



SMITHILLS SCHOOL

SUCCESS FOR ALL

NEWSLETTER



SMITHILLS SCHOOL | SMITHILLS DEAN ROAD | BOLTON | BL1 6JS | 01204 842382

HEADTEACHER



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

As we approach the end of a busy and rewarding term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the achievements of our pupils and express my gratitude to my dedicated staff.

This term, we have continued to focus on our core values of Independence, Excellence, and Community. These values are at the heart of everything we do, and it has been a pleasure to see pupils demonstrating them across the school. We are proud of how our entire school community has worked together to create a positive and supportive environment where all pupils can succeed.

This term, we introduced homework booklets to support our pupils' learning and improve the retention of knowledge. By focusing on helping pupils know and remember more, we are building a strong foundation for their future success. Our Year 11 pupils have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their upcoming Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs), which start on the 13th January. We are impressed by their commitment to attending additional lessons: 'Pathway to Success' and putting in the extra effort to ensure they are ready for these important assessments. We wish them the best of luck! Meanwhile, our Year 7 pupils have made a fantastic start to their journey at Smithills, as have pupils across all year groups. It is heartening to see how quickly they are

embracing our school culture, engaging in lessons, and contributing to a vibrant learning environment.

This term has also been filled with exciting events that have enriched our pupils' experiences. We have had a range of sporting events that showcased our pupils' talents and teamwork. We were also honoured to welcome inspiring guest speakers who shared their expertise and experiences with our pupils, encouraging them to aim high and pursue their passions. A highlight of the term was our residential trip to Langdale, where pupils had the chance to bond with their peers, develop new skills, and enjoy the great outdoors. Our Beauty and the Beast performances were a resounding success, and we are incredibly proud of the pupils who took part and showcased their talents. The Christmas Concert was a wonderful way to bring the term to a close, with pupils sharing their musical and dramatic skills to celebrate the festive season.

Throughout the term, we have continued to focus on the positives—celebrating those pupils who are punctual, respectful, and work hard every single day. It is these pupils who set the standard for others, and we are delighted to reward their commitment to excellence.

As we break for the Christmas holidays, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere thanks to all my staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Their commitment to our pupils' well-being and success is invaluable. Finally, I would like to thank you, our parents and carers, for your continued support. Working together, we are creating an environment where all pupils can succeed and flourish.

I wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming pupils back in January for another successful term.

Miss Dewse

Smithills School Headteacher





SMITHILLS SCHOOL

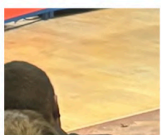
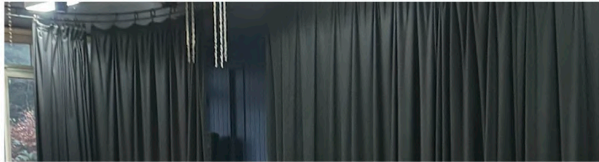
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YEAR 7



FIRST TERM SETTLING IN

Well done to all our Year 7's for completing their first term at Secondary School. The transition from primary to secondary can be daunting, with many worries and concerns such as getting lost and making new friends. However our Year 7's have handled the transition wonderfully and are well and truly part of the Smithills family. We hope you enjoy our update from their first term.

Attendance

We run a weekly form attendance competition and each week we loan a giant inflatable trophy to the winning form along with sweets to the form with the best attendance for the previous week.

In October, November and December Miss Angus has run monthly attendance competitions. Its been lovely to see year 7 trying to improve or maintain their attendance. Remember 97%-100% attendance gives your child the best chance of academic success.

550 pupils across the school never missed a day in November! Well done to these pupils. Was your child one of them?

The form competition for November was won by:
7A - 96.2%

STAR OF THE WEEK

During assembly each week we ask the form tutors to nominate a star of the week from their form who has the chance to take a prize from Mrs Scholefield's luck dip bag. The reasons for the choice vary but on the whole the form tutors nominate pupils who have been demonstrating our values.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

We have asked year 7 to create their own Christmas card designed and hand in over the last few weeks. We received a particularly nice one from Grace P in 7C who wrote some lovely words about the school and staff and it was very much appreciated.

HAPPY HOLIDAY'S TO ALL OUR FAMILIES.

We look forward to seeing you in 2025

The year 7 team; *Mrs Scholefield, Miss Johnson & Mr McDonough.*

SMASHED!

On Friday 29th November Year 7 had a extra special assembly during period 5 they came to the hall to watch SMASHED! The touring production has visited school right across the UK. The purpose was to educate pupils and make them aware of how alcohol can affect people

ENRICHMENT

Throughout the autumn term year 7 have taken part in a variety of enrichment activities. These range from helping at open evening to performing in Beauty and the Beast and Christmas concert through to attending netball, basketball and fitness clubs. If you have attended any of these clubs well done for embracing the opportunities and demonstrating our Smithills Values of excellence, independence and community.

CROSS COUNTRY

A particular highlight at the end of the first half term was year 7 completing the famous Smithills Cross country around our school fields. We had some luck with the weather and therefore the levels of mud proved to be much better than in previous years. Well done to everyone who ran but a special well done to the pupils who then went on to represent school at the Bolton Cross country championships.

Top performers in year 7: Lana Z, Gracie Mai F, Alice M, Uzair P, Owen K, Mahfuz F.

EVENTS



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YEAR 8



DEAR YEAR 8 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND CARERS,

Year 8 have been involved in:

basketball tournaments, football fixtures, many performed in the school production including Isaac who had a main role of Lefou, his first time performing and he was fantastic. Many others were involved including Brooke, Autumn, Grayson, and Luca helped with the sound!

We have Yushan who has achieved the most value points this year, followed by Hyab and Christian.

I am so impressed with most Year 8 pupils who are consistently following our school values of; excellence, independence, and community.

Pupils are constantly working hard in lessons and producing some amazing homework.

I can't wait to give out lots of prizes at the Christmas assembly to those pupils who always try their best!

Miss Heywood

Year 8 Head of Year



LAKE DISTRICT TRIP



CHILDREN IN NEED



CHILDREN IN NEED

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ALL BACK ON JANUARY 6TH, 2025!



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YEAR 9



DEAR YEAR 9 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND CARERS,

As we now approach the Christmas holidays, I would like to take the opportunity to celebrate and share some of the great achievements of our Year 9 students so far this year.

Community Contribution

This term, students in Year 9 have received more than 9,062 Community Achievement Points. These are awarded for showing dedication and support to our Smithills Community and demonstrate the excellent pride that the students have in our school. Mohmedyahya Athni has received 36 Community Value Points and Isabella Heyes, Sari Farhat, Ahmad Irshad, Maham Tabassum and Maryam Jabeen were not far behind his total. In fact, More than 70 students achieved 50+ Community Achievement Points this term – an excellent achievement – Well done!

Awards for Excellence

More than 25,982 Excellence Points have been awarded to celebrate all of the great work that our students have done this term. Sanskar Ghimire has received more than 451 Excellence Points. Felichia Toderas, Saarah Tailor, Efosa Enadeghe, Muhammad Shazil Naveed and Adan Imtiaz have all also received more than 330 Excellence Points each. In fact, 43% of Year 9 students have received 100+ Excellence Points so far this year! Congratulations to all!

INDEPENDENCE AWARDS

13,231 Independence Points have been handed out this term. Vishnu Doshi has shown the greatest amount of independent work this term (220 pts) and Alfie Rushton, Naseem Hussain, Ezenna Nwosu, Oliver Walsh-Simmons, Ellie Clemmett, Hamza Kazi & Oscar Wright have all also been awarded more than 150 Independence Points. Exactly 50% of Year 9 students have received 50+ independence Points so far this year! Let's keep up this great work!

Mr Harrison

Year 9 Head of Year

ATTENDANCE

45 students have achieved 100% attendance so far this year and more than 150 students have achieved attendance well above the national average. This will make a big difference to their academic achievement as we begin to think about GCSE options this year. Well done!

Excellent Behaviours

Finally, I would like to say a massive congratulations to the 72% of Year 9 students who have received little or no Behaviour Points so far this year. Your excellent behaviour, day in, day out, is something to be incredibly proud of. It is fantastic!

Dates for the diary

Monday 3rd – Friday 7th March – Whole-school Assessment Week
 Thursday 13th March - Options Evening
 Thursday 20th March- Parents' Evening



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YEAR 10



DEAR YEAR 10 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND CARERS,

As we approach the festive season, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the achievements and memorable moments of the past term. Year 10 has been a whirlwind of activity, with students demonstrating incredible effort, resilience, and community spirit. Here's a snapshot of the highlights and a look ahead to the new year.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the Spring Term and beyond, there's much to look forward to:
Parents Evening: Scheduled for 3rd April 2025. This is an important chance to discuss progress and targets.
Work Experience: Preparations will begin the New Year for work experience, which will take place the week commencing 23rd June 2025

Extracurricular Achievements

Sports Success: The year 10 football and basketball teams have excelled so far this year. Some of our Year 10's took part in the Bolton Cross Country Championships. The Year 10 boys have got through to the quarter finals after scoring a last-minute winning goal! Good luck!

Drama Production: Several Year 10 students took on roles in the school production of Beauty and the

Beast. Their performances were outstanding.

Children in Need 2024: Well done to the year 10 students who helped to raise money for children less fortunate.

A MESSAGE FROM THE YEAR 10 TEAM

We are incredibly proud of how Year 10 have started this important phase of their school journey. Their positivity and hard work have been an inspiration.

As we break for the Christmas holidays, we encourage all students to rest, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones. Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warm regards

The Year 10 Team - *Mrs Nash, Miss Harris and Miss Oakes*

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ALL BACK ON JANUARY 6TH, 2025!

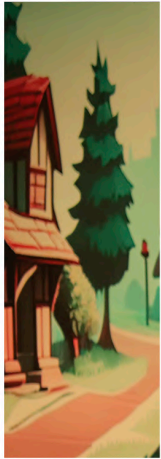


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YEAR 11



DEAR YEAR 11 STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND CARERS,

As the year ends and the festive season begins, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on a term filled with hard work, growth, and achievements. Year 11 has been a busy time so far, with exam preparations, extracurricular activities, and personal milestones. Here's a recap of what we've accomplished this term and some exciting things to look forward to in the new year!

We have crammed so much into this term. Thinking back to the start September and the Year 11 expectations evening, showing everyone the roadmap for the year, and now realising we are already way down the road.

By now your son or daughter has already secured their College interview or even in some instances College placement or apprenticeship placement for next September, and should be congratulated as they have completed this ahead of the deadline we set them at the start of the academic year.

On Friday the 13th of December year 11 participated in Mock interview day and gained a fantastic experience of how to conduct themselves during an interview situation that will stand them in good stead for life beyond Smithills School. They looked really smart and the feedback from the visitors to school was really complementary. Students have been supported in putting together their record of Achievement folders in preparation for the day.

These contained Personal statements and CV's as well as certificates and other documents showing successes to date. A massive thank you goes to Mrs Bennett for all her hard work arranging Post 16 College assembly speakers, Mock interviews along with 1:1 connexions interviews for all of the year group.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Congratulations to everyone who also attended the various Pathway to Success revision sessions throughout this term. Mock Exam Preparation: Students have been working diligently throughout the term, and we've seen fantastic commitment to their studies. The upcoming PPE exams after Christmas will provide a great opportunity to assess progress. All students can now fully focus on studying and revising for their PPE's that start on Monday 13th January, concluding on Tuesday 28th January 2025.

I wish you all a very happy, peaceful break and a wonderful 2025.

Mr Nash
Year 11 Head of Year

A TERM TO CELEBRATE

Sports Achievements: Well done to all Year 11s who represented our school in sports, with standout performances in football, basketball and netball.

Creative Arts: A special congratulations to the year 11 students who performed in Beauty and the Beast and those involved in the Christmas concert and various school rock bands, which showcased the incredible talent in our year students.

Charity Contributions: Year 11 students raised money and supported Children In Need this term and those who made donations for our food bank charity – thank you for your generosity!





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CAREERS | MFL



GATEWAY

We had our fourth visit to Manchester University with Year 10 pupils with Mrs Bennet our careers leader for the Gateway programme in November .

The pupils had to go around the campus , we were given an I pad and asked to take some photographs and we actually won against other schools for most inspirational photo of "The Rock in front of a rock."

What is the Gateways programme?

This event is part of a larger series of activities called The University of Manchester Gateways Programme. The Gateways Programme is targeted at young people in the Greater Manchester area, who are talented and have the potential to progress into Higher Education but are from backgrounds that are currently under-represented at higher education level.

The Gateways programme aims to introduce learners to Higher Education and provide information about the different pathways that can be taken to get into HE. To ensure that these young people understand the opportunities that HE presents, and how it can benefit them in the future.

What will they learn on this visit?

- Provide an insight into what student life is like; including information on extra-curricular activities, living at university and other opportunities available

- Introduce pupils to the Students Union and the different societies they could join (or create) whilst at university
- Encourage students to consider their transferable skills, how to build them, and how to talk about them when applying for jobs / post-16 and post-18 education courses
- Allow pupils to explore the concept of budgeting their money, and understand the importance of budgeting whilst studying at university

MFL CARD COMPETITION

A huge well done to all of our Key Stage 3 pupils who entered the celebration card competition. It was wonderful to receive cards in lots of different languages and the effort put into each piece of work was fantastic.

It was a very difficult decision but we are pleased to announce the winners who will be receiving a voucher:

- Aairah y8
- Hadley y8
- Si Qi y9

Our runners up will be receiving a bar of chocolate each:
Oscar y9, Rithika y8 and Tehreem y8.





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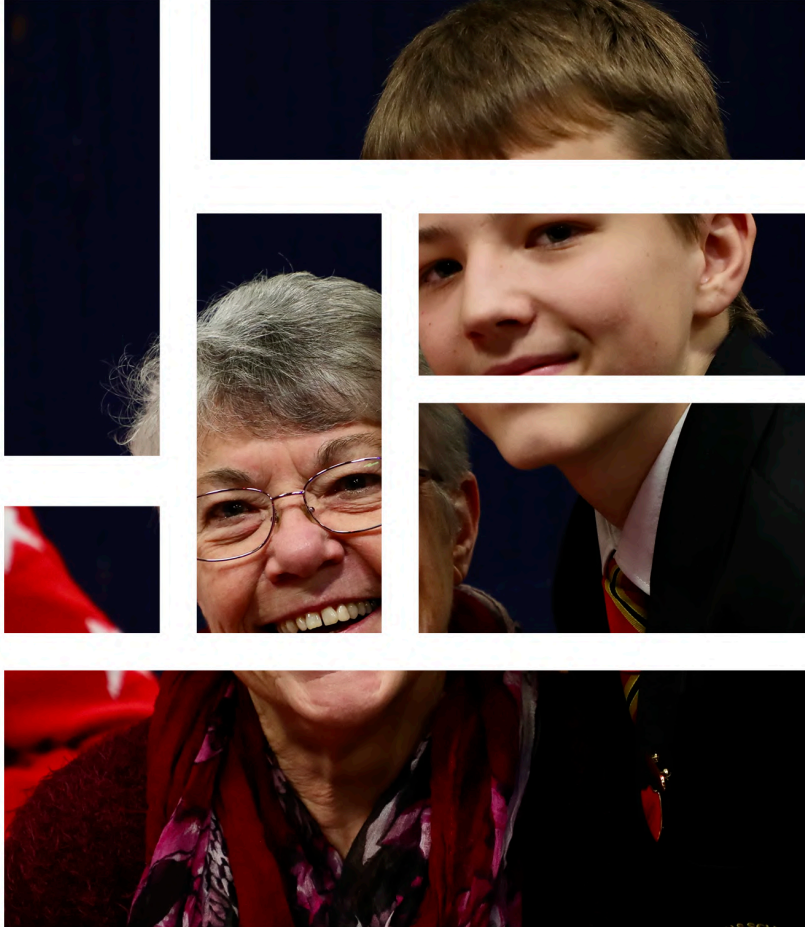
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COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY | WHO AM I?



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

This December, Smithills School invited 80, friends and family members of the local community to enjoy some Christmas festivities in the school hall.

The annual community Christmas party started off with a welcome drink on arrival served by Smithills School staff and pupils, while enjoying some festive music.

The afternoon progressed with some performances from our Elite dance group, along with some live snippets of last week's Christmas music concert.

Mr Appleton (Smithills Site Manager) who helped coordinate the event said, "To be honest this is my favourite time of year. It's a unique event that not many if any put on for their community and it makes feel proud to be a member of the Smithills family."

Guests were served a 3-course meal by staff and pupils and left with some Smithills goodies upon their departure.

Grace (Performing Arts Pupil at Smithills) said, "It's nice to see all the Smithills community coming together to celebrate Christmas. I've been doing this for 5 years now and will surely miss it when I leave Smithills next year."

WHO AM I? (SHARED ON X BY CAROLINE SLIFKIN)



caroline slifkin @CSlifkin · Dec 3

Wonderful 1st paired schools session of our @BoltonACIS Who Am I?Secondary #SchoolsLinking art project @Linking_Network Thanks to @HarperGreen for hosting us & @SmithillsSchool @SmithillsADT We explored identity further with, 'I am because we are' creating I am poem or maps. We looked at portraits, self-portraits created by artists during & after the Holocaust exploring identity. The Y9 learners continued developing their creative responses. We are looking forward to the next session hosted by @SmithillsSchool @SmithillsADT with @HarperGreen





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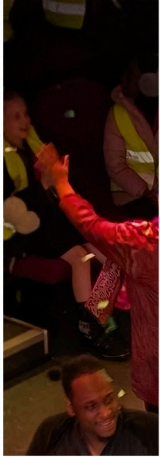
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JUNGLE BOOK | I & E | CLOCK FACE COMPETITION



JUNGLE BOOK

Last week Mrs McNamara organised a trip to watch the Jungle Book with a group of year 7, 8 and 9 pupils. It was a fantastic trip.

To help more people experience the magic of live theatre The Octagon are also offering £4 tickets under the affordable tickets scheme.

To find out more please visit:
Octagonbolton.co.uk/affordabletickets or
email the box office at:
boxoffice@octagonbolton.co.uk



INCLUSION & ENGAGEMENT

Over the last 8 weeks our new intervention programme has been up and running. The interventions are tailored to suit individual student needs and cover a wide range of subjects such as healthy eating, managing stress and anxiety and keeping safe. We have had 252 referrals across all year groups. Our Boxing intervention is the most popular with 23 referrals, this intervention teaches the importance of regulating emotions and teamwork.

CLOCK FACE COMPETITION

A huge well done to Olivia W who attended Smithills open evening in September. Olivia took part in a design a "Clock face competition" within the math department. Olivia had to design a clock face using a variety of mathematical calculation to give the numbers on the clock. We had over 50 visitors take part in the competition with Olivia W being chosen as the winner. Olivia showed great mathematical skills and understanding in her design, well deserved winner. We hope to see Olivia at Smithills in the future?





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PERFORMING ARTS

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Pupils from Smithills School presented the musical, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, from Monday, November 25th, to Wednesday, November 27th.

A much-loved family favourite, this magical fairytale musical featured many well-known and much-loved songs, including 'Be Our Guest' and 'Tale as Old as Time'. The cast also featured popular characters, including Mrs Potts, Lumiere, and Cogsworth, all made famous by the 1991 animated film.

The musical took us on a magical journey between the characters, Belle and the Beast. Grace Pearce, Year 11 pupil, who plays Belle, states 'I have thoroughly enjoyed taking the leading role this year, I have had lots of lines and songs to learn but we have all worked together to support each other'. Rowan Beswick, a Year 11 pupil, took on the lead as the Beast, Rowan is usually found in the lighting box, but this year he has decided to take a role on stage.

Pupils were busy rehearsing during lunchtimes and after school to bring this wonderful musical to life. The performing arts provision at Smithills School allows pupils to perform and take an active role in backstage and technical aspects.

Mr Milthorpe, Head of Faculty for Performing Arts and PE states,

'We give our pupils a vast range of opportunities within the performing arts each academic year, I am always exceptionally proud of every pupil that takes a leading role both on and off stage'.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

Our fantastic Performing Arts faculty did it again with last night's amazing Christmas Music Show. The concert is now an annual production that features the most talented musicians at Smithills School. Numerous acts including Brass Groups, Rock Bands, Solos and Guitar Groups were all enjoyed during the concert.

Mrs Elliott, Music Teacher and Concert Coordinator said, "All the pupils have once again done the school proud tonight, I am so pleased the concert turned out as well as it did."





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SOCIAL MEDIA GALLERY

GINGERBREAD



On Thursday 5th December Smithills School had a very special visit from @CHURCH_ROAD_SCH to make Gingerbread with our amazing Food Technology team and pupils at Smithills. As you can see from the pictures, everyone involved had a brilliant time. #GINGERBREAD #SMITHILLSFAMILY

PROUD DRAW



As we always aim to reward our amazing pupils #SMITHILLSFAMILY, we introduced our "Proud" stickers last year. A random draw selected Luke (Yr 10) as the overall winner of a £50 voucher. #PROUD

SMASHED PROJECT



Yesterday, we had the pleasure of watching the @SMASHEDPROJECT Live performance and workshop. Year 7 really enjoyed it and learnt some valuable life lessons. #SMASHEDPROJECT #LIVEPERFORMANCE #WORKSHOP #LIFELESSONS #SMITHILLSFAMILY #YEAR7 #SMITHILLSSCHOOL #SUCCESSFORALL

BASKETBALL



On Thursday 28th November our year 7 Basketball team were in action playing 5 matches against local schools. The boys performed brilliantly learning loads from each match and developing the skills to be great sports performers. The boys really embodied our school values. #BASKETBALL #PE #SPORT #SMITHILLSFAMILY