



SBL Academy

On the Radar



sblacademy.org.uk | t: 0117 456 5900

May 2023

Welcome

Independence is important!

Providing opportunities for students to grow as individuals with the ability to flourish as well-rounded citizens in their adult life, is central to our educational philosophy at SBL. A fundamental lifelong skill is the ability to be able to work independently, and the ability to maintain absolute focus on an independent task demands resilience, self-motivation and determination. Quite simply to be able to dig deep when the going gets tough!

Helping students to achieve good outcomes in their final examinations in Year 11 and Year 13 is our core business. We recognise final public examinations as a scenario in every young person's life where they will need to be able to show an exceptional ability to work independently in order to secure a good range of qualifications. Ultimately, good qualifications will enable students to be able to take the next steps of choice at the end of their school career. The exam table can be a lonely place if students have not developed good study habits that enable them to work independently in timed conditions.

We are committed to providing opportunities for students to be independent and get into good study habits, and this is the primary reason we now expect our students to take exercise books home to complete Home Study in line with our published schedule. We are delighted to report that since this has been our expectation, there has been a noticeable improvement in the quality of home studies completed and the quality of presentation.

At SBL, we publicly praise the level of pride a student has taken in an

assessment, and when the teacher provides feedback, they will explicitly state and praise students for the pride they have taken in their work. Students can also earn Praise Points by demonstrating a range of positive personal attributes, including independence, that we know will support our students to achieve excellence as a learner. We also recognise the benefit of actively developing these qualities, as they will support students to be well-rounded citizens throughout their adult life:

Persistence
Responsibility
Attitude
Independence
Speaking
Extra effort

How can I support my child at home?

We recognise how important the relationship between home and school is to enable students to be the very best they can be. Please continue to take the time to ask your child what they are studying and reading at school. Enjoy looking at their exercise books as much as we do, recognising and celebrating their successes as much as we do. Most importantly, ask them about their Home Study. We are sure that you will agree Home Study provides a fantastic opportunity for students to develop the ability to be an independent learner, with excellent study habits, that will stand them in good stead for success in public examinations. Ultimately, we are committed to taking every opportunity to support our students to achieve good qualifications, as this will enable them to take their next educational or career step of choice in the future.

Mrs Deady, Vice Principal

Key dates

Friday 26 May: Last day of term 5

Monday 5 June: First day of term 6

Thursday 15 June: Year 7 parent/carer evening

Friday 16 June: Inset day

Back-to-back District Champions

In a repeat of last years district final, our Year 8 boys faced their toughest test in a long time in the shape of a very talented Downend team. A cagey first half saw us concede first and go into the break 1-0 down. A change at halftime and a renewed energy in our play saw a completely different story in the second half. An early melee in the box eventually fell to B. Tanner who was able to tap home for the equaliser, before his wonder strike from 35 yards saw us take a deserved lead! O. Moore then rounded the keeper to tap home our third of the afternoon and cap off a fantastic, gritty performance from the boys!

Two district titles in two years for this group! South Glos vs Bristol finals next Wednesday at Somerdale, before a potential county finals trip to Hartpury the following week. The back to back treble is still on the cards for these boys . . . Just two HUGE finals to go! More details on page 2 >



Why Home Study is important

Every year we see that the students who do the best in their exams are those who can work most effectively at home. We therefore look to develop these skills in students from the moment they join us

Recent Student Voice findings

- Home Study is now being set more consistently
- Home Study is being acknowledged and sanctioned more consistently.

Organisation
Motivation
Discipline
Self-awareness
Focus

We believe in quality not quantity of Home Study. Therefore we set less that some other schools each day.

- KS3 – 40/45 minutes per evening
- KS4 – Approximately 1 hour



1 hour Home Study detentions are set for students who miss more than one deadline in a week in order to support good Home Study habits

The library is open every day after school if you find it easier to complete Home Study there.

Back to Back District Champions (cont)

SCORERS

B. Tanner and O. Moore

SBL MOTM

H. James

Our mixed Years 10 and 11 team took part in their first cricket fixture of the year against QEH, in the Gloucestershire schools competition. A vastly improved performance from last years' meeting saw our boys put on an impressive display in the field, with a special mention for H. Trotman taking 5 wickets on a difficult pitch, and Year 8 L. Birkinshaw more than holding his own against much older competition! Unfortunately, our batting display didn't match our performance in the field and resulted in defeat for the boys, however we enjoyed a fantastic experience and afternoon of cricket regardless. Well done to all of the boys for a fantastic attitude and representation of the school throughout!



Mr Shiells, Curriculum Team Leader for PE & Mr Laverick, PE Teacher

Year 10 Spanish trip, Malaga 2023



When we started teaching Spanish to our first cohort of Year 7 back in 2019, it was an instant hit with both staff and students. Although there were only three tutor groups learning Spanish, when it came to Year 9 options last year, over 40 students opted to take it and we are currently running two classes in Year 10. ¡Fenomenal!

All students studying Spanish in Year 10 have been given the opportunity to take part in our first trip to Spain for many years. The take up has been very high, with almost all of our Spanish students in Year 10 signing up for the trip, which has been organised and will be led by Mrs Samarasinghe.

The main aim of the trip is to put the Spanish learned in school into practice, as well as experiencing Spanish culture at first hand and a very packed itinerary has been planned for the trip, which will take place in July.

Malaga is ideally situated in the South of Spain in Andalucia and is just as culturally diverse and interesting as more well known cities, such as Barcelona and Valencia. Malaga is also not too far from the northern tip of Africa and the Moorish influences are evident in the architecture and food available in the city.



Students will take part in language workshops each morning before having opportunities to put their Spanish to good use by buying their own lunch at the local market or supermarket to eat on the beach or in the old town square. Cultural activities include tapas tasting, tea tasting in a traditional Moroccan tea shop and chocolate con churros tasting.

Students will also take part in a Flamenco dancing workshop, as well as visiting the Picasso museum and the Alcazaba Medieval Moorish Castle – and Roman Ampitheatre.

In the past we have run very successful trips to Germany and France, which were halted by the pandemic. This first post-Covid trip will be a great experience for all concerned and we hope that it will be the first of many similar trips in the years to come.

In 2023-24 we are also looking to run a trip to France for students studying French and hope to launch this in September 2023.



Year 12 UCAS Discovery

On Wednesday 26th April, we took our Year 12 students to the UCAS Discovery event at the International Convention Centre, Wales.

UCAS Discovery exhibitions bring together the experts to help students shortlist their options, all under one roof. At the exhibition, our students were able to meet with over 100 universities, colleges and apprenticeship employers face-to-face to find out about different options and pathways after Post 16.

The event ran 'The big Q&A', a speaker session presented by UCAS experts. These sessions included an ultimate guide to the UCAS Hub, kick-starting your career journey, student finance made easy and how to make your application stand out. There were also live subject talks presented by students and apprentices, where students were able to ask subject-specific questions to learn more about their choices, how to research their options and how to apply. Libby was hoping to find courses and

universities providing primary school teaching courses and found the event really helpful.

Students can use the UCAS Careers Quiz to match their personality to different career possibilities. Take the Careers Quiz: ucas.com/careers-quiz

Mrs Edwards, Post-16

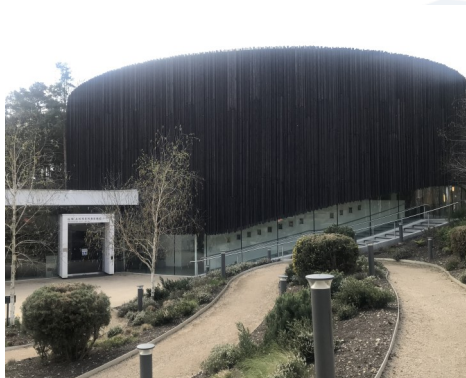
Community Catch-Up Clinics

MenACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus & Polio vaccination catch-up clinics are available for Year 9 students who did not receive their vaccination at school.

Please book an appointment

If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

Economics' visit



In April, Year 13 Economics students attended a revision day run by a teacher-come-Youtuber 'Econplusdal'.

It was held at Wellington College, a beautiful private school in Berkshire.

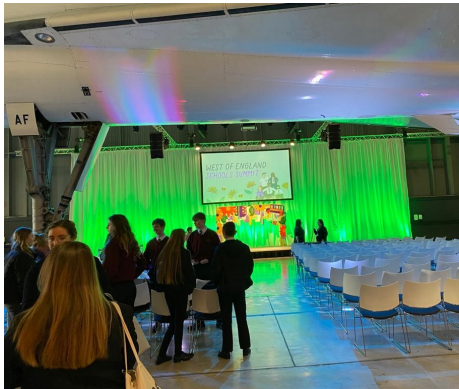
The students not only benefited hugely from Dal's economic guidance but also from the experience of visiting such a different educational environment.

Mr Rossiter, Curriculum Team Leader for Maths



West of England Metro Mayor's Summit

On Wednesday 26 April, West of England Metro Mayor, Dan Norris held the region's first Schools Summit at Aerospace Bristol in Filton. The Summit brought together students from every school in the region to discuss and influence regional policy on some of the most pressing challenges our region faces. We were very excited to send two of our Year 10 student ambassadors, Josie and Sebastian, to the event. They had a fantastic informative and interactive day and were great ambassadors for SBL Academy. Dan Norris also held a 'Dragon's Den' style session where education staff and students asked current and relevant questions. All enjoyed the experience and we hope it becomes an annual fixture!



Sebastian's experience

It was honestly a really great experience; there were a lot of workshops which you could do, a lot of adults (working in different sectors like culture, transport, energy, nature, etc.) who you could also ask a lot of questions about what their job is and what their day looks like. There were also lots of refreshments (apple juice, orange juice, water, coffee, and tea) which you could choose from, and food was also provided (a brownie, a cheese sandwich, an orange and a vegetable roll). At the same time, there were opportunities to explore the museum and go on the Concorde itself and look at the museum and history of the Concorde.

Moving on, there were eight workshops in total (one of which was exclusive, the Dragon's Den, to those who had picked it, but you could just join in to listen to what they were talking about). The rest included Transport, Retrofit, Nature, Energy, Careers, Culture, and Active. Me and Josie focused on 3 of the workshops (since we had to follow a schedule), and we focused on Culture, Transport and Nature.

During the culture workshop, we were first asked to make a circle of things/ideas that reminded us about culture, and then we learnt a lot about stage lighting during theatrical plays or festivals. We were taught about what is inside of a light and what helps make all of the different colours and effects, as well as how the lights can be controlled using a control unit. We also talked to a representative from a company called Air Giants who specialise in making robotic giants who move with a computer programme, and are filled with air (hence the name Air Giants) and lights. They're known for helping with making installations during light festivals!

During the Transport workshop, we were first asked to complete a survey to see how a majority of people travel around Bristol. Then, we were split into 4 groups, each focusing on different points during a journey from point A to point B. Me and Josie focused on how you would get to where you would start the journey from (such as, how would you get to the bus station from your house) and the challenges faced at the bus/train station. We also got some stickers from there as well!!

And finally, during the Nature workshop, one of the people from our table were dared to put their hands into a mystery box to see what the item was and what that item could represent (for example, a megaphone could represent communication and spreading your message louder). Afterwards, we talked about the density of green areas where we live, and were then asked to put some ideas onto a wooden leaf about "What would you like to see more of outside?" which would then be put on a cut-out of a tree from wood and placed in the Metro Mayor's office.

Overall, the experience was really great, and definitely worth going to! I really enjoyed it and it was great being able to spend some time learning about the different



environmental impacts of different things and learning about stage lighting, as well as being able to communicate with students from other schools.

Josie's experience

We were lucky enough to go to the West Of England School Summit, where we first were greeted by an energetic speech and extravagant lighting! There were lots of different sessions and workshops to attend, from transport, to culture, nature, green energy and making low-cost homes, along with interesting speeches and questionnaires with the Metro Mayor, Dan Norris. In each workshop, we got the chance to help push for change and explore the different possibilities for Bristol's future. We also got to look around Concorde and Aerospace. Lots of Year 10s from different schools were there, giving us the opportunity to meet other young people looking to the future of our community.

