

# SELWOOD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 12th January 2024 | Issue No. 7 2023/24



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for the diary

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## DATES FOR THE DIARY

15th Jan - Year 5 coffee morning -  
11.15am-12pm

17th Jan - Year 5 Paris trip info  
evening - 5pm-6pm

25th Jan - Year 5 & 8 subject parents  
evening - 3.30pm-7pm

31st Jan - Year 6 coffee morning -  
11.15am-12pm

6th Feb - SEND coffee morning -  
11.15am-12pm

8th Feb - Year 6 parents evening -  
online - 3.30pm-7pm

Welcome back to Term 3! We hope you all had  
a wonderful Christmas and New Year break!

We're excited to see you all back and can't  
wait to get started on a new term of learning  
and fun! We have lots of exciting dates for the  
diary this term, so keep your eyes peeled!

We are excited to announce we are now on  
Instagram!

Please follow us for good news and important  
updates on: @selwoodacademyfrome

**\*\*Important\*\***

*Social Media platforms are not monitored for  
queries, we therefore ask that any school  
queries are emailed to  
Selwood.academy@selwood-academy.co.uk or  
that you phone Reception.*

If you would like to know more about what  
your child is learning, please visit our  
[curriculum page](#).

Please also visit our [homework page](#) for  
helpful videos on how to access Bedrock, Sparx  
Maths and Google classroom!

Please fill out the google form if you wish to  
attend our Year 5 coffee morning  
<https://forms.gle/cDAVifxQGjac3na88>

**Did you get a new phone for Christmas?** Please remember to let us have your number.

It is vital that we keep up to date contact information for all our pupils, so if any of your  
details have changed, please let us know. Many thanks.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



*"I know there hasn't been a great deal of news since our bid was initially submitted, so thought now was an opportune time to update everybody. Since our submission we have been keeping an eye on upcoming advisory board agendas and following several months of unfortunately not yet featuring on the newsletter we contacted the Department for Education regional team and asked for clarity and an update, particularly as there has been a great deal of change in the local education set up with additional schools joining Multi Academy Trusts and a number of OFSTED inspections taking place. The DfE have asked us to confirm we would still wish our proposal to be discussed in light of the changes locally. This is something that we will confirm, following the overwhelmingly positive response we received to our consultation and the desire of our community to have increased secondary education choice in Frome, including the support of the Local Authority, Diocese and Methodists. Furthermore we are mindful of the statistics that 1100 school aged children live in Frome but are not educated within the system and that this is most prevalent, as children grow older with one in three pupils in year 11 that live in Frome are not education at a school in the town. This level of travel and time commitment have a huge financial burden on parents, as well as a negative impact on the environment."*

*"In preparation for discussion at advisory board and in order to enable me to accurately and robustly represent the desires of our community I will be sending out a questionnaire early next week in order to further gauge community feeling but also as direct evidence and opinions to present at any preparatory meetings. This questionnaire will be slightly different for differing year groups as the effect of the proposal on each group is slightly different. Please also see the slightly updated frequently asked questions following the original consultation."*

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 is 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.
How will the school manage 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 eg 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%, Eng and Math 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 would include 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.

# SIAMs UPDATE AND VACANICIES



As part of our commitment to continually develop our school and to ensure the provision we provide is the very best it can possibly be, we organise numerous audits over the year, and as part of this cycle, we recently had a mock SIAMS Inspection. We are very pleased to announce that the day was a huge success. A sample of the strengths highlighted by the inspector are listed below:

- *Our school vision is incredibly strong and embedded through all aspects of school life*
- *The well-being of our pupils and staff is at the heart of all our decisions and all members of our community flourish during their time at Selwood*
- *Our collective worship provision is inspirational, age-appropriate and meets the needs of all our pupils*
- *The R and P curriculum is engaging, well sequenced, purposeful and all pupils make good progress.*

*Our school creates a culture of justice and responsibility for our pupils and our pupils have the belief to make a difference and change the world.*

The day ran as a normal SIAMS inspection would, the 'Inspector' spoke with parents, pupils and staff and we would like to extend our thanks to all those involved. Our successful inspection reminds us of how proud we all should be, being part of the Selwood Community.

## **Lunchtime Supervisors required**

Term time only Monday – Friday

Working 1 hour 10 mins per day.

Grade 16 (£11.59 per hour)

We require reliable and well-motivated people to join our existing team of Lunchtime Supervisors to start as soon as possible. Applicants should enjoy working with young people. Duties include supervision both inside and outside the buildings across the whole site. The key role is to maintain a calm atmosphere. Please see our website or contact the school for more details and an application form.

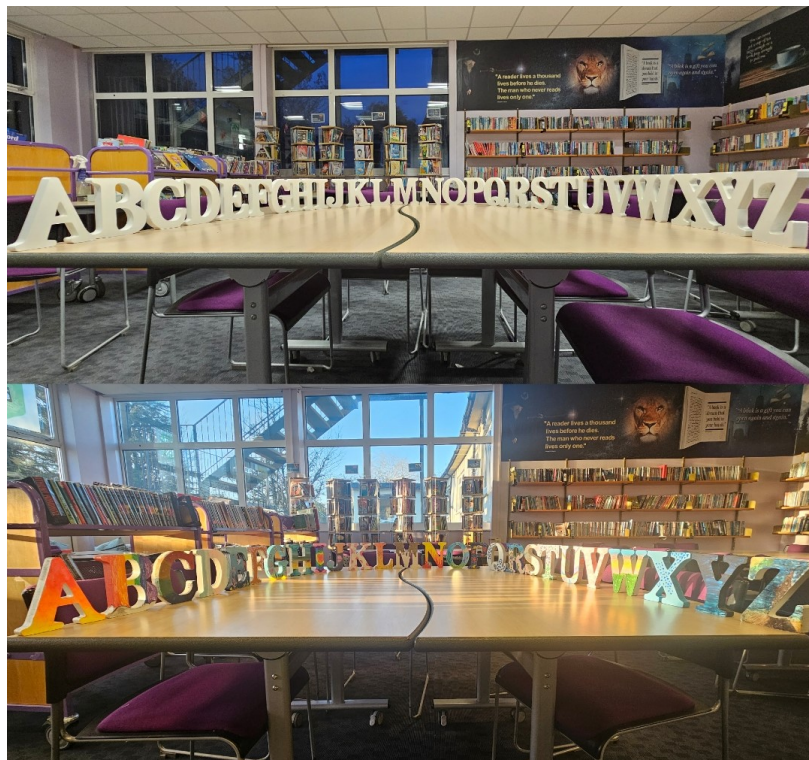


# GOOD NEWS



Alexa in Year 6 received her Blue Peter reading badge (designed by Quentin Blake!) just before Christmas. She wrote 400 words about her favourite books and drew a picture of one of her favourite characters.

Well done Alexa!



A number of pupils designed and painted these beautiful wooden A to Z letters to help them find books more easily in alphabetical order. We can't wait to see these varnished and displayed in our library!

# SUBJECT NEWS

## MATHS



Year 5 - We have come back into new maths sets this term and have been continuing to look at multiplication and division including multiples, factors and prime numbers

Year 6 - We are continuing to look at fractions including multiplying and dividing them by whole numbers and by other fractions

Year 7 - We are completing our block on multiplication and division where we will be looking at formal methods as well as how to use them to calculate the area of triangles and trapezia.

### Parent Challenge Question:

Write +, -,  $\times$  or  $\div$  to complete the calculation.

$$1 \bigcirc 2 \bigcirc 3 \bigcirc 4 \bigcirc 5 \bigcirc 6 \bigcirc 7 \bigcirc 8 \bigcirc 9 = 100$$



Our Year 8 Drama students are currently embarking on a magical journey through the tales of Arabian Nights, and we're in urgent need of your help! To make their performances truly enchanting, we're on the lookout for colourful cushions, vibrant rugs, and large pieces of material that can transport our students to the heart of the desert. If you have any of these items lying around your home, we would be eternally grateful if you could donate them to our cause!

# SPORTS NEWS



Our Taekwondo club started in September and the pupils are doing really well.

The club is run by TIGER martial arts and has the following philosophy

**T**eamwork  
**I**ntegrity  
**G**rowth  
**E**nergy  
**R**espect  
**S**elf-Control



The pupils have now passed their uniform licence and have taken part in their first grading. They are doing really well and developing some good skills.

Well done to all of them!

If your child is interested in joining the club. Tiger are offering a Month Free!  
It's on Mondays, starting Monday 8th January and continue at that location going forward 5:30-6:15pm in the school hall. Please sign up on their website  
[www.tigermartialarts.club/monthfree](http://www.tigermartialarts.club/monthfree)



The PE department would like to say thank you and well done to all the students who have committed and dedicated their time to Netball club. We are arranging a trip to see Team Bath Netball on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March v Saracens Mavericks at the Team Bath Arena. We have a number of fixtures this term against local Schools, wish all the netball teams good luck.





SELWOOD ACADEMY PRESENTS



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

20TH-23RD MARCH 2024

THE MERLIN THEATRE

# FROME FIREBALLS

FROME BASKETBALL CLUB



## U12S

SCHOOL YEARS 3-7

STARTING ON TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY AT 4.30-5.30PM

5.30-6.30PM FROM 16TH JANUARY

ONLY £6 PER SESSION



DATES

JANUARY 9TH - 26TH MARCH  
EXCLUDING 23RD JAN & 6TH FEB

SCAN HERE!



## FREE FIRST SESSION!

A COMMUNITY CLUB PROVIDING BASKETBALL IN  
FROME!

DOWNLOAD SPOND TO COMMUNICATE, PAY FOR  
SESSIONS AND MUCH MORE!



AJ's

BASKETBALL COACHING

CONTACT US

FROMEBASKETBALL@GMAIL.COM

FIND US

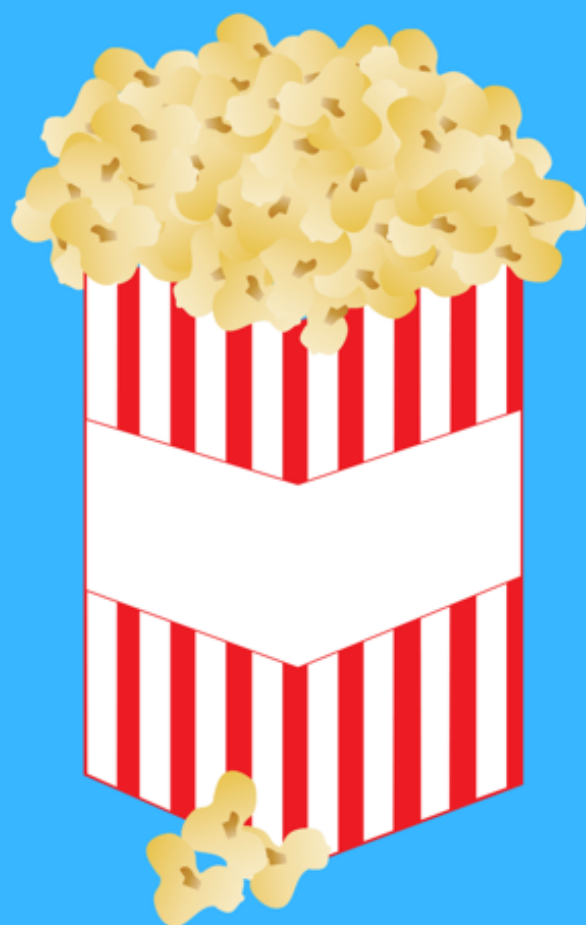
FROME SPORT AND FITNESS, PRINCESS ANNE RD, FROME, BA11 2SA





# Win a ViewSonic MI Portable Cinema!

**Tickets available at our  
Coffee Mornings and at the  
School Production. Dates  
will be emailed.**



Get a chance to win  
this amazing prize  
while helping our  
school raise funds  
for our upcoming  
projects.

**Raffle tickets  
£2.50 each**



**SELWOOD ACADEMY**  
ANGLICAN/METHODIST FOUNDATION SCHOOL









**FREE\***

## Autism Awareness Courses

Online | January - March

Expand your knowledge and awareness of autism and neurodiversity.

In each session you will learn about a different aspect of autism, including the key differences between the brains of neurotypical and autistic individuals, how autism affects executive functioning skills and how autism and anxiety are linked.

### What do I need to know?

- ✓ For beginners and more experienced learners alike.
- ✓ Zoom access required.
- ✓ \*Please see our website for eligibility information.

**Understanding Autism - Starter:** Wednesday 10th – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
10:00am – 1:00pm | 3 Sessions

**Understanding Autism: Sensory Sensitivity, Stimming and Masking:**  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – 6<sup>th</sup> March | 10:00am – 1:00pm | 3 Sessions

Call Somerset Skills & Learning for more information / book online

**0330 332 7997 [sslcourses.co.uk](https://sslcourses.co.uk)**

**SOMERSET SKILLS & LEARNING**

Scan with your smartphone camera to visit our website

