





Dear Parents, Carers and all Friends of Colfox Academy,

Welcome to our Spring Term News for the first half term, as you'll see from these pages, a lot has been happening! We've had some great performances in our school show Macbeth, lots of sporting successes, fascinating trips including an Ancient History visit to the Ancient Technology Centre, the Pantomime Trip, House Competitions, Celebration Assemblies, Human Rights Day and visits from Theatre Groups.

We have bought all parents access to high [quality online support from FACE](#), details below, please take a look. I have been pleased with the way our Students have been working this term in each year group, especially our Year 11 and Year 13 Students, who have been very busy preparing for their upcoming exams. Keep going Year 11 and Year 13. There is a [useful blog here about supporting children with exams](#).

This is also an important and exciting time for Year 9 as they decide which GCSE courses to take. It was fantastic to see everyone coming together to support our Students at Options Evening. We are now creating Options Blocks based on their choices to accommodate as many preferences as possible, most Students will get their choices, if we have to offer a Student their reserve we will discuss the options. Here is the [Options timeline and more information](#).

Year 10 worked hard during their assessment week and are now preparing for their work experience next month. Year 7 and Year 8 are getting involved with all aspects of school life, from House events, Student-led community assemblies, school shows and extra-curricular clubs, please do encourage your child to try a new lunchtime or after school club, they are all free. I wish you all a very peaceful half term and we look forward to welcoming Students back on Tuesday 25 February for Week B. Yours sincerely,

Adam Shelley, Headteacher

Free online support & talks for Parents



Anxiety Based School Avoidance

Helping kids back into school

[Find out More](#)

Duration Varies

£24



Supporting Healthy Screen Use

Screens are here to stay...how can we make them safer?

[Find out More](#)

1 hr 30 min

£24



Supporting a Child with ADHD - Parents

Challenging stereotypes and giving practical support

[Find out More](#)

1 hr 30 min

£24



Autism - Improving Communication

How to improve communication with someone on the autistic spectrum

[Find out More](#)

Duration Varies

£24

We have bought access so Parents can get free advice talks

We all need advice sometimes, and we are delighted to share free high quality online support from FACE Family Advice. They offer support for parents across a wide range of topics.

We have purchased a 100% discount code so that all parents can have unlimited, completely free of charge access to all the regular Parent Talks. A letter giving details & the code has been sent to all Parents.

MACBETH

There were some brilliant performances in our school show, well done everyone and thank you again to Mrs Holder!



MACBETH





Colfox proudly supports Weldmar's Stampede by the Sea!

Well done to our Year 9 Student Artists who decorated our 'Stampede by the Sea' elephant to help raise funds for Weldmar Hospicecare.

Iris, Eliza, Rica, Maddison and Poppy painted 'Brit' the Elephant, who will soon be part of the Stampede by the Sea art trail. As a seaside town and Ocean Friendly School they chose the name because it links with the River Brit that flows through Bridport to West Bay.

Stampede by the Sea means much to our school, as we have many Students whose families have received care from Weldmar. The trail, from West Bay to Lyme Regis, which will feature a herd of around 50 painted elephants! For more details visit: stampedebythesea.org

Year 7 visit the Ancient Technology Centre



Year seven enjoyed a trip back in time when they visited the Ancient Technology Centre.

Around 30 students explored ancient buildings at the centre near Cranborne, before trying their hand at historic crafts, lighting fires and building from willow. They explored the Viking Long House, a Stone Age Round House and a Roman Forge and Water Lifting Machine.

The trip follows the launch of Colfox's Classics Hub, which offers students more opportunities to study Latin, Greek, Ancient History and the Classical World. Dr Neil Allies, Head of Languages and Cultures, led the trip. He said: "Being able to go inside amazing reconstructions of ancient buildings brought the past alive and gave Students a fascinating sense of what it must have been like to live thousands of years ago."



Youth Speaks Success!

Students shine in Public Speaking Contest

We are very proud of our brilliant 'Youth Speaks' debating teams!

The first round saw the Senior Debating Team Arturo, Poppy and Oliver from Year 12 and the Junior Debating Team Eliza, Iris and Poppy from Year 9 give brilliant speeches before a packed audience in Beaminster. Both teams won through to the second round at Taunton School. The senior team then went on to win a place in the South West final at Clifton College in March - well done everyone! The competition is run by the Rotary Club.

PANTOMIME TRIP



A Year 8 group enjoyed a trip to the Pantomime, visiting the Electric Palace to see the Wizard of Oz. The show by Bridport Pantomime Players was great! Thank you to Mrs Holder and Ms Langdon for arranging the trip. Well done also to Students who were part of the pantomime cast and back stage crew.

PANTOMIME TRIP



60th Anniversary Production
BRIDPORT PANTOMIME PLAYERS
Together with the Lyric School of Dancing present

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Directed by Amy Carlile

5 - 8 FEBRUARY 2025

BRIDPORT
ELECTRIC PALACE

BOX OFFICE Online: electricpalace.org.uk/theatre
Tel: 01308 424901 Bridport Tourist Information Centre
Adult £14.50 Child £10 Family £42.50 + booking fee



Encouraging Students to apply to Oxford, Cambridge and other top Universities

There is an opportunity for our ambitious students in Year 9 to start considering an Oxbridge application, or any university application too! It's called the Discovering Downing Scholars Programme, run through Downing College, Cambridge, which is the link college for South West schools. Interested Students should speak to Mrs Wright.

Discover Downing Scholars Programme

Downing College is preparing to launch a new programme for current Year 9 students heading into Year 10 in September who are interested in studying an arts and humanities subject in the future. Participants will be given the opportunity to develop their academic skills and knowledge whilst exploring the arts and humanities opportunities at Cambridge.

Advice is also available to Students in other years, through our Careers Service Year 12 and Year 13 Students are also invited to online sessions to encourage them to apply for top universities, see Mrs Wright for details.

Hair-raising Science, Space workshops & Sixthform launch Science Club



We are proud of our Sixth Formers who are running a Science Club at St Mary's Primary. Ms David, our lead Practitioner for STEM and National Space Academy Advocate has also been visiting other schools to provide National Space Workshops and Year 7 have been exploring static electricity using the Van de Graaff with hair-raising results!



Euler.



Euler Day Maths Fun!

We love Maths - so we held a Euler Day Interhouse Competition!

What is Euler Day? Euler Day is held on the 7 February (7/2) to celebrate the mathematical constant e , which is called as Euler's Number and has an approximate value of 2.7182818. The date is chosen from the the first two digits of Euler's Number.

Each of our four houses, Toro, Adler, Hinomaru and Fleur De Lys, selected a team of Year 10 Students to compete in Euler themed Maths competitions, including the fascinating Konigsberg Bridge problem - can you solve it? well done to the winning house Fleur De Lys!

Mrs Kayleigh Jones - Lead Practitioner Maths

Maths Challenge

The Intermediate Maths Challenge, held this half term, is a 60-minute multiple-choice competition designed to test and develop mathematical reasoning, precision, and fluency. With 25 thought-provoking problems, the challenge encourages students to think critically, offering accessible questions while still stretching those with greater experience. We had 26 students participate and test their skills in the challenge and a number of awards to the student below. Super well done and special mention to George Gordon and Jasper Hatch who achieved the coveted Gold Award and proceeded to the Grey Kangaroo, the next round of the competition!

Congratulations to the award winners who were:

Y10:

Christopher Foote -Silver (Best in Year)

Max Davies - Silver

Lola Purdie -Silver

Toby Matterface -Bronze

Blanche Munro -Bronze

Archie Tait - Bronze

Y9:

George Gordon -Gold (Best in School)

Jasper Hatch - Gold

Rica Alexander -Bronze

Miss Emma Taylor - Head of Maths



Human Rights Day

Students investigated the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at Human Rights Day.

Each house examined a different article, such as the right to relax and play (Article 31), the right to freedom of expression (Article 13) the right to a sufficient standard of living (Article 27) and the right to education (Article 28). Poppy in Year 7 said: "Our house, Fleur de Lys, made information sheets and a slide show about the right children have to a safe place to live, clothes and food."

Colfox Remembers Holocaust Memorial Day

Marianne Grant

Marianne Grant was a young artist from Prague. Having survived Theresienstadt, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the final days of Bergen-Belsen concentration camps, using her skills as an artist to survive, she came to Glasgow where she raised her family.



'News travelled fast, and I was ordered to Mengele... He paced up and down in his high leather boots without a word. I was shaking. If I had made a blob or mistake, I would have been finished. At this time, I knew I was painting for my life.'



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

*Learning from genocide -
for a better future*

Alfred Garwood

Alfred Garwood was born in a Nazi ghetto, imprisoned in Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, and later put on a train destined for Terezin Concentration Camp, when he and his family were liberated by the Red Army. Alfred spent the rest of his childhood in Britain and grew up in the centre of a community of Holocaust survivors. He has since written extensively on the psychological implications of trauma relating to genocide whilst also working as a General Practitioner.



'When we went back to Poland, we found only two members of my parents' family had survived out of 60 people.'



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

*Learning from genocide -
for a better future*

Special assemblies and tutor sessions were held to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. We looked at the life stories of some of the people who survived the Holocaust, extracts of two are above. Holocaust Memorial Day is held on 27 January to remember the six million Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust, as well as millions more murdered through the Nazi persecution of other groups and in more recent genocides. Students also helped create a Library display featuring books about the Holocaust and our younger students were also encouraged to capture their 'Hopes for a Better Future' here are some of their hopes:

- For more female leaders
- To have the courage of Nelson Mandela
- To be remembered
- to rescue all horses
- to end the wars in Gaza / Ukraine
- to bring peace

Cross Country Achievements!



Well done also to all our Cross Country Runners, who competed in the English Schools County Qualifiers competition, 35 Students from Years 7-11 competed, well done specially to Ayla in Year 11.

Our Year 11 Cross Country runners also had a wonderful day out running at Studland in the sun, in the Studland Stampede, well done particularly to Nathan who came 2nd and Kitt who came 3rd. Cross Country running is just one of the extra-curricular clubs offered at Colfox - find out [more here](#).

We Sport!

All our Sports Clubs are free and great fun for everyone, even if you don't think you are sporty, come along & have some fun! Well done to everyone who took part this term!



LIBRARY NEWS

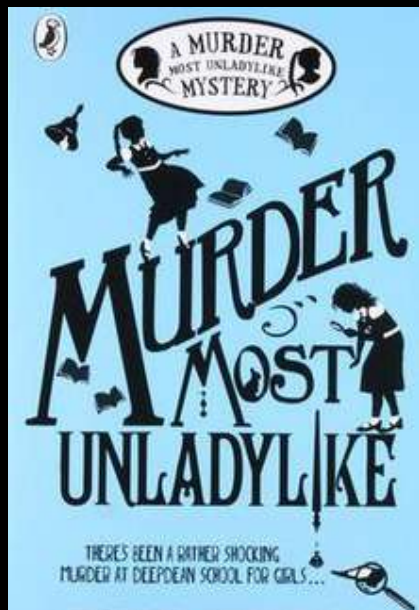


Our Library is Student led - we only buy books that students request. Our Library budget has been boosted by our generous community supporting our 'Buy a Book for our Library' Appeal hosted by the wonderful Bridport Book Shop - thanks to you we have been able to get all books and Magazines requested. Thanks also to the Book Shop for generously donating books.

We have had about 300 voluntary book reviews by students this term alone! Most popular Library books include Manga, 'Lottie Brookes', 'Ultimate Football Heroes' series, Marvel graphic novels, Taylor Swift's 2025 album and FNAF Graphic novels. Well done to everyone who has submitted a review!

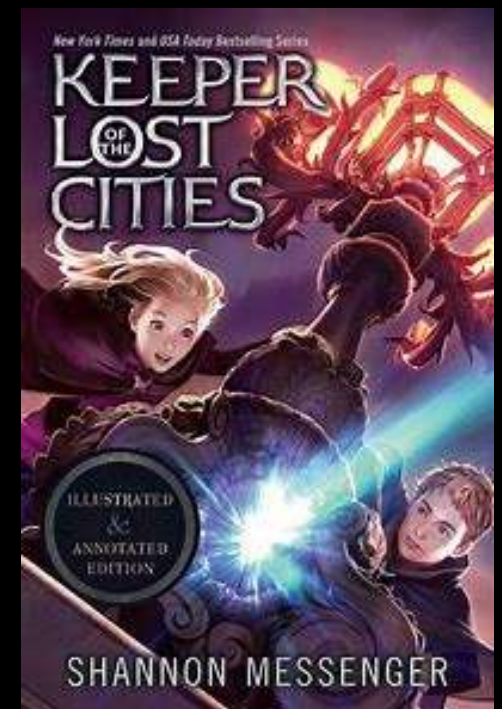
REVIEWS *By our Student Librarians*

'The Beast of Buckingham Palace' is funny and the overall story was brilliant. It is about a boy called Alfred who starts off timid but gets more confident. His mother is the Queen and he is a Prince, she gets taken away and he has to save her. The story involves a secret mythical creature, I enjoyed it but I would have liked more pictures.



'Murder Most Unladylike' is brilliant, the characters really come to life in the books, you worry for them and celebrate their victories as though you are one of them. The main characters are Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong, they are both smart, sharp-witted and brave. Miss Bell gets murdered and they have to find out who is behind it before the killer strikes again.

'The Keeper of Lost Cities' is brilliant. It is one of my favourite books, I love the settings, descriptions, characters and the story in general. It's an action, adventure fantasy. The main character is Sophie who has a special ability to read minds. A mysterious boy named Fritz shows up and takes her to Eternalia, the Elves capital, but does he have a darker reason? This is a great book!

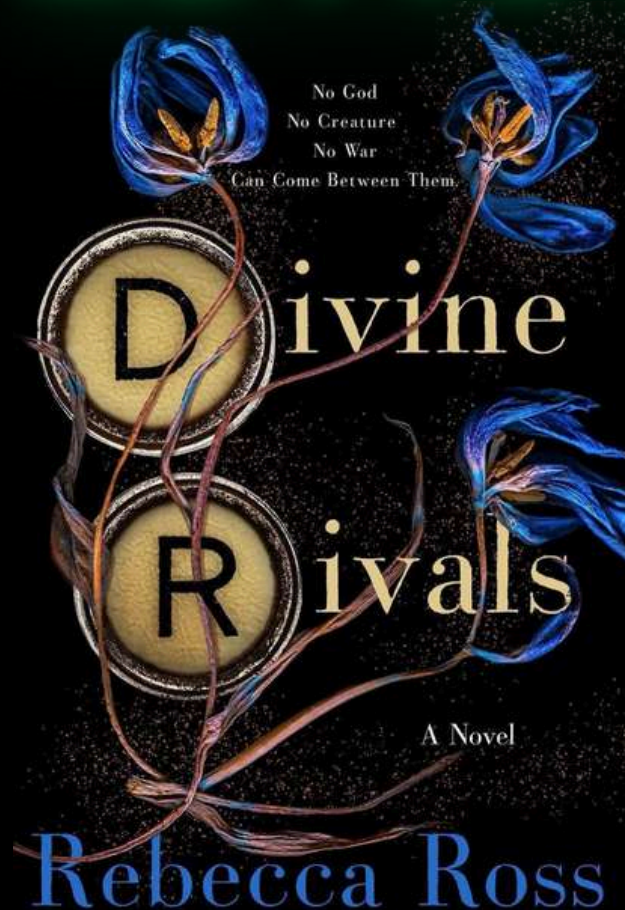


Reviews by Faith, Frida and Martha

REVIEW

By

THE BOOKSHOP EST. 1978



At the busy train station, surrounded by soldiers in crisp new uniforms, Iris Winnow is holding back her tears as she says farewell to her older brother Forrest. He gives her his coat and she wears it like a hug. As the train pulls away she reaches into the pocket and finds a note: Just in case you didn't know...you are by far the best sister I've ever had. I'm so proud of you. And I'll be home before you know it, Little Flower.

Their peaceful town, Oath, is changing, since the goddess Enva called to arms the people of Oath to fight in her honour against the forces amassed by the god Dacre. The fight is taking place some distance from home, but everyone feels its effects. Although it would seem that some residents of Oath would rather pretend it wasn't happening.

After her brother's departure to join the fight, Iris begins her internship at a small local newspaper; the Oath Gazette. She is in direct competition for the job of columnist with an arrogant young journalist called Roman C. Kitt. She wonders what the C stands for: Churlish? Cantankerous? She instantly dislikes him and the fellow journalists go head to head to secure their dream job.

Full of worry for Forrest, Iris types a letter for him, even though she has no idea where to send it. Her Nan used to leave her notes to find in her room, it became a tradition, and at a loss for what to do, she slides the note for Forrest under the wardrobe door. It's a space they used to share and it just feels right. To her amazement, the following day, the note is gone. Even more amazing is when a return letter appears from under the door. It contains three words: This isn't Forrest.

What a sensational read this is. A story of love, loss, mythology and war. I adored this book and became completely invested in the characters and their world. This book is perfect for fans of enemies to lovers romance stories and I would recommend it to teens aged 14+.

Review by Nicky Mathewson

Library News

FREE Magazines now available on SORA!

Save cash, 500+ almost everything available!

Save £100s, Students can now get bestselling magazines - New Scientist, Lego, Fortnite, Coding for Kids, Vanity Fair, Vogue, the New Yorker, Good Housekeeping, House and Garden, Textiles, Music, National Geographic, Film, Chess, Cookery, Sport, the list is endless and all amazing titles!

We have paid for all students to have access to them via our online reading platform SORA, just use your usual school log in, it's easy! A 'how to use SORA' guide is below. Downloading the free app avoids the log-in process. Take a look, there is lots for Parents to enjoy too!



Get FREE bestsellers, magazines, graphic novels & audio books online!



Use Sora at home (its easy)
like a Kindle - but free!
Here is the 'how to' guide:

SORA

- Google 'SORA'
- Click 'Find my School'
- Click 'No I'll search for my School'
- In 'Let's find your school' type 'Colfox' and click it when it pops up
- Scroll down list to 'T' and click 'The Sir John Colfox'
- Click 'sign-in using the Sir John Colfox Academy'
- Log in using your full email address

EXPLORE!

Sport / Manga / Graphics/ Thrillers / Horror/ Football / Horses / Anything!

Join a Free Club! Try Something New!

Lunchtime Clubs:



Lunchtime Clubs

THURSDAY

Blue Planet Club- B209 all years
Spanish Y11- B217, 12.35-55pm
Basketball- Y7-8, Sportshall
Table Tennis- Y10 PE, Main Hall




Lunchtime Clubs

FRIDAY

Choir - B205 all years
Volley Ball - Y7-11, Sports Hall

Pythagoras Club - Wed Lunch



Where?
A109

When?
Wednesday lunch time 12.35-1pm.
(Starts the first week back after half term).


Who?
Open to all year 7-9 students who enjoy problem solving, reasoning and maths!

Pythagoras Club

Mentoring to stretch and challenge mathematical thinking.

Team quiz and prizes in the last session of term!


After School Clubs:



Afterschool Clubs

MONDAY


Homework Help- Library until 5pm
SEN Homework- in SEN Dept until 4.30pm



Afterschool Clubs

TUESDAY


Homework Help- Library until 5pm
SEN Homework- in SEN Dept until 4.30pm
English GCSE Support - B208
Cross Country- all years Field
Netball-Y7 Netball Courts



Afterschool Clubs

WEDNESDAY

Homework Help Library until 5pm
SEN Homework SEN Dept until 4.30pm
Hockey Y9-11 Astro
Rugby (Boys)Y7 - Fields
Rugby Y8-9 (Boys) - Fields
Netball Y8-9 - Netball Courts



Afterschool Clubs

THURSDAY

Homework Help Library until 5pm
SEN Homework SEN Dept until 4.30pm
Girls Football - Y7-Y8, Astro
Rugby Boys - Y10, Field
Cross Country - all years, Field
Netball - Y10-11, Netball Courts



Afterschool Clubs

FRIDAY

Girls Rugby Y10-Y11, Field
Girls Rugby Y8-9, Field
Hockey Y7-Y8, Courts

Help with uniform

If you need help with uniform

Please contact us we may be able to provide families in need with uniform help, we also have some second hand uniform available which has been donated to us. Please email us if you need assistance: office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk

Please donate unwanted school uniform – Thank you!

Please donate school uniform, ties, PE kit (without names on the back) and sports equipment that you no longer need. Please donate uniform that is in good condition, we are grateful if you could wash it first. Please drop it off to reception. Thank you, your generosity will help others.

Please make sure your child has the correct uniform

Advice on uniform is available on our [website here](#).

Helpers needed!

We are looking for volunteers to join our 'Friends of Colfox' group, one of the things the group does to help students and support families is help sort through uniform donations, and launder any that need attention. If you can help please contact: office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk



COLFOX PROUDLY PRESENTS

BUGSY MALONE



1-3 APRIL 2025, DOORS: 6pm STARTS: 6:30pm
ADULTS £6 STUDENTS £4 FAMILY £16
Tickets on Arbor



Play by Alan Parker Words & Music by Paul Williams

Thank you for reading!



**NEWS FROM COLFOX
SPRING TERM 1 2025**

We wish you all a very peaceful half term!