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

23rd October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Yesterday was the first Challenge Day of the year and, as always, it was a day full of academic, cultural and physical challenges! Days like this are logistically extremely time consuming but made possible by our wonderful admin team. A huge shout out to them for their combined effort this week.

A reminder that Monday 2nd November is an INSET day and there will be no students on site. Students return on Tuesday 3rd November.

Headteacher Update: A separate communication has been sent out updating the school community about the successful recruitment of our new headteacher from January 27, Ms Kirsty Aaron.

Year 7 - Heart Day

On Thursday, our Year 7 students took part in an exciting, hands-on Challenge Day all about the heart! Across the day, students measured and analysed their heart rates, taste-tested a range of heart-healthy foods, explored some 'heartbreaking' poetry and even had the opportunity to dissect a real heart. It was a fantastic cross-curricular experience that encouraged students to put their knowledge into practice, work collaboratively and challenge themselves in new ways. Well done, Year 7!

Year 8 - Natural History Museum

Our Year 8 students had an exciting trip to the Natural History Museum in London. Despite long coach journeys, the students had time in each of the four zones and were able to see famous structures such as the Blue Whale and experience natural disasters in a safe environment such as earthquakes. The life-like animatronic T-Rex was definitely a huge hit amongst the students. It was a busy day and the students handled it brilliantly.

A huge thank you to the staff, without their commitment we couldn't run trips like this.

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Year 9 - Aerospace

Year 9's visited the Aerospace museum. The engineering focus throughout the day involved a number of workshops and opportunities to view some really interesting artefacts. Students embraced the challenges of the workshops and engaged in learning about the history of aerospace. There were some raised eyebrows at the menu selection on board Concord! A highlight of the day for many was the simulator and the opportunity to dress up as RAF pilots as modelled by the student below. In the workshops the students were required to use their initiative and team work skills to design a robot which could collect things from Mars. It was great to see so many of them working well together and coming up with some really effective ideas and designs.

Year 10 - College Visits

Our Year 10 students explored future pathways on Challenge Day. In their house groups, student visited some of our local post 16 providers to look around the campuses and hear more about pathways including A Levels, T Levels, V levels and apprenticeships , while in school we welcomed visitors from the University of the West of England to share insight and answer questions about University and student life

Well done to Year 11 who completed a full day of academic intervention and who have behaved impeccably in their PPEs so far.

Remembrance Day

We will commemorate Remembrance Day in our usual way on Wednesday 11th November. Please ensure your child has a warm coat with them that day as we may be outside for up to 25 minutes. You can make a donation via SCOPAY to the Royal British Legion.

Thank you for all your continued support this term. Hoping the weather allows us all some fresh air over the week ahead. We look forward to welcoming the students back on Tuesday 3rd November.

Yours faithfully

Hetty Blackmore
Headteacher

Key Dates:

- **Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - Half Term**
- **Monday 2nd November - INSET Day**
- **Tuesday 3rd November - All students return to school**

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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."

Scopay Reminder

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

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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.

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.

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

Mangotsfield_school_bristol

Mangotsfield Secondary School

Website