COMMUNITY | EQUITY | AMBITION

SCHOOL CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Friday 23rd
- Inset day - school closed to all students

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd
- Inset day - school closed to all students

Tuesday 3rd
- Start of Term 2 - all lessons run at normal times for all year groups

Wednesday 4th
- PTA meeting, 7-9pm (in school)

Thursday 5th
- Post 16 Open Evening, 5.30-7.30pm

Monday 9th
- Y11 Mock exams begin

Thursday 12th
- Live Lounge

Wednesday 18th
- PTA meeting, 7-9pm (in school)

Friday 20th
- End of Y11 Mock exams

Saturday 28th
- PTA Christmas Market, 11am-3pm

Monday 30th & Tuesday 1st
- Y7-11 Flu vaccinations

DECEMBER

Tuesday 1st
- Y13 Parents' Evening

Saturday 5th
- Santas on a Bike Charity Event

Wednesday 9th
- Christmas Concert, 7pm

Monday 14th
- Drop down day

Friday 18th
- P16 Christmas celebrations
- Last day of Term 2 - midday finish for all secondary learners

JANUARY

Monday 4th
- Inset day - school closed to all students

Tuesday 5th
- First day of Term 3

Winterbourne Academy NEWSLETTER

Issue: Term 1, October 2026

WAsocialmedia

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our newsletter if you are a new parent at Winterbourne and welcome back to those who are returning! It has been a richly packed term with many successes to celebrate and I hope you will enjoy reading all about the events and people in our school.

Communication and relationships with parents and families and the community are very important to us. - so important that we dedicate a whole day for tutors to meet with parents and carers! It was very disappointing, therefore, to have our online morning affected by a global cyber security incident. I hope that you were still able to have productive conversations on the telephone and that the messaging reached you in time to explain the situation. For us, this is a key event and it was frustrating for all to have technology let us down.

Technology is a very live issue in terms of media nationally and internationally, as well as in the day-to-day operation of the school. Emails and AI are a case in point. Whilst email is an extremely helpful means of communication between school and home, most people working in schools spend the majority of their working day with students, resulting in the Trust policy of a 48-hour reply target. The increasing use of AI to write emails to organisations such as schools has also been widely reported as causing significantly increased workload. As this type of communication increases, and the length, complexity and number of questions therefore also rises, please be aware that detailed replies which go beyond the initial acknowledgement may take longer as the capacity and time available to staff becomes more and more stretched.

We continue to develop positive links with the community and you will see lots of references in this newsletter to events involving parents and the wider locality - from our PRIDE Awards evenings, and the PTA Christmas market, to Santas-on-a-Bike and charity events, to the businesses supporting our young people at the Careers fair this week. We are actively seeking out key parent groups to meet with us in person to listen to their ideas about how we can further improve our links with families and local organisations. If you would like to be involved, please do email school enquiries so that we can contact you directly.

Have a lovely half term!

Jenny Cartwright | **Headteacher**

PRIDE OF WINTERBOURNE ACADEMY AWARDS

The PRIDE of Winterbourne Academy Rewards Evenings provided a wonderful opportunity in Term 1 to celebrate the achievements and successes of our students. We were excited to welcome students, families and staff to these special events, which recognised those who have been nominated by their teachers and pastoral leaders for outstanding achievement, dedication to learning, significant progress, and for consistently demonstrating our school values.

With so many deserving students across all year groups, selecting award recipients was no easy task. Staff carefully considered the exceptional effort, positive attitudes and contributions shown throughout the year, making the competition for awards particularly strong.

We are incredibly proud of all our students and the commitment they show every day. Congratulations to all of our award winners, and thank you to the families who joined us in celebrating these achievements. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the staff who worked so hard behind the scenes to make the evenings such a success.

These events were a fantastic reminder of the dedication, resilience and positive spirit that make our Winterbourne Academy community so special.





PRIDE OF WINTERBOURNE ACADEMY AWARDS













Year 11 Rugby Team Crowned Bristol State School Champions

Congratulations to our Year 11 rugby team, who were crowned Bristol State School Rugby Cup champions following an outstanding performance in the finals at North Bristol RFC.

Having secured victories over St Bede's and St Bernadette's during the pool stages in September, the team progressed to the finals afternoon where they faced some tough competition. In the semi-final, Winterbourne overcame a strong Redland Green School side in a tense and physical contest, securing a 15-5 victory.

The final saw the team face St Bede's once again. Delivering a confident and assured display, the boys took an early lead and never looked back, running out convincing 30-10 winners to lift the trophy.

A huge congratulations to all the players for their commitment, teamwork and fantastic achievement. Special thanks also go to the parents and families whose support throughout the competition helped make this success possible, and of course, our fabulous Mr Milton for his leadership throughout!

Post 16 Open Event

Thursday 5th November 2026, 5.30-7.30pm

If you're in Year 11 and starting to think seriously about what comes next, our P16 Open Event on Thursday 5 November from 5.30-7.30pm is the perfect opportunity to find out more.

/

Come along to explore the wide range of subjects and courses available, meet our teaching and pastoral staff, ask questions about your options, and see what life at Winterbourne Academy P16 is really like by chatting with some of our current P16 students. We'd love to see you.

Book your place on our website here:
https://www.winterbourneacademy.org.uk/Post-16-Open-Evening-Nov-2026/







PARTICIPATION | RESPECT | INTEGRITY | DETERMINATION | EXCELLENCE



Local Authority School of the Year 2026/27 **WINNER**

We were so happy to be announced **Modeshift STARS Local Authority School of the Year 2026/27**, which recognises our commitment to promoting active, sustainable and safer travel to and from school.

This prestigious award celebrates the work taking place across our school community to encourage walking, cycling and other sustainable travel choices. It reflects the enthusiasm of our students, staff and families who continue to support initiatives that improve not only health and wellbeing, but supports the environment too.

The award was presented at the Modeshift STARS Regional Schools of the Year Awards, where schools from across the country were recognised for their achievements in active travel. Representatives from national organisations including The Bikeability Trust, Living Streets, Walk Wheel Cycle Trust and Active Travel England shared inspiring messages with students about making a positive difference in their communities and embracing opportunities to lead change.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and would like to thank everyone who has supported our active travel initiatives. We will continue our journey, aiming to achieve the next award - the Modeshift STARS Gold accreditation - and we look forward to building on this success and finding even more ways to encourage sustainable travel across our school community!

Congratulations and a huge thank you to all those involved. If your child is interested in becoming an Active Travel Ambassador, please encourage them to speak to Mrs Webber.



Inspiring futures: Thank you to our Careers Fair supporters

A huge thank you to all the businesses and professionals who supported our Year 11 Careers Fair this week.

By giving their time, sharing their experiences and engaging with our students, they helped bring future career pathways to life. These conversations can have a lasting impact and help our students make informed choices about their next steps. We are incredibly grateful for your support and for helping our students gain valuable insight into the world of work



Pride in our community

While national headlines often focus on the challenges facing young people, we are proud to receive reminders of the kindness, respect and maturity shown by our students within the local community. The team at newly-opened Dave the Baker's got in touch to share their experience of the many Winterbourne Academy students who visit the bakery before and after school. Their message highlights the values we strive to instil every day and recognises the positive impression our students make beyond the school gates:

"We are a newly opened bakery and have a lot of your pupils come in before and after school. We just wanted to let you know how amazed we are with every single one of them, so polite, always happy, and most of all very respectful to our staff and other customers that may be in the shop. They certainly are a credit to you all. We just wanted to let you know, as schools nowadays get so many complaints, and we feel it's time for observers/traders to report what amazing young people we are blessed with in this local community, they are a credit to your school."

From Sue, Malc and all at Dave the Baker



Free Girls' Glow-in-the-Dark Cricket Camps this half term

Girls looking for a fun and active way to spend part of the October half term are invited to take part in a series of FREE Glow-in-the-Dark Cricket Camps taking place across the region. The sessions are designed for girls of all abilities, whether they are completely new to cricket or already play and want to develop their skills while having fun.

Part of the legacy programme following the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, the camps aim to inspire more girls to get involved in cricket, build confidence and experience the enjoyment of being part of a team.

Places are free, but booking is required. To reserve a place, visit the ECB Camp Booking page here: https://booking.ecb.co.uk/event/90f8b253-565a-42e9-a35f-e9895ee485f1/register

Camp Dates and Locations

Monday 26 October – Orchard School Sports Hall, Bristol (10am-3pm)
Tuesday 27 October – Archway School Sports Hall, Stroud (10am-2pm)
Wednesday 28 October – Winchcombe School Sports Hall, Winchcombe (10am-3pm)
Thursday 29 October – Hanham Woods Academy Sports Hall, Bristol (10am-2pm)
Friday 30 October – Deer Park School, Cirencester (10am-3pm)

PARTICIPATION | RESPECT | INTEGRITY | DETERMINATION | EXCELLENCE

HOUSE Update

WIN-Factor 2026 is officially here!

The search is on for Winterbourne Academy's very first WIN-Factor Champion!

We know there is an incredible range of talent across our school community, and now is your chance to shine. Whether you sing, dance, play an instrument, perform magic, showcase a special skill or have a talent that's completely unique, we'd love to see it.

All students have been emailed full details on how to enter and have been invited to join the WIN-Factor Google Classroom, where they'll find everything they need to take part.

Get ready for a competition packed with talent, entertainment, surprises, and unforgettable performances. The stage is set, the judges are waiting (and secret for now), and the journey to the Grand Final on **Friday 18th December** begins now.

Who will be crowned Winterbourne's first-ever WIN-Factor Champion?



Learning Beyond the Classroom: Fairtrade Farmer Visit

Thank you to Year 12's Rosa, Tom, Ava and Aisha for this article.



On 15th of October, A Level Spanish and Geography students were visited by Yesenia, a fairtrade farmer from a rural community in Nicaragua, and Jonathan, a representative of Bristol Fairtrade Network. They gave a presentation to students about the benefits of Fairtrade, as well as its impact on farmers and the local community.

This opportunity allowed Geography students to learn more about the role of Fairtrade in Central America, as well as its direct collaboration with farmers. Jonathan presented statistics which showed the increase of premium for farmers, thanks to Fairtrade, and students learned about the cooperatives that run the farms. In Nicaragua, the workers often collectively own the farms and share the profits. It is also known that Central America can be dangerous to live in for women, however Nicaragua's cooperatives support female workers with health clinics and encouragement to open their own farms. Communities have also created scholarships and support for the local children who previously struggled to finish secondary school, but now often go to university.

As Yesenia only spoke Spanish and although there was a translator for Geography students, our A level Spanish students were encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and work on speaking and listening skills. The guest speakers also brought in Nicaraguan artefacts, which included traditional masks, hats and baskets used when harvesting coffee beans, sacks for transporting food, and coffee beans from their farms. It was a great chance for students to learn about the country of Nicaragua and understand where some of our products, like chocolate and coffee, are grown. We are grateful for the informative experience.



National Success for Amelie

Huge congratulations to Y11 student Amelie, who achieved an outstanding success in competitive swimming this year.

Amelie qualified for both the British and English National Championships, an achievement that places her among the very best swimmers in her age group in the country. She also competed at the Open Water National Championships, demonstrating her talent across multiple disciplines of the sport.

Competing at this level requires exceptional commitment and dedication. Amelie trains before and after school most days, balancing the demands of elite sport with her studies. The national competitions featured the top swimmers in the country, making qualification itself a remarkable achievement.

We are incredibly proud of Amelie's hard work and success, and we look forward to following her swimming journey in the years ahead. Well done, Amelie!





Flu Vaccination Programme

Free flu vaccinations available for Y7-11 students in school on Monday 30th November and Tuesday 1st December

This autumn, Sirona's School Immunisation Team will be visiting to offer all students from Year 7 to Year 11 a free flu vaccination. The vaccine helps protect students and their families from flu, reduces the spread of the virus during the winter months, and helps keep students healthy and in school learning.

The vaccine is usually given as a quick and painless nasal spray. For students who cannot have the nasal spray for medical reasons or due to the porcine gelatine content, an injectable alternative may be available.

Parents and carers are asked to complete the online consent form (https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2026/consent?v=3) as soon as possible to support vaccine planning and ordering. The consent system closes two working days before the vaccination session, and forms submitted after this deadline may not be processed in time for the school session.

If you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine, please still complete the form to record your decision. Parents and carers without internet access can request a paper consent form from the school or contact the School Immunisation Team on 0300 124 5515.

For further information, please contact the School Immunisation Team at sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net or call 0300 124 5515.

A Hair-Raising Achievement!

Year 7 student Rosey has shown incredible generosity by donating an whopping 13 inches of her hair to charity!!

As well as making this fantastic donation, Rosey has also raised more than £200 to support a worthy cause. We are incredibly proud of her kindness in making a difference to others. Well done, Rosey, on this wonderful achievement and for inspiring others with your generosity.





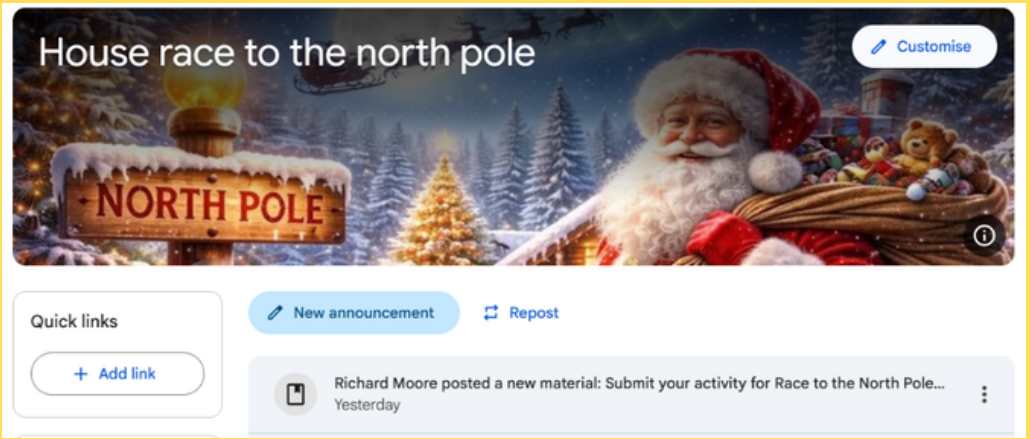




Race to the North Pole 2026 has started!

If you complete a run, walk, cycle or swim (other than daily steps) enter your activity and help your house win the virtual race to the North Pole!

Join the Google Classroom with the code : oxm7p36q



PARTICIPATION | RESPECT | INTEGRITY | DETERMINATION | EXCELLENCE



Join us at these fantastic live music opportunities in November & December!







Messages from:

Winterbourne Academy Parent-Teacher Association



PTA Christmas Market

Saturday 28th November, 11am to 3pm

We're hoping to make it a lovely festive event for the whole school community, with Santa's Grotto, performances from the school choir, a variety of food stalls and plenty of Christmas shopping opportunities!

We would love to encourage families to come along and support the event. We're also looking for stallholders and volunteers who would be willing to help out on the day.

We're particularly desperate for raffle prizes and tombola donations, so any contributions, big or small, would be hugely appreciated. Donations can be handed to students' tutors or dropped off at reception, where Mr Wallis will collect them weekly.

It would be fantastic to get the whole school community involved and make this a really successful event for the PTA.

Get involved...!

Would you like to play a part in supporting our school community? WAPTA is always keen to welcome new faces and would love to hear from parents, carers and members of the wider community who are interested in getting involved. If you're interested in helping at events, sharing ideas, supporting fundraising activities, or simply find out more about what WAPTA does, you're warmly invited to attend one of the upcoming meetings - Wednesday 4th November and Wednesday 18th November, in school between 7-9pm.

No experience is needed and there's no obligation to volunteer regularly. It's a great opportunity to meet other parents and carers, contribute ideas, and help make a positive difference to the school community.

If you'd like to attend either meeting or would like to find out more, please contact us at WAPTA.org@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming you!





As the days become shorter and poor weather arrives, it's important to make sure you're visible to other road users when travelling to and from school. Being visible helps other road users see you sooner and can make your journey safer. If you're walking, cycling or scooting, remember:

☀️ **Wear bright or reflective clothing where possible (and a cycle helmet!)**

💡 **Use lights when cycling after dark**

⚠️ **Stay alert and avoid distractions around roads**

☔ **Take extra care in fog, rain or poor weather conditions**

CRICKET FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PLAYERS

Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation

Meet New Friends
Have Fun
Try Cricket

Gloucestershire Growlers

FREE CRICKET SESSIONS



SCAN ME

Bourneside School
Cheltenham, GL51 3EF
Saturday 7th November
Saturday 5th December
13:00 - 14:00

John Cabot Academy
Bristol, BS15 8BD
Saturday 14th November
Saturday 5th December
11:00 - 12:00

jeanette.tate@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org

Bristol Bears v Exeter Chiefs

Exclusive Discounted Tickets for Winterbourne Academy Families



As a School Connexion partner school, Winterbourne Academy is pleased to offer our families, students and staff access to discounted tickets for an exciting Gallagher Premiership fixture between Bristol Bears and Exeter Chiefs.

Match Details
Fixture: Bristol Bears v Exeter Chiefs
Date: Saturday 24 October 2026
Kick-off: 5.30pm
Venue: Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol
Ticket Prices: Adults £15, Under-19s and Under-12s £5



This is a fantastic opportunity to experience top-flight rugby at a reduced price and enjoy a great evening of sport with family and friends. Bristol Bears are keen to welcome members of the School Connexion network and encourage both existing rugby supporters and those new to the game to get involved.

How to Book Tickets must be purchased online via the Bristol Sport website. During checkout, enter the discount code: **SCHOOLCONNEXIONS26.** The discount will then be applied, reducing ticket prices to £15 for adults and £5 for Under-19s and Under-12s.

Please note that this offer is intended for the Winterbourne Academy community only and should not be shared more widely.

We hope many of our students, families and staff take advantage of this excellent opportunity to support local rugby and enjoy the atmosphere at Ashton Gate.



FCRC WANT TO MAKE SURE LOCAL GIRLS KNOW THAT RUGBY IS FOR EVERYONE!

THEIR SESSIONS ARE FRIENDLY, WELCOMING AND FOCUSED NOT ONLY ON DEVELOPING RUGBY SKILLS, BUT ALSO ON CONFIDENCE, TEAMWORK, FRIENDSHIPS AND HAVING FUN.

NO RUGBY EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY, AND NEW PLAYERS ARE VERY WELCOME.

Children's Scrapstore

WINTERBOURNE ACADEMY PARENTS AND CARERS SCRAP WAREHOUSE ACCESS

%LOYALTY6585?

PLEASE SHOW THIS BARCODE WHEN YOU WANT TO ACCESS THE SCRAP WAREHOUSE

EXPIRY: 31/08/27

This gives you access to the Scrapstore warehouse, where you can get unlimited baskets of scrap, for a suggested donation of £7 per full basket (minimum donation £1)



21 SEVIER STREET
ST WERBURGHS
BRISTOL
BS2 9LB

OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 10AM-5PM AND THURSDAY 11AM-5PM

WWW.CHILDRENSSCRAPSTORE.CO.UK





Please review your contact details and consent preferences in Arbor

To help us keep our records accurate and ensure we communicate with you effectively, we kindly ask all parents and carers to review their contact details and consent preferences in Arbor.

Keeping this information up to date helps us contact you quickly when needed and ensures that any permissions you have given remain current and reflect your wishes.

Please remember that consent preferences can be updated or withdrawn at any time through your Arbor Parent Portal.

We also encourage you to read our Parents and Learners Privacy Notices, which explain how the school collects, uses and protects personal information in line with UK GDPR requirements.

If you have any questions or need assistance accessing Arbor, please contact the school office.

A reminder to all P16 students: Please do not park in the front or OAT car park, use the rear car park only. Thank you.



Have an amazing half term break!

See you back at school on Tuesday 3rd November

Winterbourne Academy will be closed over the break. If you have a concern for a child's immediate safety, please contact 999. If you have a concern for a child's wellbeing, please contact South Gloucestershire children's social care (weekdays, 9am to 5pm, except Fridays when closed from 4.30pm) on 01454 866 000. The emergency SGC children's social care duty team out of hours number is 01454 615 165. Alternatively, here is a link to their website: South Gloucestershire Safeguarding (southglos.gov.uk)
Below is a list of other potentially helpful organisations:

· Non-Emergency Police: 101
· NHS Direct: 111
· Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership: 0117 354 6800
· Samaritans: Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen or call free on 116 123
· Childline: Childline or 0800 11 11
· Your paragraph text
· Young Minds: Your paragraph text
· Foodbank free national helpline: 0808 208 2138.

You will also find further information, guidance and advice on our school website.

PARTICIPATION | RESPECT | INTEGRITY | DETERMINATION | EXCELLENCE