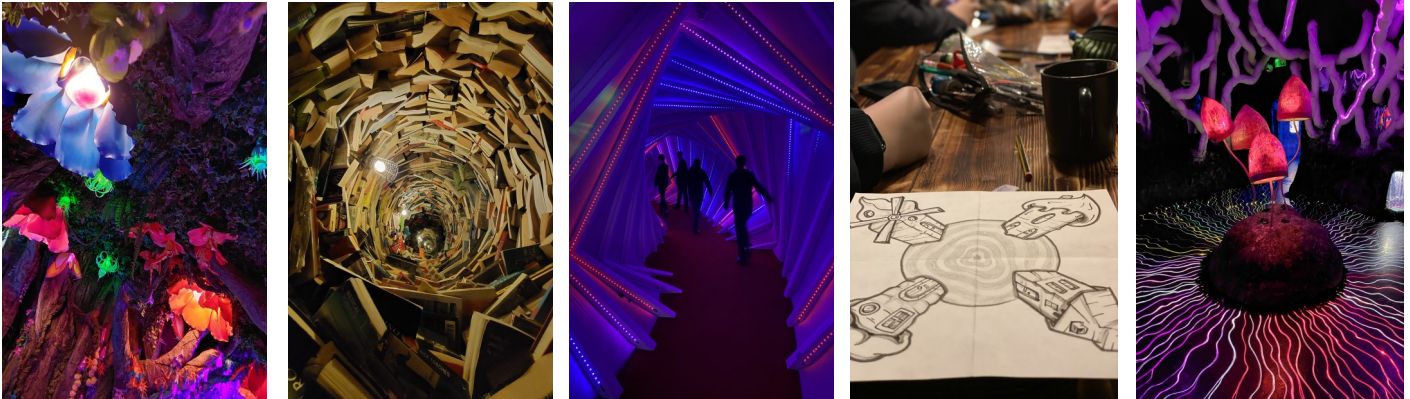
session but put in an outstanding performance, accompanied with a first class attitude, across the entire evening! Big things are on the horizon for this young man, who has now been invited back for his official 8 week trial with the club and is an absolute credit and example to everyone involved in SBL Academy football, deserving of every success that falls his way. We are over the moon and extremely proud of him! Well done Olli.

Mr Laverick and Mr Downer

Creative and Media Trips

Year 9 Art trip to Wake The Tiger

Before half term, the whole of Year 9 visited Wake The Tiger, an immersive art installation with elements of theatre woven in that advertises itself as Bristol's first 'amazement park'. Students had the whole exhibition space exclusively to themselves. They explored unusually themed rooms, secret doorways, interactive games, personality tests and many more surprises within this sprawling fantasy environment.



The exhibition is divided into four themed areas, each inspired by a different element: earth, air, fire and water. In Art this term, Year 9 are exploring unusual architecture. They are drawing on their visit to Wake The Tiger to help them design buildings inspired by the elements. Some students are choosing to look at futuristic worlds, while others are questioning how we can better use these real elements in design and construction to help build our own brighter future

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Live

Last term, Year 8 and 9 students had the fantastic opportunity to attend a live performance by members of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, performing pieces of music that students study at GCSE. These ranged from Mozart's Clarinet Concerto to the show-stopping 'Defying Gravity'. Many solo parts were performed by students from the attending schools.

Nearly 400 students from schools across the Bristol and South Gloucestershire attended. Our students represented the school to an incredibly high standard. Students were engaged from the very beginning, enthusiastically taking part in a percussion session. The workshop finished with a performance of a collaborative composition. Students from attending schools had sent in small ideas which were then pieced together to create a new piece of music. Students were also given the opportunity to question the professional musicians taking part.

SBL is committed to growing music provision, both in school and through external events such as this. With an expanding range of extra-curricular musical activities on offer in school, we are keen to nurture the musical interests of our students. If your child is interested in taking instrumental lessons, or would like to study Music at GCSE but has not signed up for this yet, please contact Ms Harland in the Creative & Media team for further details: fharland@sblacademy.org.uk.

BBC Careers Day

Post-16 Media students recently took part in a practical careers day at the new BBC headquarters in Bristol, giving them a taste of the skills and experience needed to produce major factual television programmes like *Planet Earth*. Students talked with senior BBC producer Simon Bell about bringing dinosaurs to life for the upcoming series *Prehistoric Planet*. Other sessions included programme ideas development, exploring different production areas, and finding out about the BBC's own apprenticeship scheme.

SBL Academy now offers practical Creative Media courses at both GCSE and Post-16, specialising in film and TV production.

Lights, camera, action!

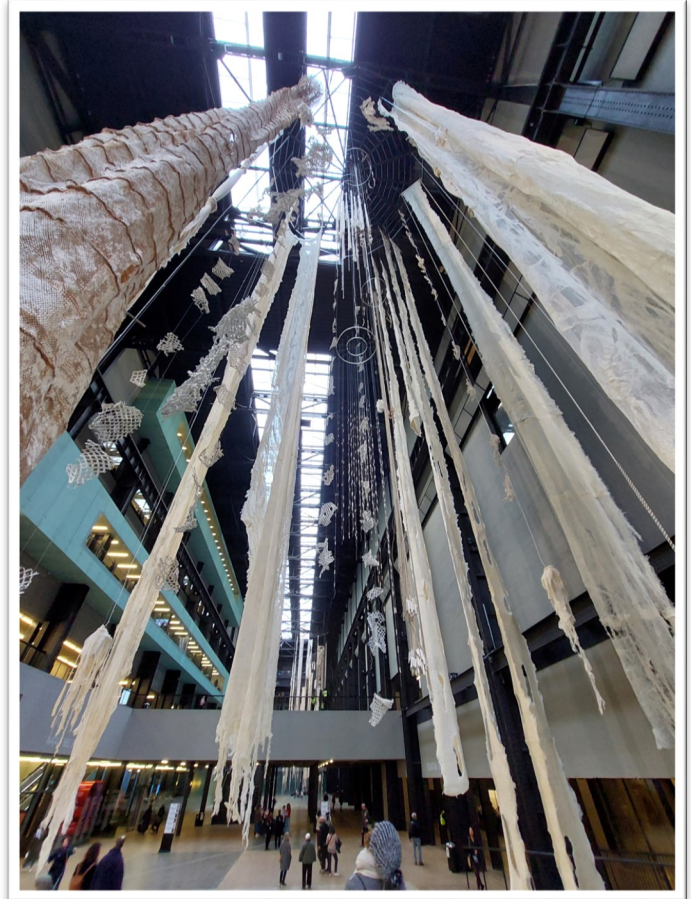
We are fortunate to have dedicated studio space equipped with a range of lighting, camera, sound and editing equipment that allows students practical experience of these creative processes. If you would like more information about studying Creative Media at GCSE or Post-16, please contact Mr Alderson: jalderson@sblacademy.org.uk

Art trip to the Tate Modern, London

GCSE and A-Level Art students recently visited the Tate Modern in London to explore original modern art works from all over the world. The gallery includes works from the early 1900s up to the present day, including work by world-renowned artists such as Picasso, Dali and Rothko. The GCSE and A-Level Art courses require students to conduct research into different artists' contrasting approaches to specific themes. Students must then use this research as the basis for their own creative work. The trip provided an invaluable opportunity to see a range of famous artworks up close, and for students to gather inspiration for their own project work.

Mr Alderson

Curriculum Team Leader for Creative and Media



National Tutoring Programme

At SBL Academy we are committed to supporting all students to achieve the best they can. As part of this commitment we run a range of tutoring interventions through the Government funded National Tutoring Programme. Educational research suggests that tutoring is highly effective in helping students to fill learning gaps, improving progress by up to five months.

Our tutoring programme has been running for three years, with sessions happening both in the school day and after school. Selected students are invited to attend one-to-one, online or small group tutoring sessions. There is no charge to families as these sessions are provided by school and subsidised by government funding.

This year alone over 150 students have been invited to attend tutoring in English and Maths. Many students have fully embraced the opportunity and are reaping the rewards in their results. Students who take part tell us that they feel more confident in their studies. They like the fact that they get help with their specific learning challenges and appreciate the opportunity to ask questions in a smaller setting.

Some of the things our students are saying!

"This tutoring really helped me learn quite a lot. It helped me understand things I had found difficult before".

"Your tutor gets to know you really well, they work out what you find difficult and you can concentrate on these things"

"I learnt lots of new vocabulary and felt more confident using this is a smaller setting"

"I definitely think students should do this in future years"

More invitations will be sent to families shortly. If you have any questions or would like to discuss tutoring opportunities for your child, please contact Mrs Hart (Assistant Principal).

Mrs Hart, Assistant Principal

National
Tutoring
Programme



SBL Band invited to play at musical festival – for the second year running

The SBL band have been invited back to play at Keynsham Music Festival this year. The musical festival spans a whole week at the end of June (Monday 26 June – Sunday 2 July) and celebrates musicians and artists from Keynsham and the surrounding areas. The band will be playing on Wednesday 28 June, but the time and location are yet to be confirmed.

Last year the band opened the music festival at the Temple Street Canteen which is located on Temple Street just next to the Iceland. The band started with songs from The Eagles and Amy Winehouse, followed by some solo performances of songs by Duke Ellington and Biffy Clyro. There were great performances from Wellsway school as well including some rock classics from AC/DC, but the feedback for the band that stuck out was “that was the best cover of Hotel California that I’ve ever heard”, which was said by the owner of the Temple Street Canteen at the end of the evening.

This year the band has seen a couple of line-up changes, Evan and Amber have stepped away to focus on their GCSEs

which has given the opportunity to some new students in the roster. We welcome Oliver from 10T2 on keyboard; Noah from 9A2 on rhythm guitar, and Alfie from 8Ca1 on the drums.

The band won’t reveal which songs they are playing this year just yet, but if you walk past the music room on Tuesdays after school you are more than likely to catch a sneak preview as they practice. If you are interested in joining the band please speak to Mr Oakley (ioakley@sblacademy.org.uk) or if you are interested in UkeBox or the SBL choir please speak to Ms Bennett (mbennett@sblacademy.org.uk).

If you would like to learn an instrument we will be commencing individual lessons again after Easter. Lessons are offered for drums, guitar, violin, keyboard, and jazz piano, you can [apply using our online form](#).

Mr Oakley



Music workshop with.....

Classico Latino

Do you play **Strings, Piano, Percussion or Sing** at grade 2-5 standard? If so, come and join us for a Latin music workshop. For more information and to sign up visit:

bit.ly/classicolatinomar23



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MedSoc@SBL

MedSoc@SBL has been set up with a mission to support students who wish to pursue a career in medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry or allied health. To facilitate this, we have experts from NHS- doctors and allied medical professionals offer sessions either virtually or face to face. In addition, there will be discussions on the latest in medical science, the NHS, different university courses and how best to prepare for the UCAT and BMAT (biomedical admissions tests). We will also support and guide students in finding valuable volunteering and work experience and give them opportunities within the society to develop their team working and leadership skills.

with our students the pictures from 'Tingewick Challenge' where a group of medical students climbed the highest peaks of England, Scotland and Wales (Snowdon, Ben Nevis & Scafell Pike) over 24hours to raise money for Oxford hospitals charity.

In the coming weeks we will have a lead nurse, a PICU nurse and a health visitor who have agreed to share their experiences with our students. Needless to say, we are very grateful to these experts that they are willing to spend their free time offering these sessions. Like us, they too understand the need for students to be aware of the numerous career opportunities available so that the students can make informed choices.

WHY DID I WANT TO DO MEDICINE??

- Found biology interesting (eventually)
- Enjoyed working in teams
- Enjoy talking to people, meeting people
- Work experience!
- Like figuring out puzzles
- The idea of helping people
- **Because I wanted to be a doctor**



Recently we had Dr Sophie Kenyon working in Obstetrics and Gynaecology who shared her journey into medicine. Dr Kenyon spoke about how she was not an A* student and in fact pursued her career in Event management for a couple of years before she decided to study medicine. "If you really want to do medicine, you just go for it" is what she told our students. Dr Kenyon also spoke about how busy it gets in the maternity ward and that for her is what keeps her wanting to go back every day. She also spoke about the course itself and how each part of the course prepares you for the life as a doctor.

In the last session on January 31st, Junaid Hameed a 5th yr medical student from Oxford University talked about the life of a medical student. He reiterated that although there is a lot to study and do, you can still enjoy the Uni life. Junaid shared

The sessions are open to Years 9 and above. If any student wishes to attend MedSoc, please email Ms Majeed or Mrs Radford Cole, and join the MedSoc@SBL channel on Teams where we will keep them updated about the various MedSoc activities.

MedSoc@SBL Needs YOU.

If you are parent/carer working in the NHS or have a friend or relative who is a doctor or an allied health professional, and would be happy to offer your time to motivate and enthuse our students about the opportunities in the Health Service please get in touch through school with your contact details and your designation. We would love to have you on-board!



Dear parents and carers,

As part of our ever-growing careers guidance programme, we are now seeking your help to further expand what's on offer to our students. Helping students to engage and learn from employers is crucial to supporting them in achieving their ambitions, and with the work we are already doing through the West of England Careers Hub, we are engaging with the local business community to increase these opportunities.

Parents and carers are without doubt the biggest influencers for young people making decisions about their future education and careers choices.

By working with the school's careers team, parents and carers can share their own knowledge and experiences to help students understand the skills and qualifications they need to enter the world of work.

They can also help increase their knowledge of the variety of job roles and entry routes covering a wide range of industry sectors and help them gain the vital encounters and experiences with local employers which will ensure they can make informed career and education choices in the future.

There are numerous ways to pledge your support and the range of your commitment can vary depending on your availability but whatever you are willing to help with will make a vital difference to our school.

Some example ways to get involved are listed below:

- Mock Interview Days
- Assembly Talks
- Workplace visits
- Work Experience Opportunities
- Careers Fairs
- Support of Curriculum Activities

We ask that if you are interested and willing to pledge your support that you please complete our online form so that we can confirm your involvement and start working with you.

Netball News

On Friday 24 February SBL were chosen to be the netball ball crew at Team Bath's first home game of the season.

10 KS3 students attended the fixture and did a fabulous job! Firstly having to collect players bottles, towels and snacks from the changing rooms to being briefed on what to do when the ball went out of play and where they needed to be positioned.

This was some students first experience of elite level netball and everybody thoroughly enjoyed. All students were a credit to SBL and hopefully we get the opportunity to be apart of the match day experience again in the future!

Mrs Abbs

Year 10's played really well against Mangotsfield the other week. A very close first half and unfortunately Mangotsfield got the win in the end. Well done girls!

Year 7's played in the next round for the South Glos league. They unfortunately lost only by 2 points - great game girls well done!

Mrs Jones



Online Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for young people

Dear Parents/Carers

Over the coming weeks your child may mention they have been made aware of a service called Kooth. It provides a safe, secure means of accessing online emotional health support from a professional team of qualified counsellors and emotional wellbeing practitioners for ages 11- 18.

Kooth offers wellbeing support 365 days a year via a range of self-help materials and peer to peer support which young people are able to contribute to. Kooth also has an online wellbeing team from 12pm- 10pm on weekdays and 6pm- 10pm on weekends offering 1:1 text- based online counselling via live chat or messaging.

Kooth is free to access via any internet- enabled device. Your child simply needs to visit www.kooth.com and click 'Join Kooth'. Everything is pre-moderated and age appropriate, in order to safeguard our users, so you know that what your child is accessing is safe.

Kooth will be working with all schools and professionals across 93% of the UK and growing to support students' mental health and wellbeing, both in and out of school. Alongside this, Kooth provides parent sessions, so keep in touch with the school or agencies to find out when the next ones are. I have pre recorded 2 sessions for you to watch. The 5 minute overview can be found [Here](#) and a more in-depth 15 minute recording can be found [Here](#). I have also included a selection of parent/Carer resources that can be accessed using this link: [Parents/Carers resources](#)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss what Kooth.com can offer, please address them to the school. If you would prefer to contact Kooth directly, simply email parents@kooth.com.

Kind Regards

Kooth Engagement Team



School Health Nurses Free webinars for parents and carers

**Practical and informative online sessions from
your expert team of local School Health Nurses.**

Our webinars lasts between 30 and 45 minutes, with the opportunity to ask questions throughout. They're suitable for parents and carers of children and young people of all ages.



Topics include:

- Keeping your child happy and healthy
- Healthy eating and physical activity
- Supporting your child's emotional wellbeing
- Eating disorder awareness
- Dental health
- Sleep

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