

SELWOOD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



DIARY DATES

APRIL 2025

4th - End of term 4 - 3.10pm

22nd - Start of Term 5

22nd - Year 6 Coffee Morning
11.15 - Library

23rd - Internet Safety Talk -
5pm Main School Hall

24th to 29th - Book Fair

30th - Year 5 Football Festival
May

1st - Year 8 Theatre Trip
6th & 8th - Year 7 Black
Country Museum Visit

4th April 2025 - Issue 12

IN THIS EDITION

- School News
- Recent Events
- Sports News
- Useful info

REMINDERS

END OF TERM

The last day of term is **Friday 4th April**.
We return to school on **Tuesday 22nd April**. We will return on WEEK 2.

BIKE STORAGE ALTERATIONS

During the upcoming half term, we will be making alterations to our bike storage facility, transitioning to an open-framed storage system. Please see important details in the newsletter.

PARENT/CARER INTERNET SAFETY TALK

We will be holding an internet safety talk for parents/carers on 23rd April. Please see further details in the newsletter.

FORGOTTEN ITEMS

Please ensure that your child has all they need for the school day when they come to school each morning. Selwood is a large and busy site, we cannot guarantee that we will get forgotten items and messages to children throughout the day, especially when after 12.30pm.

PAYMENT DEADLINES

- Year 8 Thorpe Park - **16th May**
- Year 6 Mendip Camp - **23rd May**



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SCHOOL NEWS

Parent/Carer Internet Safety Talk

The internet is a powerful tool, but it also presents unique challenges for parents/carers. This session will empower you to take an active role in your child's online safety. Andy Mitchell will cover crucial topics like social media risks, data harvesting, and practical steps for monitoring and managing their digital footprint. Discover how to create a safe and responsible online environment for your family. With over ten years as a teacher and extensive experience in education marketing, Andy brings a unique perspective to online safety. He's regularly consulted by schools on this vital topic and has created these sessions to bridge the gap between parental concern and practical solutions. Andy's mission is driven by a deep commitment to protecting young people from online harm, a cause he believes requires proactive parental involvement. The meeting is intended for parents and carers only. If possible, we kindly ask that children do not attend. Year 8 pupils will have a separate talk with Andy Mitchell during the school day.

Wednesday 23rd April 2025

5pm - Main School Hall

Please click the link below to sign up:

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Bike Storage Alterations

During the upcoming half term, we will be making alterations to our bike storage facility, transitioning to an open-framed storage system. This change is designed to provide a dedicated space for pupils to securely store their bikes. Please take note of the following important new arrangements:

Pupils will need to use their own padlocks to secure their bikes.

Any bikes that are not secured will be kept at the owner's risk.

We do not encourage bringing scooters and skateboards onto the school site as they cannot be securely stored in the new storage facility.

Overnight storage of bikes is discouraged to ensure the safety of all items.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we implement these changes. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to contact the academy. Thank you for your continued support.

SPORTS NEWS

Year 7 & 8 Football vs Matravers

On 25th March, our Year 7 and 8 football teams travelled to Matravers School for an exciting away fixture. The teams displayed great determination and sportsmanship throughout the day, showcasing their developing skills and teamwork. The Year 7 team played superbly, overcoming an early setback when they found themselves 1-0 down. They responded with incredible resilience and tactical play. With excellent passing and attacking moves, they turned the game around and secured a commanding 5-1 victory.



The Year 8 team faced a tough challenge as Matravers' defence proved difficult to break through. Despite creating several good chances, the opposition's defence managed to keep our players at bay, and the game ended with a 3-0 defeat. However, Matravers' PE teacher remarked that the result did not fully reflect the closeness of the match, highlighting how competitive and well-fought the game had been.



It was great to play against a new team and we hope to have more fixtures with Matravers in the future. Well done to all involved!

SPORTS NEWS

Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby

On 26th March, Selwood proudly sent two teams of Years 5 and 6 pupils to a tag rugby tournament hosted by Frome Rugby Club. The event was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to showcase the skills they have been working hard to develop throughout the year.

Both teams displayed incredible teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship as they faced off against other local schools.



One team made it all the way to the final, showcasing exceptional play and resilience. Although they gave it their all, they were narrowly defeated by a golden try, but their performance was nothing short of outstanding. The other team played brilliantly and their hard work and commitment were evident and they showed excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition.

We would like to thank Paul Lovett and all at Frome Rugby club for organising the event and continuing to offer a pathway and a community link for players who enjoy rugby at school.

Congratulations to all the pupils who took part! They represented Selwood Academy with pride, and we look forward to more success in future tournaments.



SPORTS NEWS

Netball

Year 7 won the local Netball Tournament with outstanding attacking and defending from all the players. They played Hugh Sexy, Oakfield and Crispin. Winning all three games 10-0, 11-0 & 8-0. Player of the Match - Pippa M & Gracie L. Well done girls we are all proud of you!



The Year 8 Team were outstanding this week at the Year 8 Tournament at Fairlands. The pupils played Crispin, Fairlands and Oakfield, winning 10-2, 10-5 and our last game against Oakfield was very tense. Emila scored the final shot in the last second winning 4-3. Super proud of you all. Player of the Match - Meredith, Jasmine, Ava and Delilah.



Well done to all the Year 7 & 8 Netballers who have worked hard and trained every week since September.

SPORTS NEWS

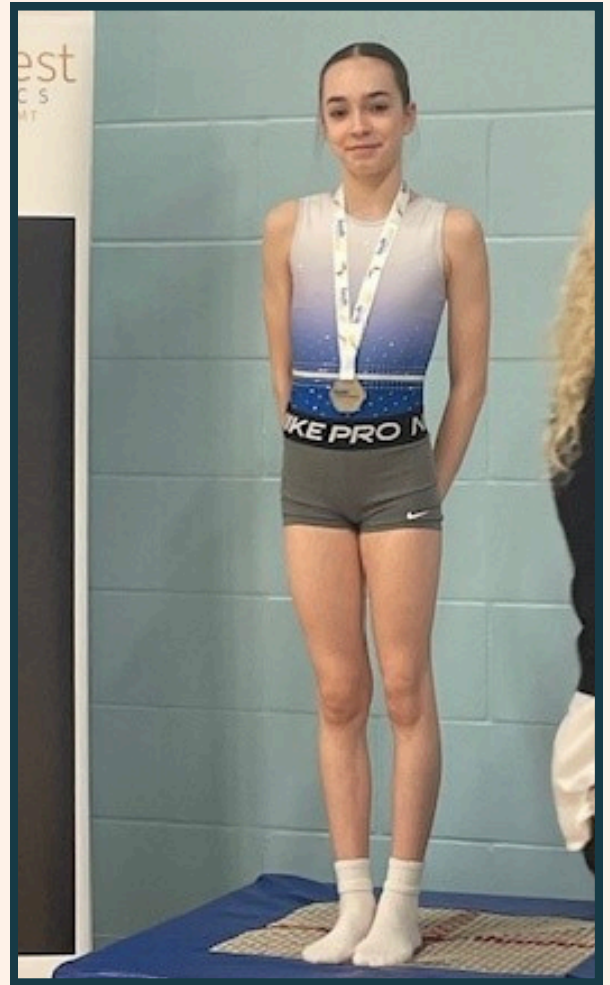
Well Done Ava!

Congratulations to Ava in Year 8 who came 2nd South West Regional Finals in DMT (double mini tramp) at the weekend!

Hopfully she will have qualified for the National event, at which the top 2 for each age group and region compete.

We will keep you updated.

Well done Ava!



Frome Cricket Club

Frome Cricket Club very generously host our after school club and cricket matches. They run sessions on Sundays which may be suitable for pupils and siblings depending on their age. Please follow the links to find out more:

All-Stars sessions aged 5 – 8,

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/frome/Course/b4463753-97cd-4ba0-b11e-c1284e924b84>

Dynamos sessions (Girls only) aged 8 to 11.

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/frome/Course/98327a66-df30-4a96-a8c9-f9ba5d41271b>

RECENT EVENTS

Frome Busks 2025

On 22nd March, pupils from Selwood Academy participated in Frome Busks, an annual event that celebrates the talents of young musicians. Performers showcased their skills on various stages set up around the town center, including the Westway precinct, Boyle Cross, outside the Cheese and Grain, and Catherine Hill. The event also marked the conclusion of the Frome Kindness Festival 2025.

On the Showcase stage, Helen, a local singing teacher, welcomed a range of soloists from schools in Frome, including Frome College and Selwood Academy, performing across different age groups.

Funds raised at Frome Busks will go towards providing further opportunities for pupils to get involved in music.

Well done to all the amazing musicians that took part!

Pupils pictured : Erin, Ruby, & Luuk



Easter Bingo

Thank you to everyone that donated, supported and came along to our Easter Bingo on Friday 21st March. We had a fantastic time and raised £300! We couldn't have done it without you

We look forward to seeing you at our next fundraising event!



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RECENT EVENTS

Young Carers in Schools Award

We are very proud to achieve the Young Carers in Schools Award! The Young Carers in Schools Award is a free, national programme for schools run collaboratively by the Carer's Trust and Children's Society. Selwood is the fourth in Somerset to achieve this Ofsted recognised award under its recently redesigned structure and is the first middle school to ever earn this recognition. The Award celebrates a school's ongoing commitment to identifying and supporting young carers and helping them to achieve their fullest potential. Rebecca Hill, the Young Carers Lead at Selwood Academy said "I am so happy that we were able to achieve the award. We work really hard to support our young carers and it's wonderful to have that hard work recognised and celebrated!" The Young Carers in Schools Award (Somerset) is free and any school can participate. Having a project coordinator to support throughout the process allows schools to focus on the work they do with their young carers, and rewards this good practice. The Young Carers in Schools Award is achieved through submission of several pieces of evidence, including student noticeboards, staff training, communication with parents/carers and more.

Congratulations, Selwood!



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RECENT EVENTS

Wizard of Oz

What a fantastic show!

Huge congratulations to all staff, pupils and parents who were involved in making The Wizard of Oz such a great success.

Audiences were transfixed by the amazing talents of our pupils who sang, danced and acted like pros.

We could not be more more proud of our amazing school community!



Pre loved Uniform Sales

NEW DATES!

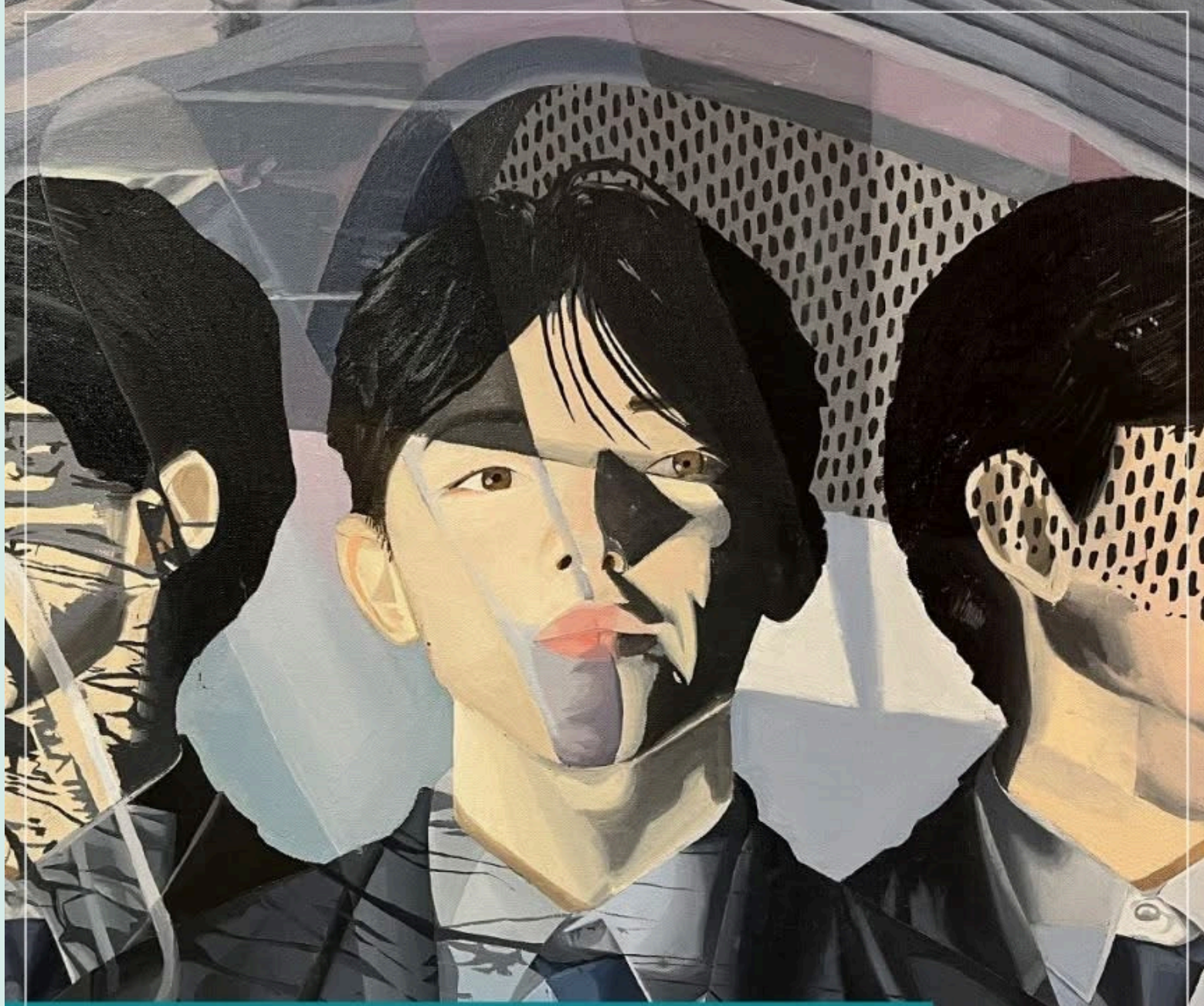
- TUE 22 APR, YEAR 6 COFFEE MORNING
- FRI 16 MAY, 3-3.30PM IN RECEPTION
- FRI 6 JUN, SEND COFFEE MORNING
- MON 30 JUN, INDUCTION EVENING (FROM 6PM)



CASH ONLY PLEASE



SELWOOD ACADEMY
ANGLICAN/METHODIST FOUNDATION SCHOOL



Black Swan Arts

Young Open 2025

Ages 8-19

Open for entries
11 December 2024

Entries close
01 March 2025

Exhibition
22 March 2025 - 27 April 2025

Mon - Sun 10am-4pm
2 Bridge Street, Frome BA11 1BB
blackswanarts.org.uk



 **BlackSwanArts**
Galleries | Studios | Shop | Cafe

Join the **Big Walk and Wheel Flash Mob**

Friday 4th April

3.20pm

Victoria Park bandstand

**Celebrate Big Walk and
Wheel 2025 with a 'flash
mob' dance session with
Mojo Moves.**

**No rehearsal required -
come and dance with us!**

**The cafe will be open
for post-flash mob
refreshments.**





We are a friendly and welcoming support group for families of children with additional needs. We offer monthly meet ups offering support and advice

2025 Dates

May 9th 9am
June 13th 9am
July 11th 9am
Sept 12th 9am
Oct 10th 9am
Nov 14th 9am

@Cordero
Lounge

Come along for a cuppa, make new friends and share experiences.
We look forward to welcoming you.

Email - fromeautism.adhdparentforum@gmail.com

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison to other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>

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