

# SELWOOD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 15th September 2023 | Issue No. 1 2023/24



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## DATES FOR THE DIARY

19th September - Open day and Evening

22nd September - Year 5 Coffee Morning

29th September - Macmillan Coffee morning and Fundraiser



We are also on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). Simply search for Selwood Academy. We post details of upcoming events, and celebrate our successes.

Welcome to the first newsletter of the school year.

For those who are new to the school, these newsletters are produced fortnightly and aim to keep you up to date with important information, and celebrate the wonderful achievements of our school community.



Useful information for parents/carers:

Have you seen our website? It is updated regularly with dates, letters, news and events. You can even sign up to receive notifications of upcoming important dates by going to Parents, School Calendar, and clicking the Subscribe button. See our website [here](https://selwood.somerset.sch.uk/)

<https://selwood.somerset.sch.uk/>

Please can we ask that parents and carers do not use the school car park or drop children off directly in front of the school. We are very fortunate to have use of the Football Club car park for pick up/drop off. You may wish to then walk your child to the school gate. ***Please do not park on the zig-zags or double yellow lines outside of the school or use the entrances to turn around.*** Please can parents also remind their children to use the zebra crossings. This is in place for the safety of your children.

It is vital that we hold up to date contact information for all our pupils. You can now update your details via the data collection on the ParentApp. Please can all parents and carers check their details and make any necessary changes.

# NEW STARTERS



We are delighted to welcome the following new members of staff to the Selwood team:

- Mr Collishaw - Teacher
- Miss Ibbitson - Cover supervisor
- Mrs Mead - Teacher
- Dr Bacon - Teacher (not pictured)
- Miss Lawson - Pastoral assistant (not pictured)
- Mrs Gibb - Teaching assistant (not pictured)
- Mr Somers - Peripatetic music teacher (not pictured)



# BATH HALF RUNNERS & AUTHOR VISIT



Some of you may already know that We Hear You (WHY), a local charity based in Frome come into Selwood and run counselling programmes with pupils who have been affected or bereaved by cancer or any other life-threatening condition. This service is completely free but wouldn't exist without fundraising support. We are incredibly lucky to have access to this service that costs WHY as a charity over £5000 a year to deliver.

We have witnessed time and time again the amazing impact these sessions have had on our pupils, so have decided to take on a challenge in order to fundraise for the charity so this programme can continue to support many more of our current and future pupils.

The challenge itself is to complete the Bath Half Marathon! Mr Finlay, Mrs Finlay, Mrs Hooper and Mr Owen all have little or zero running experience but have committed themselves to the challenge in order to support this charity in continuing to deliver outstanding support to our community. They are donning their running shoes and pounding the pavements of Bath to raise some much needed pennies.

If you would like to find out more or are able to sponsor them, then please click on the link below for more information.

<https://wehearyou.enthuse.com/pf/selwoodbathhalfers>

They are all very nervous about the challenge so thank you in advance for your support, they are truly grateful, every penny helps and will keep them going when things get tough (they know they will!)



Selwood pupils were treated to their first author visit of the new school year this Thursday.

Joffre White visited the school to talk to Year 5 about being an author, before delivering inspirational writing workshops to Year 6 and 7 pupils.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER



Thank you so much for your responses to our consultation on the proposal to reduce our intake slightly and allow pupils if they choose, to stay at Selwood in years 9-11. The timeline for this is year 9 having the opportunity to stay at Selwood in 2025, year 10 in 2026 and year 11 in 2027.

Following over 464 responses from all across the community there is incredible levels of support for our potential change with an 80% positive response rate, this is even more positive among school age parents and pupils.

Who	% Positive (number)
All	80 (464)
Parent of school age child attending Selwood	81% (179)
Parent of school age child not attending Selwood	87% (101)
Pupil at Selwood	81% (47)
Wider member of the Frome Community	67% (30)
Member of Staff at Selwood	93% (27)
Parent of preschool child	100% (16)
Pupil at another Frome School	94% (16)

Following this consultation the next steps will be to submit our request for a significant change to the department for education and we will update everybody as we hear any further information.

*Mr D Jeffries*  
*Head Teacher*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

There were a number of key questions raised and we have therefore compiled a key questions and responses document below, that may be of use:

Question	Response
Classrooms building/site size/green spaces/infrastructure	The current site can house 870 pupils in line with all regulations. In preparation for key stage 4 additional development and refurbishment of the current buildings would be undertaken, all internally funded in ensure the highest quality experience for all pupils. There are no plans for any loss of green space or immediate plans for additional buildings.
Staffing of KS4 subjects	81% of current staff at Selwood are secondary trained with high levels of KS4 experience. Over the next 3 years additional training and updates will be provided for staff and recruitment will be focused as required. Current staffing would allow a full KS4 offer taught by specialist teachers.
Curriculum at KS4	Selwood Academy would offer the full national curriculum at key stage 4, with a strong focus on the Arts and The English baccalaureate. This would include a minimum of, but would not be limited to; English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Statistics, Synergy Science, Trilogy Science, History, Geography, RE, Computer Science, French, German, Law, PE, Design and Technology, Cooking, Art, Music and Drama.
KS2 pupils on the same site as KS4 pupils	KS2 provision would take place in the specialist KS2 block with a separate break and lunch time. Selwood is a nurturing caring environment in which all pupils light may shine and this would not change. We have the highest expectations for all our pupils to work hard, be kind, do our best and accept nothing less and this would be the case for children of all ages. Nationally there are many successful all through provisions which manage an age range from 4-19, which is an age range of 15 years. A traditional secondary school runs from 11-19 which is a gap of 8 years. This proposal would see pupils from 9-16 together which is a gap of 7 years and we believe would work most effectively within the current system
All secondary provision would be on one side of the town	All provision for years 9-13 is already on one side of the town. This therefore would not alter with this proposal. This distance from Selwood to the schools on the other side of town is 1.8 miles which is manageable for pupils of that age as is demonstrated already. There are number of secondary provisions in neighbouring areas that are all located nearby to one another e.g. Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury. This is very successful and allows for effective collaboration, shared resources and curriculum offer.
Would children from other schools be able to join Selwood?	We would offer multiple entry points and would certainly allow pupils from other schools to join at these points, in line with school spaces and local need. We would also include rural schools' admissions criteria to ensure that those living in villages outside of town were not disadvantaged.
Can't we just be a two-tier system? Wouldn't it be better if all the schools found a solution together?	This proposal works within the current three tier structure; however, Selwood will continue to work alongside the LA and colleagues in the areas in developing and implementing the vision for Frome.
Where do the pupils go in year 5 if Selwood reduce their PAN?	There is a surplus of places in year 5 in the area. This is due to 5 providers in this area; Selwood, Oakfield, St Louis, Avanti and Leigh on Mendip. Selwood has agreed with the Local authority if this was to change and more spaces be required then they would increase their intake.
What leadership experience does Selwood have in KS4?	Our current headteacher has experience of leading several secondary schools. At Wyvern college he moved attendance up 6%, PA down 25%, English and Maths 4+ up 25% reduced exclusions from 700 to less than 50 days, with no PEX's. Progress also moved from the bottom 10% nationally to top 20%, including an P8 for disadvantaged learners of +0.9. This was recognised nationally and as result he was guest speaker at the SSAT national conference, and PiXL main meeting to over 3000 school leaders. At St Edmunds in 2019 following exceptional outcomes across the board the school was awarded the SSAT award for educational outcomes. We are a member of the local authority thriving schools' groups as part of the Somerset secondary group. We provided school improvement support for 5 secondary schools last academic year, a total of 13 secondary schools across the last 3 years. Three additional members of the current SLT have a wide range of experience as senior leaders across multiple secondary schools. The current staff also includes 12 members of staff with middle leadership experience in secondary schools.
What will you do if other schools move towards a two model?	We will continue to work with local schools and ensure we fit within the system. If the system changed to 2 tier we would change to fit with this.
How will you ensure that travel costs for the LA are not increased as a result of this change	The admissions change includes rural admissions criteria which will ensure those in local villages will be able to attend Selwood should this be their choice and therefore not increase costs to the local authority.



"Let your light shine before others"

Matthew 5 v16

SELWOOD ACADEMY



# OPEN DAY & EVENING Selwood Academy

**TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Open Evening: from 5.00pm - 7.00pm**

**Tours available throughout the day - and every day!**

***"Every Day is Open Day at Selwood"***

We would like to invite prospective parents, employees, volunteers and community users to visit our wonderful school at a time that suits you between 09:00-17:00. See our pupils and staff at work, speak to staff and trustees, view our grounds and check out our resources and spaces available to hire. Join our remarkable, thriving school and let us show you why you should be part of a community dedicated to letting your light shine before others.



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Email : [selwoodacademy@selwood-academy.co.uk](mailto:selwoodacademy@selwood-academy.co.uk)

[www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk](http://www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk)



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# SUBJECT NEWS



## ENGLISH



### English this term:

**Year 5** - Will be learning about non-fiction writing and creating their own autobiographical pieces.

**Year 6** - Will be building on what they learned about non-fiction writing in Year 5 to create magazine pieces in different styles.

**Year 7** - Will be starting their study of Oliver Twist.

**Year 8** - Will be learning about Victorian London and Sherlock Holmes.

### Spelling homework for Year 5 and 6:

<b>1</b>	Endings which are spelt -cious or -tious	If the root word ends in -ce, the 'sh' sound is usually spelt as c – e.g. vice – vicious,	Vicious, precious, <b>conscious</b> , delicious, malicious, suspicious, spacious, gracious
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### Homework for this year:

Alongside the spelling homework, this year we will be launching the Bedrock homework platform. Students will receive a login for Bedrock and will be expected to complete a vocabulary and grammar unit each week (aiming for 20 points - awarded for interacting with the units).

Details for how parents can access this programme will be sent home in the coming weeks.



## MATHS



Year 5 - We are starting our year by looking at the Place value of numbers up to a million including skills such as comparing, ordering and rounding.

We are also focusing on our Square number times tables.

Year 6 - We are also looking at Place Value including rounding of decimals and negative numbers.

Year 7 - We are looking at equality and equivalence - focusing on like and unlike terms

Year 8 - We have come back looking at calculations including dividing decimals and using powers and roots.

### Parent/child challenge questions:

You have a set of digit cards 0 to 9. Each one is used once and only once.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Put the ten digit cards here to make three two digit numbers and use the four single digits so that each statement is correct.

--	--

is a number greater than 80

--

×

--

= 35

--

×

--

= 27

--	--

is a number in the 5 times table

--	--

is an odd number greater than 40



# SPORTS NEWS



## Year 8 girls to represent the Somerset county football team

Three year 8 girls Myla, Ava and Lily attended the Somerset county football trials at the start of August. They were recommended due to their good performances in school and participation in local football.

The trials were a great success as all three have been selected to represent the Somerset u'14's team for this season. This is a great achievement as they will be playing a year below their age group.

We would like to congratulate all three and will keep you up to date on how they get on with their up-and-coming matches.

Well done girls!



We still have a few spaces left for the School Ski Trip To Austria, Amade Resort for those students who will be in year 7 & 8 in February 2025. Please email Miss Phillips ([laura.phillips@selwood-academy.co.uk](mailto:laura.phillips@selwood-academy.co.uk)) for more details and if you have any questions about the trip.



Please find a list of our after school clubs available to book your children on to, on our website:

[After School Clubs | Selwood Academy](#)

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# ARRIVING 2024



ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL JR.

AUDITION DETAILS COMING SOON!





# CHARITY FUN DAY

Everyone  
welcome



Sunday 24th September  
12:00 to 17:00

FROME GOLF CLUB,  
CRITCHILL MANOR ESTATE



FREE ENTRY

Raising awareness for (ALL) Leukaemia.  
All contributions will be going to RUH.

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- 
- Ice Cream
  - Superhero's
  - Big Ells sweet treats
  - Hook a duck
  - Glitter Tattoos
  - Crafty Creations
  - Face Painting
  - Bouncy Castle
  - Sand art
- and much more!

- To be won:
- Night away for 2 @ Marston Park.
  - Free MOT @ A.J. Reynolds.

Lots of raffle prizes too!

