



SBL Academy On the Radar

New look
newsletter

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October 2019

This month at SBL Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

All staff at SBL hope you had a good summer break, although it already feels like a long time ago!

It has been a busy start to the term but students have settled well and have given a good impression to their new teachers. We have met with Year 11 on a number of occasions already to impress upon them how important a year this is for them and how if they work hard they will get the results they deserve.



Our new Year 7 students have settled well into the routines of a busy secondary school. There are currently 217 Year 7 students, by far the largest year group we have at the Academy. This is as a result of the confidence that parents and carers in our local community have in the improvements that we have made at SBL.

Our examination results were significantly improved on previous years and well above the national average. It was great to be able to share this with all students during my welcome back assemblies where I was also able to show them how we compared to other schools in our locality. Two years ago we were placed amongst the bottom few schools, now we are much closer to the top. We are confident that our current Year 11 will do even better due to the fact that they have had a better experience for a longer period of time.

Our Post-16 numbers have doubled this year, with 80 students joining us in Year 12. This will have a really positive impact on the rest of the Academy and demonstrates the aspirations that we have for our students.

I hope you enjoy the new style 'On the Radar' which will come out to you less frequently but with more content.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our Communications Structure on the website. Please use this to make sure you are communicating with the people best placed to support your concerns or queries.

Kind regards, D Anderson Principal

Key dates this term

2 October: Open Evening: students finish at 1:25pm

4 October: Year 11 GCSE visit to Bristol

7-18 October: Open mornings for Year 6 parents and children

9 October: Post 16 Open Evening

9 October: Year 11 Preparing for Success Evening

21 October: Year 9 and 11 photos

22 October: GCSE PE parents' Information Evening

25 October: Inset day - end of Term 1



Student Leadership

We are delighted to announce our new team of Year 11 student principals and vice principals who were elected towards the end of last year. All of the candidates for these roles were put through a gruelling selection process including staff and student elections as well as interviews with Mr Anderson and Mr Jones. The whole school were hugely impressed at the way in which they all presented themselves throughout the campaign along with the fantastic ideas that they put forward for further improving the school. They truly are an inspiring group of young people. Already the team have had a significant influence on the construction of new outdoor seating for students, approved new look toilets and suggested ways in which we can reduce plastic waste at the school. They also have a long list of ideas for ways in which we can further improve the school environment, host more charity events and provide a wider variety of extra-curricular activities for students. This week they will be speaking at our open evening alongside Mr Anderson and introducing themselves to new prospective parents.

One of their most exciting jobs this year will be to launch and lead a brand new school council. This will be a great opportunity for younger students from across the school to have their voices heard, make their own contribution to the school and prepare themselves for student leadership roles in the future.

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Maths Department

GCSE RESULTS

The maths team would like to congratulate all the students who collected their GCSE results this summer. 80% of students achieved a grade 4 or higher in Maths which is significantly greater than the national average and shows the huge dedication that both they and their teachers have put in over the last year.



MAX BOX

Year 8 students get engaged with hands-on mathematics!

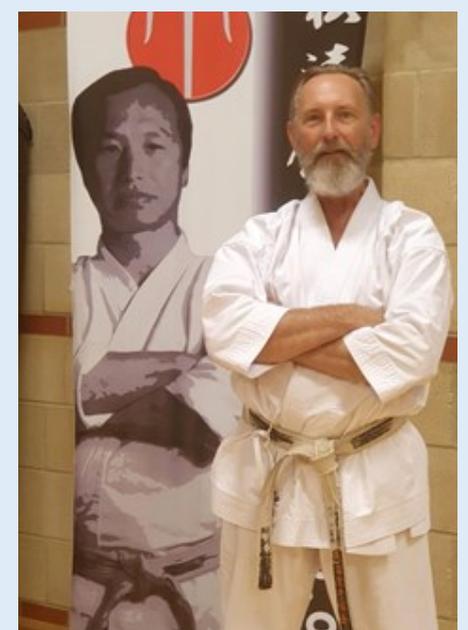
Our new scheme of work in KS3 has focused on introducing rich tasks to students to get them thinking more deeply about their learning. Year 8 undertook the “Max Box” investigation this week as part of the Shape unit looking at Volumes. If a piece of A4 is 20cm by 30cm and you trim the corners to fold it into a box (no lid!), what’s the greatest volume you can get? They worked out that the biggest box from just one piece of paper would hold slightly over 1056 cubic centimetres—that’s nearly two and a quarter pints of milk. Please don’t try this at home—A4 paper is not waterproof (or milkproof!).

Ski trip to Cimone, Italy 2020

Reminder to all students, parents and carers that the information evening for the 2020 ski trip is on Tuesday 12th November at 6:30pm. Looking forward to seeing you all then.

Polar bear poet is so cool!

Writer, performer and poet Steve Camden aka Polar Bear, spent a day at SBL Academy, working with students in Years 7, 8 and 9. His current poetry collection, *Everything All At Once*, explores school life.



Sensei Colin Fearis: 50 years of experience

Try your hand at karate

Mushin Shotokan Karate Club are hosting a free 1 hour drop-in session at SBL Sports Centre on Saturday 26 October at 10am. Come along and have a go, all ages and abilities welcome, we are a very family orientated club. Looking forward to seeing you there.

School Nurse information

The school health nurse for SBL is Alli Fry who runs a confidential drop-in clinic for young people every Wednesday lunchtime in M65 (no appointment is needed). These sessions can be useful for seeking advice and support around many

issues including mental health, emotional wellbeing, healthy relationships, sexual health and healthy lifestyles. Parents are able to contact the school nursing service for advice and information on t: 01454 862202.

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Launch of the 2021 ski trip

For the attention of all students in Years 7-12, I am pleased to announce that the location of the 2021 Ski Trip will be Prato Nevosa in Italy. This exciting trip heads off during the February half term and for more information please see the link below or speak to Mr Shiells. See: <https://bit.ly/2o6FymS>

Experience work

Year 11 are getting excited about heading out to their Work Experience placements from the 26-29 November 2019. Work Experience is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding school events students participate in. It can often lead to Saturday and holiday employment, offers of apprenticeship training once leaving school and motivation towards achieving the grades and qualifications required for their chosen profession. It doesn't matter if a student doesn't know what they want to do when they leave school; they should use this opportunity to try something out and see if it's right for them. They are also able to find out first-hand what skills employers are looking for, get practical experience and develop their self-confidence and communication skills. We are proud to still offer our students the opportunity to participate in WEX and all Year 11 students will be off timetable and in placements during this week.

PE after school clubs

We run lots of after school PE clubs to suit a variety of interests. All after school clubs start at 3.30pm and are an hour long. Students are asked to make sure they inform their parent(s)/carer if they are attending. See: <https://bit.ly/2ncss7D>

World of work

We are looking forward to our World of Work Day on Monday 25th November. This involves a Careers Fair for **all students**, with a busy day for Year 11's encompassing Mock Interviews, workshops, a motivational talk and preparation for their Work Experience which they will then head off to the following day! Confirmed attendees at the Careers Fair so far include local colleges, universities, construction firms, Bristol City FC and Bristol Rovers, the Royal Navy and Marines, Airbus, Rolls Royce and many more!

October Half Term Holiday Camps

We are delighted to have Fit For Sport with us at Wellsway Sports Centre during half term! Providing a range of sports activities plus arts and crafts, Fit For Sport will be with us Monday – Friday. You can save 10% on bookings now by using promotional code OCT10, just visit www.fitforsport.co.uk for more information and to book!



Soccer Shooters are also back at SBL Sports Centre on the Wednesday and Thursday of half term, providing football fundays for children aged 5-12. For more information and to book, please visit www.soccershooters.co.uk

Exam info

Year 11 and some Year 12 students have real exams and PPE's in November. The dates of the real exams and the PPE timetable is on the school website. GCSE English Language and Maths are Year 12 Resits from the Summer 2019 exams.

Students should remember all their equipment for exams. Black pens, pencils, rubber, sharpener, ruler and mathematical instruments when required. Calculator must be non-programmable and without a lid.

PPE's are invaluable practice for the real exams and we expect to see the same behaviour by students.

Please remember no mobile phones, electronic devices or watches are allowed in exams.

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Words and pictures (not to mention hashtags)

On the Radar is a great summary of life at SBL - thank you for reading! There are lots of other ways to find out what is happening day to day at the academy too.

Main school Twitter account [SBL Academy \(@SBLAcademy\) on Twitter](#). For events and activities. Also the account for urgent information eg

emergency school closures

Careers [SBL Careers \(@SBLCareers\) on Twitter](#). Event information, apprenticeship opportunities, details of jobs

Library [SBL Library \(@SBLLibrary\) | Twitter](#). Our librarian is on maternity leave, but still tweeting. Expect more once she is back in the new year

Post 16 <https://twitter.com/SBLSixth> Been a bit quiet, but watch this space

Subject accounts PE are on Twitter ([SBL PE Department \(@SBL_PE\) | Twitter](#)) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/sblpe/>). Fixtures, results, after school clubs

Maths ([SBL Maths Department \(@SBLMaths\) | Twitter](#)), and Geography ([SBL Geography \(@SBLGeography\) on Twitter](#)).

Please engage with these accounts as much you like. Remember, though, that we can't respond to specific issues via social media. If you need to get in touch with the school, use the contact information on the main website.



Early morning disco It's like going out, but not out...

Fancy an early morning disco to kick start your Monday? Disco Dance will be at SBL Sports Centre every Monday 6.30-7.30am for an hour of dance inspired exercise, led by instructor Roz (who also happens to be a DJ!) Your first class will be FREE, followed by £8 per session. Contact lgaiger@wellswaymat.com for more information.

Just the job!

Follow our Twitter feed - [@SBLCareers](#) for information, including #hotjobs, open evenings, events and advice.

Here are some #hotjobs you might not have thought about:

- **Dental Technician:** They design, make and repair dental appliances. *Predicted 6% rise by 2023*
- **Early-years Teacher:** Also known as nursery teachers, they are specialists in early childhood development. This job is predicted to grow *Predicted 4% rise by 2023*
- **Estate Agent:** They sell and rent out commercial and residential property, negotiating between buyers and sellers. *Predicted 5% rise by 2023*
- **Make-up Artist:** They apply make-up and style hair for people appearing on camera or for a live audience. *Predicted 1% rise by 2023*

More information at careerpilot.org.uk. Also see [local job market information](#) or visit the school's [careers advice website](#)