Mangotsfield School
Rodway Hill
Mangotsfield
Bristol
BS16 9LH
Tel: 01454 862700
E: man-info@cset.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Hetty Blackmore

16th October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

A strong autumn chill and wind starts our final week of term 1. Well done to Year 11 who have just entered their first Year 11 PPE and have a series of exams over the next week. Thursday is our first Challenge Day of the year and I am personally really looking forward to the trip to the National History Museum - bring on the dinos!

SCOPAY MESSAGE
Please can you ensure that Scopay is topped up in readiness for the week ahead. We are currently experiencing large numbers of students coming to reception asking us to call home. Thank you for your support with this.

Love Learning

Our Year 7 and 8 students had a fantastic time on Monday as the STEM Roadshow brought *The Material World* to life in an exciting and interactive theatre performance!

Each year, the STEM Roadshow explores a different area of STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - helping students make connections with their classroom learning in a fun and memorable way. The performance encouraged our students to think about the many different skills used in STEM and the wide range of exciting career opportunities these subjects can open up in the future. It was wonderful to see our students getting so involved in the show! They were brilliant audience members, demonstrating our school's community values by listening attentively, showing respect and enthusiastically volunteering to join the cast on stage. Their willingness to get involved really helped make the experience such an enjoyable one. A big well done to all our Year 7 and 8 students for their enthusiasm and fantastic participation. We hope the performance has sparked some curiosity, inspired new ideas and shown just how exciting STEM can be!

Community

It's been a week of brilliant sporting achievements for many of our school teams including those of our Year 11 Girl's Netball team. They ran out triumphant winners beating SBL 9-4 and Kings Oak 18-0. Well done girls what an amazing performance!

Another great performance came from our X-Country students after an evening at Downend School. The students performed fantastically with 7 top 10s and a couple of silver medals to boot. We look forward to our inter school X-Country which started today which will lead into the South Gloucestershire Championships which Mangotsfield are hosting.

Well done to everyone involved! 👏

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Challenge
Just a reminder that the Challenge Days are being held next Thursday 22nd October. You can find all the information relating to these on our school website via this LINK. This will take you to the original letters that were sent out and also how to give consent for your child/children if they wish to attend. If you have any questions relating to this please do not hesitate to contact the main school number on 01454 862700.

Respect
Black History Month - The History of Braids and R&B - *Credit to Irene Abi, Beyona Binoj, Fathia Komolafe and Tiana Mpofu for writing the incredible character curriculum this week.*

Braids are an important symbol of identity, creativity and cultural heritage within the Black community. Historically, braiding has held deep cultural significance and played a role in survival during the transatlantic slave trade. Today, braids have evolved into diverse styles, with creative details such as laid edges providing opportunities for self-expression. However, because braids are deeply rooted in Black culture and history, wearing them without understanding or respecting their significance can be viewed as cultural appropriation. Similarly, R&B (Rhythm and Blues) emerged in the United States during the 1940s, influenced by gospel, blues and jazz music within African American communities. More than just a music genre, R&B became a powerful voice for people experiencing oppression, segregation and racial discrimination, expressing emotions of pain, courage, hope and love. Influential artists such as Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin helped popularise the genre worldwide, inspiring confidence and giving a voice to generations. Both braids and R&B demonstrate the lasting influence of Black culture, celebrating its history, resilience, creativity and contribution to society.

Yours faithfully

Hetty Blackmore
Headteacher

Key Dates:

- **Thursday 22nd October - Challenge Day**
- **Thursday 22nd October - Year 7 Disco**
- **Friday 23rd October - Community Breakfast**
- **Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - Half Term**
- **Monday 2nd November - INSET Day**
- **Tuesday 3rd November - All students return to school**

PE MESSAGE
Next week, students in Years 7–10 will be taking part in our school cross-country competition during their timetabled PE lessons. Students will complete a full lap of Pomphrey Hill and compete to achieve the best finishing position and time. Please ensure students bring their normal PE kit and suitable trainers for running outdoors. We look forward to seeing students challenge themselves, demonstrate resilience and show great sportsmanship throughout the competition.

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Important Links

School Website - Online Careers Noticeboard
Did you know that we have a fantastic 'Careers Notice Board' on our website which contains all the information you need relating to careers, work experience etc. Please take a look here.

School Website - Multilingual Family Noticeboard
The school has a fabulous noticeboard to do with all things multilingual. If you would like to find out more information please take a look at via this LINK

Y7-Y11 Flu Vaccination Community Catch-up Clinics
As you know we have recently held the flu vaccinations for Years 7 to 11 in school. If your child/children were unable to get their vaccination in school, Sirona are organising catch-up clinics within the community. Please book an appointment via this link to sign up. Please note these are external clinics and will not be held in school. If you have any questions relating to these please contact Sirona directly via this number 0300 124 5515.

School Nurse Support - In School
We want to make you aware that every Wednesday lunchtime we will be having a school nurse based in the Family Support Worker's office in E block. Should your child wish to access support linked to their mental health and wellbeing please encourage them to drop in. Please see an introduction to our school nurse below:

"Hello everyone! My name is Joe, and I am delighted to be supporting Mangotsfield School as the School Nurse. I offer a drop-in clinic every Wednesday lunchtime for any student who would like support, advice, or information. Young people can come and talk about a wide range of topics, including physical health, emotional wellbeing, friendships, school worries, healthy lifestyles, or any other concerns they may have. My aim is to provide a friendly, non-judgemental space where students feel comfortable seeking help and support when they need it. I look forward to getting to know the school community and supporting your young people throughout the year."

BRISTOL SPORT FOUNDATION
BRISTOL Flyers COMMUNITY
association for PHYSICAL EDUCATION Approved Professional Development Provider 2026-2027

OCTOBER HALF TERM FUN

Are you interested in Basketball? This may well be for you! The Bristol Flyers Community are running a North Bristol Basketball Camp at Cotham School for school years Y3 to Y11 over the coming October half term. These have proved to be highly successful in the past so if you are interested please see the poster for more information.

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Reminder - Changes to Free School Meals Funding

You are probably aware that from September 2026, the Government expanded eligibility for Free School Meals so that all children in households receiving Universal Credit can now apply. There are now two categories: **Targeted FSM**, for households on Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less (which also brings extra support such as Pupil Premium funding and access to the Holiday Activities and Food programme), and **Expanded FSM**, for households on Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400. If your family's circumstances have changed, or you think you may now be eligible under the new rules, please don't assume you're automatically covered — you will still need to apply. Applications for South Gloucestershire families are made online via the South Gloucestershire Portal, where eligibility is checked instantly and the school notified directly. If you need help with the online application, the Council's Contact Centre can assist on 01454 868008. We'd encourage all eligible families to apply promptly, as this also brings valuable additional funding into the school.

Reminder - Changes to Free School Meals Holiday Vouchers

Just a reminder that the holiday vouchers are no longer available to families whose children receive benefits-related free school meals. We attach another copy of the letter from the Local Authority with this newsletter for further information.

Mangotsfield School Community Hub

We have a fabulous welcoming space called the Community Hub here at school. The space is here to provide support, help and advice to all Mangotsfield families. The Hub will also be open during the October half term so please do drop by and see if there is anything we can help with.

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The Friends of Mangotsfield (FOM) have been rather busy lately organising some fabulous events. Please see the various posters below for more information.

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Friends of Mangotsfield **We need YOUR help!**

We're now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more! This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started! You can find our easyfundraising page here https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mangotsfieldschool

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Mangotsfield Secondary School

Website