



School Production: Page 4



Oldbury Wells Journal

April 2023



Welcome to our Easter Newsletter at the end of the Spring term. The lighter nights and longer daylight hours have been well received by all and are a sign that the Summer term is just around the corner.

We have had an amazing week in school, the highlight being our school production of 'Legally Blonde, Jnr'. All staff involved were amazing, having spent hours learning and rehearsing the show, resulting in three amazing performances across the week. I know how proud all staff, family and friends are of all who have been involved with the show. Members of the audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and it has been amazing for all concerned. These opportunities have been missed over recent years. Seeing students across all year groups connecting again as part of the show in such a supportive way has been a real privilege, perfectly capturing the positive ethos across the school. Well done to all involved.

At the end of what has been a short half term, including days working from home because of industrial action or snow days, we are looking forward to an exciting summer period. It is an essential time for those students in Year 11 and 13 who are moving into their final examination window, alongside students across other years, including Year 9 who will be starting to think about outcomes from the options process they have recently completed for their GCSE subjects for next year. We wish everyone good luck in the weeks ahead.

There is also lots to look forward to for those involved with opportunities such as work experience, alongside the many other trips and activities which have been scheduled across the school. I know that all students will make the most of all opportunities ahead.

Can I thank all families for their ongoing support. It has been really positive to meet so many parents in school during recent parent's evenings and get the chance to discuss student progress and developments across the school. Many parents have commented that by now being back in school for so many events, they have been able to connect with staff well and have been very positive regarding the face-to-face feedback which has been given.

I would like to thank all staff for their continued commitment in all they do, I am continuously grateful for their work and the difference they make. A special mention to Mr Cook (English) who starts his adoption leave at the end of term and to Mrs Kirby (Teaching Assistant) who moves on with lots of exciting plans ahead. I would also like to thank Mr Crawford-Thomas who was previously our chair of governors; serving the school for just over 10 years, he has recently stepped back from his role on the governing body. The service he gave, alongside all involved with governance across the school, makes a real difference across the school community as a whole.

Finally, to our students, you continue to be amazing in all you do. As always, use the holiday period to reflect on everything you do across the school, set some individual targets for next term, but most importantly make sure you take a well-earned break and return fully prepared for the term ahead.

Happy Easter everyone, enjoy the break!

Mr Tristham

UPDATES

Beat Partnership

Eating Disorder Awareness



Oldbury Wells has become a partner with BEAT, the UK's leading eating disorder charity. We are one of twelve schools in the UK who have been offered this amazing opportunity, to

work together and consider how to best tackle mental health within school. Miss Silverstone is our liaison with the charity and would like to inform you of opportunities for students to get involved in over the coming months. Shortly after Easter, students will be sent a link to an optional questionnaire regarding eating disorders and mental health. All answers are anonymous, and Miss Silverstone will be reviewing the data. Such research within school will enable Oldbury Wells to develop new ways to support young people with their mental well-being so it is something to get involved with. If you do have any concerns, please contact Mr J White or Miss K Silverstone.

Younger writers in the making!

Power of Poetry



As part of our ongoing creative writing work, students were asked to produce a poem about a topic they were passionate about. Topics ranged from 'Monstrous Love' to the war in Ukraine, all exploring complex emotions and ideas. The winner selected by Miss Silverstone was Antonia Drye (Year 10) with her piece about the passionate but equally destructive nature of love. Young Writers went on to select 10 of our students' work to be published in their 'Power of Poetry' anthology.

Our published writers include: Sophie Timmington, Eden Tudge, Abigail Rhymes, Isabella Davies, Holly Rossookh, Henry Fairburn, Maisie Rollings, Alfie Pope, Antonia Drye and Finlay Walker

Well done to all those who got involved. Watch this space for future upcoming competitions!

New Menus!

Caterlink

See our catering providers new menus which will be available after half term:

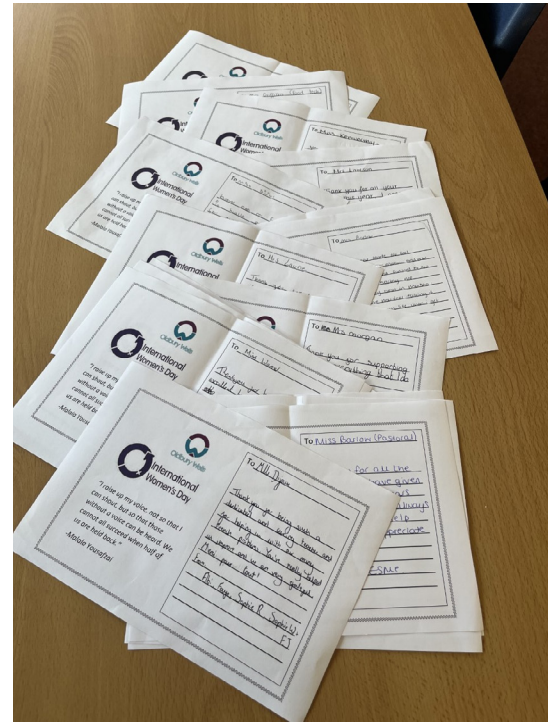
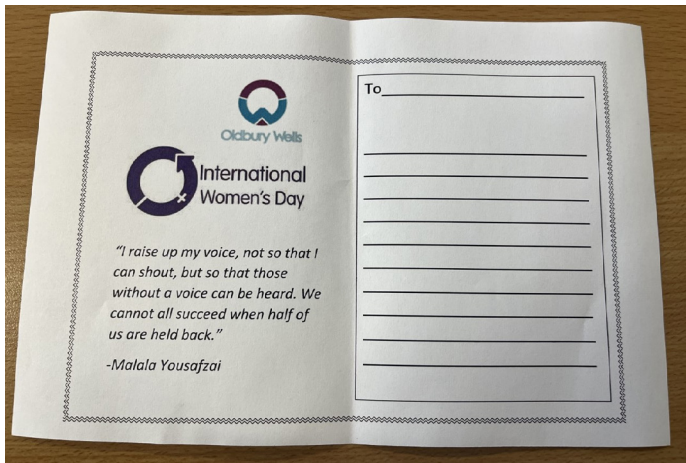
<http://oldburywells.com/media/48665/menus-after-easter.pdf>

Caterlink offer a variety of tasty meals and snacks to pupils at break and lunchtimes, and their themed days offer meals based on delicious cuisines from around the world. OWS and Caterlink work hard to ensure price increases for school meals are kept to a minimum, however, due to the current economic climate with food costs continuing to rise, from Monday 17th April 2023, Caterlink will be implementing a 5% price increase after the Easter Holidays. The FSM daily allowance will change accordingly to reflect the new meal deal cost.

Letters of praise!

International Women's Day

Year 11 marked International Women's Day 2023 by sending notes of thanks to female staff. The photo shows a selection of many wonderful notes that were written from some very appreciative and hard-working students.



Comic Relief

Non-Uniform Day

Friday, 17th March marked Comic Relief where we held a non-uniform day to help raise funds for the cause.

The theme of the day was "Mr Men/Little Miss Characters", where pupils (and staff!) could decide to dress up as a character from the famous children's books. Activities also took place at lunch time such as beat the keeper and RC racing!

We raised a total of £619!

Thank you to everyone who donated and dressed up for the occasion. Comic Relief raises money for people in the UK and around the world so this is a great cause for the school to be a part of.



SCHOOL PRODUCTION

OMG!! 'Legally Blonde' at Oldbury Wells School

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical 

Oldbury Wells School students took to the stage and raised the roof to a sell-out audience with their production of the popular 'Legally Blonde Jr' musical on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th March following a three year hiatus due to the pandemic.

The hit musical showcased talented students from across Years 7 to 11 with lead roles cast across all year groups, many of whom had no prior experience of performing or working on a

production. The story of Legally Blonde follows Elle Woods as she blossoms from being a sorority girl chasing the man of her dreams to a serious Harvard Law student, tackling stereotypes to find her true self.

Musical Director and Head of Music, Miss Dangerfield says, 'We are tremendously proud of our students who have poured their hearts and souls into this production which has required endless hours of dedication. It has been amazing to see how the cast have gelled so well together across all year groups to form such a lovely and supportive bond, making memories together.'

Our production week also included a performance for local primary school pupils giving them a fantastic insight into the quality of Performing Arts at Oldbury Wells and giving them something to aspire to as potential future Oldbury Wells students.'



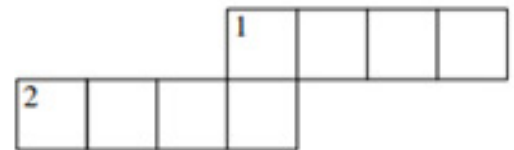
Intermediate UK Maths Challenge

In February, 30 of our Year 10 students participated in a national maths competition called the UKMT Intermediate maths challenge. They pitted their wits against an increasingly difficult set of problems, against the clock! 11 of our students achieved a bronze certificate, six students achieved silver and the gold award and "best in school" went to Jack Goldsmith – well done Jack! We are looking forward to seeing how the Year 7 and 8 students get on with the junior challenge which is coming up in April.

Here is one of the problems that our challengers faced, can you give it a go?

10.

Across	Down
1. A power of 5	1. A power of 6
2. A power of 4	



Eight of the digits from 0 to 9 inclusive are used to fill the cells of the crossnumber.
What is the sum of the two digits which are not used?

A 12

B 13

C 14

D 15

E 16

Year 10 Maths Feast

In March, 2 teams of Year 10 mathematicians travelled to Idsall School in Shifnal to participate in a maths contest against lots of local schools. They had to test their problem-solving, teamwork and maths skills in an event called the "maths feast". Both of our teams did a fantastic job of working together on several very challenging rounds of questions and puzzles, and did us proud with their efforts. One of our teams even won the teamwork award for demonstrating the best teamwork out of all the schools in attendance. Well done to Jack Storer, Lawrence Wood, Olly Smith, Callum Blower, Samson Ward, Jonah Hunt, Cory Anderson and Elias Matthews for participating. Thanks also to Mr Walker and Mr LaCroix who led the trip.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Year 7 District Netball

The OWS Year 7 netball team finally got to take part in the District competition after it being postponed earlier in the month due to snow! Despite the rescheduled day being on the same date as the opening night of the school production and us losing some of our 18 strong squad, the remaining 10 girls headed to the competition at William Brookes School. The first game couldn't have been any more challenging against the renowned William Brookes A team, who dominated the match in the early stages. When the OWS team realised that they were not unbreakable the game became more end to end, with Leila Ward and Grace Fellows converting the chances that the team made. The game finished 8-4 to WBS, but the improvements made during the game helped to build the team's confidence going into the next match. The conditions were extremely windy and the girls managed to adjust the style of play to help with this, moving quicker and playing short passes. They won the next 2 games against WBS B and Church Stretton quite convincingly with accurate shooting from Katie Griffiths and very good defending from Isla Loveridge and Poppy Nicholls. The girls began to tire a little going into the last 2 games, drawing against Idsall A 2-2 and finally losing late on in the last game by just 1 goal to 0 against Idsall B.

It was good all rounder performance in difficult conditions though.



Maisie Harris, Grace Fellows, Poppy Nicholls, Leila Ward, Isla Loveridge, Alex Abi-Raad, Lilly Davies, Apryl Jennings, Emma Simmons and Katie Griffiths

HISTORY

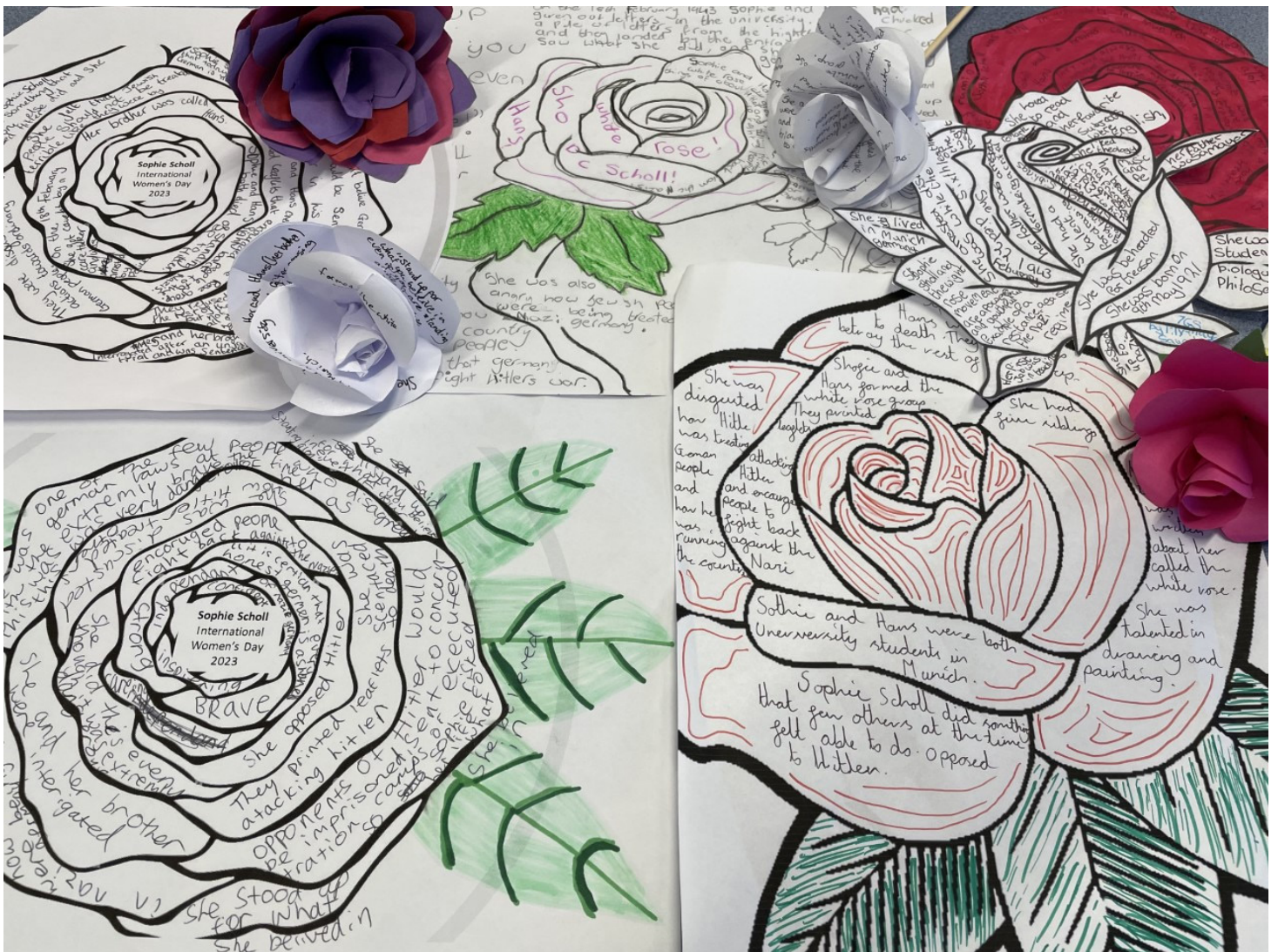
History Around Us

Women's History Month

This term has seen some major historical milestones that Key Stage 3 students have investigated as part of their home learning time. In January, Holocaust Memorial Day and its theme of 'Ordinary Lives' was marked by students investigating objects belonging to three witnesses to the Holocaust. In March, international Women's Day enabled students to investigate the life of Sophie Scholl. Sophie was a member of the White Rose movement that opposed Hitler in 1942-3. Her bravery provides inspiration today to stand against injustice even in the face of overwhelming odds. Students shared their own rose designs and models with their History teachers.

Below are a selection from 7GS.

Well done to everyone for their thoughtful work.



“READDIT”

This month, Readdit is looking at Easter celebrations; sharing a Year 8 short story and some Year 9 viewpoints on mobile phones. Remember to send in your contributions for the next edition! Submit to your English teacher.



Have you ever wondered why we eat Easter Eggs (or were you just too busy taking off the wrapping paper?)

It was a tradition in Mesopotamia (centuries ago) to paint eggs and give them to your friends and relatives as a treat. During Lent, in medieval times Christians were not allowed to eat eggs. So eating a decorated egg was a real treat at the end of Lent. In 1290, Edward 1 bought 450 eggs and had them decorated with bright colours and gold, as gifts to people in his household.

In parts of England, eggs boiled on Good Friday and eaten on Easter Sunday were thought to bring good luck.

In Devon and Cornwall, a game like conkers was played with eggs – smashing your opponent's egg meant good luck (but the game isn't recommended!). A double yoke meant that money was coming your way.

Year 9 Sharing Perspective

Here are some opening paragraphs from Year 9 – they all show ideas and viewpoint. Do you agree with these views, or feel you have a better argument to make? Send your responses to Readdit, by emailing or handing your work to the English Department.

Should mobiles be allowed in school? Phones in school? An absolutely pointless question, but an intriguing answer. Parents and phones; phones and parents. Complete opposites. They passionately despise one another. Parents are always saying, “Get off your phone!”, “Put it away!”. They are (frankly) correct. Mobiles were created, made to be addictive; they could be compared to a drug; you can't stop.

Mobile phones in school? Billions of phones around the world, yet not one can be seen in school. Ridiculous. These shining devices could open so many windows to students in their academic struggles, but those windows have been shut. So let's open one...

Tell me why. Why are schools so against a device that everyone has in their pocket? A device that has access to a huge archive of information about everything and everyone. The very thing that revolutionised humanity today.

If you have a view on mobiles in school – or another important subject – give us your view. A reward for all viewpoints printed!

YEAR 8 SHORT STORY!

Enjoy reading this tension-filled tale by Joseph Wright

The nerves engulfed him. Never had he faced a more important moment. He peered out of the small ship's window and saw Kathula; the planet had multiple green islands surrounded by a light ocean. Malcolm had been planning to come here for years. Earth was a wasteland, with a lack of resources to sustain life. He turned off the engine as the gravity pulled his ship in. You could feel the gravity dragging his ship onto the planet's surface. Eventually, he crashed. Malcolm opened the ship's door. He had made it, after all these years.

He took a deep breath and grinned. Fresh, clean air! Malcolm took his first step on the planet. The ship had landed onto a beach. The sand was white; the ocean was clear and multiple animals flourished in the area. Malcolm walked up to the shore line, already seeing the colourful reefs housing a variety of different creatures. Glowing fish swam along with giant, alien-like turtles. Out in the deep ocean, he could see a gigantic whale with six fins, and a slim, flexible tail. It dived out of the water and spun in the air, before crashing back into the sea. In the air, a giant snake-like bird flew, holding a gigantic fish.

The sun hit the entire beach. Malcolm could feel the intense heat and decided to find shelter. He walked off, into a huge jungle with trees reaching a thousand feet in height.

Malcolm continued walking down some sort of pathway, which looked as if it had been made by humans. Malcolm made it to a log and sat down to rest. There was something off. He heard short whistles and bushes moving. The jungle was silent. Malcolm peered through the thick, green bushes. Suddenly, an arrow struck the log he was sitting on.

Malcolm leaped off the log and dived into a small ditch. A tree fell, covering the ditch. Malcolm looked from the ditch and saw a giant animal, resembling a bear, but bigger and more monster-like. The creature howled before collapsing.

Malcolm held his breath as he heard multiple whispers. Out of the bushes, a large, ten foot tall human-like creature ventured. She was holding a spear and had red skin. Soon, there were about twenty of these people. Some were smaller – about the height of a person. It seemed to be a tribe, filled with different families. Malcolm crept out, sneaking away – but then he heard a blood-curdling cry. This couldn't be good!

Malcolm rushed through the jungle. Waves of panic swept through him. The tribe was chasing him and they began shooting arrows at him. Malcolm climbed up one of the giant trees. Massive vines hung down, allowing him to get up easily. Malcolm froze as the tree shook. He looked down to see the tribe throwing logs at the tree. He jumped out of the tree and fell – directly onto one of the tribe members! Everything went black.

Malcolm jumped up in a panic. He took deep breaths. Was he dead? Just as he raised himself from the floor, one of the giant aliens arrived. It spoke to Malcolm. For some reason, he could understand the alien. Everything was explained to Malcolm. He was stuck here and wouldn't be able to escape. He was now part of the tribe.

Do you have a short story to share? Let your English teacher know!

COMPETITIONS!

Artists and Graphic Designers... Don't forget, we are still looking for a poster to place outside the new library – perhaps you have some ideas for engaging readers.

Extreme reading... Hurry to get your entries for this competition to Mrs Griffiths before the end of term! Where is the most interesting or weird place you've been photographed reading? Underwater? Top of a mountain? In a rowing boat? Take a selfie and send it in.

UCAS Convention

Last week, Sixth form and Year 10 students visited the 2023 UCAS convention at the University of Worcester. The Convention was an excellent opportunity for students to begin exploring the range of university opportunities, including degree level apprenticeships, available to them.

There were around 145 exhibitors from Higher Education Institutions and other organisations across the UK. Students were able to talk to admissions tutors about courses, entry requirements and related careers. They also picked up a range of prospectuses from the many institutions that will be at the event.

Year 10 were also involved in another careers activity this term. Staffordshire University Law students came in and delivered some interactive sessions designed to give students an insight into the industry and university study.

Follow our Twitter Careers page!

[@owscareers](https://twitter.com/owscareers)



A Level Othello National Theatre Live Trip

Sixth Form Trip

The Shropshire blood red sky was somewhat ominous, as we made our way to Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury to watch the screening of Shakespeare's tragic play 'Othello'. How very apt that the skyline was this colour when we were about to watch a play dealing with deceit, murder and death!

This performance was an interesting, modern take on Shakespeare's play, directed by Clint Dyer. It was performed in London, by the National Theatre, and streamed to Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn. The tragedy of 'Othello' has themes of racism, jealousy and focuses on gender relationships. It tells the love story of Othello and Desdemona, who marry in secret and crave a new life together. This honeymoon period doesn't last long, however, as the couple's love and trust are manipulated by the tragic villain – Iago.



In the performance, we were particularly interested in the clever usage of staging and strong feminine roles. Yet, opinions were divided: with Year 12 liking the rat-like Iago, whereas Year 13 would have preferred a much stronger characterisation portrayal and a more clandestine character for the tragic villain – let's face it, Kenneth Brannagh is a tough act to beat in the film version! Strong performances from Giles Terera (Hamilton) and Rosy McEwen (The Alienist) helped capture the powerfully tragic events though.

Faye (Year 12) reflected on how: 'This show was important to help our general understanding of the play and the tragic genre. Watching a performance really helped us to grasp the tone and meaning of Shakespeare's language. It was also brilliant how Mr LaCroix and Miss Fyfe thoroughly enjoyed the show, as 'Othello' newbies! My overall thoughts are that it was very insightful to see, from the audience's point of view, how the plot developed. We enjoyed the atmosphere of the modern take on 'Othello'. It was unique to see the director's take with the modern stage and costumes. It was very clever ingenious and was a good evening. Well worth seeing!

Thank you to Miss Roberts for booking it and to Mrs Griffiths, Mr LaCroix and Miss Fyfe for accompanying us.

NOTICEBOARD

LGBTQ+ Club

Years 9, 10 & 11 welcome!

All genders, sexualities,
and pronouns
respected 😊

A place to chill out, play
games, ask questions,
and meet others!

Thursday Lunchtimes

Ask your form tutors for
further
details.



Clubs!

What	Where	When
English (Year 10 and 11)	E33 (Miss Roberts)	Wednesdays (3:05 – 4:15pm)
Maths (Year 11)	W64 (Mr Walker – Higher) W66 (Mr Parmar – Foundation)	Thursdays (3:05 – 4:15pm)
Science (Year 11)	E32 (Miss Allsop)	Thursdays (3:05 – 4:15pm)
Drama (Year 11)	W22 (Miss Morgan)	Thursdays (3:05 – 4:30pm)
Drama (Year 7 and 8)	W22 (Miss Morgan)	Thursdays (3:05 – 4:05pm)
Music – Encore	Music Room (Miss Dangerfield)	Thursdays (3:15 – 4:00pm)
Music – Orchestra	Music Room (Miss Dangerfield)	Fridays (3:05 – 4:30pm)
PE (See website for more details)		
All Years	Volleyball (Mr Cowburn)	Mondays (lunch time)
All Years	Basketball (Mr Smith)	Tuesdays (lunch time)
Year 9, 10 and 11	Football (Mr Smith)	Tuesdays (3:05 – 4:15pm)
Year 7 and 8	Rugby (Mr Cowburn)	
All Years	Girls Rugby (Mr Farish)	
All Years	Badminton (Miss Joiner)	Wednesdays (lunch time)
Year 9 and 10	Rugby (Mr Cowburn)	Wednesdays (3:05 – 4:15pm)
Year 8 and 9	Football (Mr Smith)	
Year 7	Football (Mr Smith)	Thursdays (3:05 – 4:15pm)
All Years (Girls)	Netball (Miss Joiner)	
Food (Year 11)	W56 (Mrs Griffiths)	Thursdays (3:05 – 4:00pm)
French (Year 10 and 11)	W34 (Miss Dijoux)	Tuesdays (3:05 – 4:00pm)
Open to Year 11 up to Christmas		
Spanish (Year 7 and 8)	W32 (Mr Cowley)	Tuesdays (3:05 – 4:00pm)
Homework Club (Year 7) Open after October Half-Term	W55 (Miss Docker)	Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (lunch time)
Sign Language Club (Year 7 and 8)	W33 (Miss Perks/Miss Kenworthy)	Wednesdays (lunch time)
Marvel / Comic Club (All Years)	W64 (Mr Walker)	Every Monday Week 1 (lunch time)

Equipment Reminder

- Black pens
- Green Pens
- Red Pens
- HB Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Scientific calculator
- Spanish or French Dictionary
- Highlighter pens
- Glue Stick
- Colouring Pencils
- Compass
- Protractor
- Earphones

Can we remind
all students to
bring a refillable
water bottle to
school.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2023

Starts - Thursday 5 January 2023 (Week 1)

Half-term - Monday 20 - Friday 24 February

2023 inclusive

Ends - Friday 31 March 2023

PD Days - Tuesday 3 January and Wednesday

4 January 2023

Summer Term 2023

Starts - Monday 17 April 2023

Bank Holiday - Monday 1 May and

Monday 8 May 2023

Half-term - Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June

2023 inclusive

Ends - Friday 21 July 2023

PLEASE CAN YOU LET SCHOOL KNOW IF THERE IS A CHANGE TO YOUR CHILD'S MEDICAL CONDITION OR IF THEY HAVE A NEW DIAGNOSIS.

Check out Shropshire's new Education Road Safety newsletter for those looking to/currently learning to drive:

<http://oldburywells.com/media/48395/road-safety-newsletter.docx>

Follow us on social media:

- Oldbury Wells School
- @OldburyWells
- oldburywellsschool

Contact Us:

Oldbury Wells
Bridgnorth
Shropshire
WV16 5JD

Tel: 01746 765454

Email: school@oldburywells.com