



Ringwood News

Ringwood School

CHRISTMAS EDITION
December 2025



Welcome to Ringwood News

Dear parents and carers,

As I write this introduction to our newsletter, I am eagerly anticipating this year's Christmas Concert - always a highlight for me and I know for lots of families too. Mr Hawkin's 12 Days of Christmas is always such a good summary of the year and I always find myself

wondering about what he will include. This is a time of year for reflecting. Looking back, we started this school year with record breaking GCSE results and we are hoping that the current Year 11 will also do themselves proud in the mocks that they have just sat. We are looking forward to Mock Results Day in January where we will be sharing successes and giving feedback that will be helpful as the real exams approach. I will be sparing a thought for Year 13 over Christmas as they prepare themselves for their mock exams as we get back to school- let's hope that they get to enjoy some festivities too.

In other parts of the school, students have had a busy and purposeful term. Year 7 and 8 have each have full PSHE days on what it means to be part of the Ringwood town community and on Law and Safety respectively. We have had external speakers in who have provoked reflection across all year group on current topics and on the school value of respect. Several school trips have taken place, to the theatre, to the Battlefields of Belgium, to Swanage and of course the annual Year12 visit to Disneyland, Paris. Alongside the regular sports clubs, there have been a range of sporting opportunities too from the Hampshire Golfing Championships to the New Forest Cross Country Competition.

Our staff, as ever, have been working tirelessly to provide these extra opportunities and to ensure that your child is getting high quality teaching in their lessons. If there is a particular member of staff you would like to personally thank, could I please ask you to take a few moments to email us at contact@ringwood.hants.sch.uk, letting us know who the staff member is and why you would like to thank them. It will be truly lovely to be able to pass on your thanks and I know your message would be greatly appreciated.

As we head into the Christmas break, I hope all families enjoy rest, celebration, and time together. Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th January 2026, ready to build on the strong foundations we have laid and to continue striving for excellence in 2026.

Warmest Christmas wishes,

Leanne Symonds, Headteacher



Letters to our sons

We are keen to support and raise awareness of a project from Adolescence star Stephen Graham and psychology lecturer Orly Klein, inviting fathers to write a letter to their sons for a book on how we raise boys to be the men we would like them to be.

So if you are a father to a son, whatever age he is, they'd love to hear from you. Could you write a letter to him, to tell him what you wish you had known when you were younger, what advice you would like to pass on to him, and what – in your opinion – being a man should be about.

A message from Hugh Paton, Chair of Governors

As we approach the end of another busy and rewarding Autumn Term, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Governors, to wish all students, staff, families, and members of our school community a very Happy Christmas.

This term has been filled with hard work, resilience, and many moments of pride. Our students have continued to impress with their commitment to learning, their kindness towards one another, and their enthusiasm for the wide range of opportunities offered at our school. Whether through academic achievement, creative performances, sporting success, or contributions to community events, they have demonstrated the values that make our school such a vibrant and inspiring place. This newsletter is filled with many examples of these opportunities.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our wonderful staff. Their passion, professionalism, and unwavering support for students underpin all that we do. The governors are constantly reminded of the exceptional work happening across the school, and we are

You don't need to be a great writer, we just want you to speak from the heart.

We need more of an open and honest conversation between fathers and their sons. This is the book dads will give their kids when they haven't got the words. When they can't quite say what it is they want to express. It's the book a father can leave 'lying around' as they notice their teenage son begin to close up and spend more time alone in their bedroom. [Find out more information here about this exciting project by clicking this link.](#)

grateful for their continued commitment during what is always a very busy term. The combined hard work and dedication of both staff and students last academic year, was borne out in the excellent summer exam results. This term, we have seen the dedication of our staff to further build on those results, imparting the knowledge and skills required to build strong foundations to enable the best outcomes for our young people.

As we look forward to the New Year, we remain ambitious for our school and optimistic about the opportunities ahead. We thank all families for their partnership and support—it truly makes a difference.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy, healthy start to 2026.



House News



Students support long-running community appeal to help the homeless this Christmas

Students from across all year groups at Ringwood School have come together to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community by collecting over 2400 tins of food and essential supplies for those facing homelessness over the Christmas period.

The appeal, which has been running for more than 30 years, was established by the late former Mayor of Ringwood, Danny Cracknell.



His vision was to ensure that nobody in the local community would go without during the harsh winter months - a legacy that continues to inspire and bring people together year after year.

Our Sixth Form students worked alongside members of the Salvation Army to sort, pack, and prepare the donated items for distribution. The collaborative effort saw tins of food, hygiene products, and other essentials organised with care and compassion, ready to be delivered to individuals and families in need.

This appeal is a powerful example of what can be achieved when young people unite with a common purpose. Our students have shown empathy, generosity, and a willingness to give up their time to support others. We are incredibly proud of their commitment to keeping Danny Cracknell's tradition alive.

The donations brought in by students

demonstrate not only kindness, but a strong sense of community spirit, reflecting the values that underpin both



the school and the ongoing Salvation Army initiative. As the festive season approaches, this act of giving stands as a meaningful reminder of the difference that small, thoughtful contributions can make to someone's life. This year, thanks to the support of our students, many more people will receive comfort, warmth, and practical support during the coldest months of the year.

Celebrating a Vibrant Autumn Term of House Events

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding Autumn term, we are delighted to reflect on the energy, creativity, and teamwork shown across all our Houses. This term has been filled with opportunities for students to challenge themselves, express their talents, and contribute to the school community, and we are immensely proud of the enthusiasm with which they embraced every activity.

One of the highlights of the term was Inktober, where students from all year groups took part in the international month-long drawing challenge. Each day brought a new prompt and a new wave of imaginative interpretations. From intricate ink sketches to bold graphic designs, the work in each Tutor Group book

House News



showcased the artistic passion and individuality of our students. The Art department were especially impressed with some of the drawings from some of the Year 7s. Congratulations go to the Year Group winners 7S, 8I, 9N, 10I and 11I and to the overall winner, which was 8I.

Our Inter-House Sports events also brought fantastic engagement, with students demonstrating not only athletic ability but also sportsmanship and team pride. The Cross Country competition, always a test of resilience, was met with determination from every House. The triumphant Houses for each Year group were: Year 7 – Nightingale; Year 8 – Hardy; and Year 9 – Anning. A great spread of results.

To keep the momentum going throughout the term, we also ran a series of lunchtime challenges, which offered a range of activities and friendly rivalries created. These included a Flag Identification Quiz, where geographical knowledge was put to the test; a Drawing Challenge, which encouraged quick creativity and a particularly entertaining physical activity—Pass the Ball Around Your Waist—where students attempted as many rotations as possible in 30 seconds. These bite-sized competitions added a burst of fun to the school day and offered students from different year groups the chance to mix, collaborate, and earn valuable points for their Houses.



A special moment this term was part of our whole-school contribution to Remembrance Day. Students

worked thoughtfully and respectfully to cut out poppies and decorate the student entrance, creating a striking and poignant display. The installation served as an important reminder of the significance of remembrance and demonstrated the compassion and care within our school community.



For the second year running the House Captains ran a Christmas Fayre, which proved to be both festive and charitable. Students helped raise funds for their chosen local House Charities by purchasing delicious Krispy Kreme doughnuts, gifting candy canes to friends, and taking part in a variety of 20p games. The Conference Centre was packed filled with laughter, Christmas music, and the warm sense of giving that makes this time of year so special. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, each House has started to make a meaningful contribution to the local causes.

As we close the term, we want to thank all students for their participation, House Captains for their leadership, and staff for their support and organisation. The Autumn term has shown us once again how strong our House spirit is—full of creativity, camaraderie, and commitment.

We look forward to even more exciting events in the Spring term. Until then, we wish all families a restful and enjoyable break.



News from the Art Department

Year 10 Photography

Now one of the most popular GCSE option choices in Year 10, our Photography students have been experimenting with light and exploring structures as part of their GCSE coursework. They have researched a range of different photographers work and used this to inspire their own photographic shoots using still life objects and paper. What a fantastic range of outcomes.

Interschools Photographic Competition

Our Interschool Photographic 2026 is a fantastic opportunity to participate in our brilliant competition. Previous years have seen more than 25 schools participate with over 1000 images entered. We are aiming for even more this year! The theme for this year is Perspective and we welcome entries from both students, parents and carers. This year's theme is designed to give entrants the opportunity to interpret it in a variety of ways, from considering different photographic viewpoints and angles to exploring a point of view or state of mind. The age categories are Year R-6, Year 7-10, Year 11-13 and Adult. Up to 3 images can be entered as named JPEG images of at least 2MB. No AI is allowed to be used. All details are on the school website and entries can be sent to photocompetition@ringwood.hants.sch.uk. Winning entries from each category will have their work displayed as part of an exhibition, with runners up receiving prizes and overall Photographer of the Year winning a digital camera kit worth £500. **Deadline for entries is Friday 30th January 2026.** If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Emily Weston – eweston@ringwood.hants.sch.uk



Curriculum Roundup



Careers

Successful School Careers Fair

Our recent annual school careers fair in October was a great success, bringing together students, teachers, and a diverse range of professionals from across the community. We had over 50 exhibitors and almost 800 families in attendance! Students and parents had the opportunity to explore future pathways, speak directly with employers, and gain valuable insights into various careers, apprenticeships, further education options and ask about work experience.



The event created a vibrant atmosphere, with engaging conversations and hands-on activities that helped students better understand the skills and qualifications needed for their chosen fields. Exhibitors praised the students for their enthusiasm and thoughtful questions, whilst others celebrated the number of visitors to their table during their time there.

This year we have built really good relationships with new employers, who would all like to return next year. We look forward to extending our success into 2026.



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Successful Practice Interviews at School

Our practice interview sessions held in September for Year 11 were a great success, giving students a valuable opportunity to experience real-life interview scenarios. Volunteers from local businesses and the wider community generously gave their time to conduct mock interviews, offer constructive feedback, and share practical advice on communication, confidence, and presenting personal strengths. Students were able to draw on their work experience weeks in July for inspired answers.

Students engaged brilliantly with the process, gaining insight into what employers look for and developing skills that will support them in future college, apprenticeship, and job applications. Our employers were really impressed with the students' professionalism and enthusiasm throughout the day.

A huge thank you to all our employers and staff who helped make the event both meaningful and memorable.



Performing and Production Arts

Residential Trip to London October 2025

Experiencing the London Performing Arts trip will be one of my most valuable and favourite experiences I will remember when I leave Ringwood. For weeks all we could talk about was going on this trip and it absolutely lived up to how exciting we knew it would be. Getting to see four different West End shows and visiting the London Dungeons was an amazing opportunity given to us by our Performing Arts teachers, who helped to make the trip feel like the memorable time it was. On top of this, going as a group who share a common love for musical theatre, made going to see such incredible shows an even better experience. I found that it allowed us to create wonderful friendships, and between loud karaoke singing and big dinners out, we created amazing bonds. And while this trip felt like a holiday, it was a huge advantage to our course due to the performing and production students meeting with people in the industry such as Charlie Stemp (famous for performing as Kipps in Half a Sixpence) and Ella Thomas, a leading agent. Overall, I found this experience so helpful as after all the best way to learn theatre is to watch it. I can't wait to do it all over again in Year 13!

Molly Bennett, Year 12 Performing Arts Student



Kipps – The Main School Show

As a production student, I am spending most of my time getting everything ready for when Kipps finally moves into The Barn in January. Currently, it's all about preparation: ordering the last bits for props, planning how the set will move throughout the show, testing out lighting ideas, and building scale models so we know exactly what we're working with once we get into the space. Costume designs are being finalised, and letters have gone out to the cast, and with the set due to arrive two weeks before the show, we'll have plenty of time to rehearse everything properly on and off the stage. Rehearsals themselves are already nonstop - before school, at lunch, after school every single day. Seeing the cast and crew commit this much, so early on, is impressive. Being part of a company that show as much dedication and ambition as they have already, is what makes this such a rewarding project to be a part of.



Tickets are already on sale at www.thebarnringwood.co.uk. We'd love to see you there!

Ed Rickard, Year 13 Production Arts Student

Performing Arts Students perform at Ringwood Rotary Club's Christmas do!

Last week, our performing arts group stepped away from the school stage and into the welcoming local Ferndown golf club, where

Curriculum Roundup



we sang carols for the Rotary club. It was an evening that filled the room with seasonal cheer but also taught me, and many of us, more about what it means to perform for a real community audience. It provided us with the chance not only to share our music and seasonal joy but also to share our work with new faces and to discover what it really means to perform beyond our classroom. This warm Christmas performance allowed us students to spread our joy and love for musical theatre beyond our school further into our local community and gave us the opportunity to recognize the importance of practice and preparation, especially with our upcoming Christmas choir performance just around the corner. We performed a selection of traditional Christmas carols and songs from our recent showcase all chosen to bring a little seasonal cheer to the room. One moment that stayed with me was noticing a few audience members smiling and quietly singing along, and made the performance feel more personal and meaningful. After we had finished, the applause and kind comments made the whole group feel genuinely proud of what we had achieved together. Overall, our performance at the Ferndown golf club was a memorable and educational experience and helped remind us of the value of live performances and the way the arts can bring people together. It was pleasing to know that our music helped uplift others, even if just for one evening. We thoroughly enjoyed our time performing and hope to return next year



with even more Christmas spirit!

Performing Arts Students perform their first showcase of the year! October 2025

On the 21st and 22nd of October, year 12s and 13s taking performing arts took part in the Sixth Form Showcase. In the showcase there were medleys from Singing in the Rain, My Fair Lady, Les Misérables and All Shook Up. The showcase was an excellent way to start sixth form as we dived straight into practical lessons, working on the three disciplines as ensemble members. We also made an independent effort to create our own characters and thought process through each medley. This hugely improved the acting throughout the showcase. It was enlightening to have Natasha Barnes (our artist in residence) as well as our performing arts teachers, Mr Hawkins and Mrs Herson, gave us professional feedback and direction throughout the rehearsal process, making the step up to sixth form quick but exciting.



It was a great bonding experience with the year 13s to be able to share our classes with them. Forming these friendships was important so that we can act as one ensemble together on stage. The medleys were really fun to be a part of and the showcase really came together and displayed the amount of talent that Ringwood Sixth Form students have!

Remembrance Day - Congratulations to Ollie Youell who has been selected as Ringwood Poet Laureate 2025-2026



War is unjust,
Yet it is thought of as a must,
To create a solution to a small problem,
With no thought of being solemn,
A woman widowed with his picture on the wall,
With the significance of his name beginning to fall,
As she longs to see him open the door,
While only being able to hold onto memories hung in her core,
She hoped to hear his voice coming through the phone,
Yet knowing that his number was written into stone,
The long list of unnecessary demise,
With the outcome being anything but a prize
The price we pay for not settling for words,
Is the only sign of life on the battlefield being a song played by birds,
Filling the minds of leaders with incredible regret,
As we must remember lest we forget.



Tree Planting

A group of our Year 7 students took part in a special tree-planting activity to celebrate National Tree Week, proudly planting a young tree generously donated by The Tree Management Company Ltd. The students worked together brilliantly, learning about the importance of trees for the environment and the role they play in supporting local wildlife. It was a hands-on, memorable experience that encouraged teamwork, environmental awareness, and a sense of responsibility. We

are grateful for the donation and delighted to have added a lasting, positive contribution to our school grounds.



Curriculum Roundup

PSHE updates

Show Racism the Red Card assemblies

The whole school attended workshops led by the charity Show Racism the Red Card. Students and staff were invited to wear red to show their support, creating a powerful visual message across the school.

The session was incredibly insightful, with former professional footballers Leon



Braithwaite and Francis Duku visiting to share their lived experiences of racism. Their honesty and openness gave students a valuable understanding of the impact of discrimination and the importance of standing up against it.

Year 8 off timetable day – Law and Safety

Year 8 students spent a day off timetable focusing on law, safety, and personal responsibility. We were joined by representatives from the Fire Service, the Police, and the Prison Me No Way! team, all of whom delivered insightful sessions on staying safe and making responsible choices. Students



asked excellent questions and engaged enthusiastically throughout the day, gaining a great deal from our visitors' experience and expertise.



Year 7 and Year 8 discos

Our Year 8 students enjoyed a fantastic disco, filled with fun, laughter, and plenty of dancing. This was closely followed by our Year 7 Disco too. It was wonderful to see them making the most of their time together. The event was very well supported, and we're grateful to everyone who helped make it such an enjoyable evening. We were really grateful for the PTA support in selling all the tuckshop items.



October Citizenship Day

In October, our Year 7 students stepped off timetable to take part in a special Citizenship Day. They had the opportunity to meet many local residents who volunteer their time to support community projects and events. We hope these conversations have inspired our young people to get involved in the future.

Students also took part in a litter pick around the school grounds and surrounding areas, joined by the Town Mayor, Rae Frederick, and members of Greening Ringwood. Their support helped make the day both impactful and memorable.

Boccia Festival

Students from Ringwood recently took part in an exciting Boccia Festival, where they had the chance to develop new skills, build confidence, and enjoy friendly competition. The event brought together pupils from schools across the New Forest, creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for everyone involved. Our students showed a great display of TREDS throughout the day, and we are incredibly proud of the way they represented our school. It was a fantastic experience that inspired many!

Year 8 Chinese Club

Our able year 8 linguists have been getting the chance to learn Mandarin Chinese. As well as learning how to speak, read and write the language they've been learning about life in China and Chinese culture - including how to use chopsticks! We've been lucky enough to be taught by a teacher from China, Miss Yu, who is working at Brockenhurst College for a year. She has very kindly donated her time to prepare and run the classes, which we are all very much enjoying.



Year 12 Oxford University Open Day

Year 12 students got to visit Oxford University Open day in September. After an evening tour of the city, we got to stay at our link college St Hilda's, with students trying out the students' hall of residence for the night. After breakfast in the college refractory, students got a tour of St Hilda's before going to visit different departments and colleges, talk to current undergraduate students, and watch demonstration admissions interviews.



Curriculum Roundup

Languages Round up

At the start of the autumn term, we were delighted to welcome Mr. Wareham to the Languages Team. He will be with us temporarily teaching French and Spanish until next summer.

It's been a busy term this Autumn in the Languages department- with a definite foodie theme! Bon appétit - ¡buen provecho!

A Taste of Spain in Year 10 Spanish

Back in September, as part of our topic on healthy lifestyles and food, Year 10 brought in a range of Spanish and South American dishes to try in class. They really impressed us with the variety – some bought items to share, while others prepared proper homemade dishes. We enjoyed paella, albóndigas, tortilla española, churros, dulce de tres leches, aceitunas, chorizo, carne en salsa, jamón serrano and more.

After tasting everything, students described what they had tried and gave their opinions in Spanish. It was a fun and memorable lesson, and several students said they really enjoyed cooking their dish at home. ¡Buen trabajo, Year 10!

Fine French Cuisine at A Level

Year 13 student Leo writes, "To celebrate the start of the festive season and end to a busy school term, my Year Thirteen French A-Level class was joined by the Year Twelve French students for a festive and authentic French Christmas lunch. We enjoyed the meal alongside our teachers, which made the afternoon especially relaxed and friendly.

The lunch was cooked by the wonderful French chef Dominique Duc, who talked us through each course in French, giving us a real insight into French Christmas food traditions. We

enjoyed smoked salmon with cream cheese and bread to start, followed by crispy pork belly with potatoes and seasonal vegetables. A real highlight was the traditional chocolate Bûche de Noël, with Chef Duc explaining its origins and importance in French Christmas celebrations. Gluten-free and plant-based options were also available so everyone could take part.

The atmosphere was made even more festive with Christmas crackers and authentic French Christmas music playing in the background. It was a really enjoyable and memorable (and delicious) way to celebrate French culture and end the term together."

Year 10 discover le goûter

In our French lesson this week, Y10 enjoyed a special goûter to celebrate the start of our new topic on food. We tasted a range of classic French treats, including Petit Lu biscuits, Mikado, madeleines and croissants, and we also tried a refreshing glass of grenadine. Students learned about the famous French goûter, an important daily tradition in France where children enjoy a small snack after school. It was a fun and delicious way to discover more about French culture!

Have you heard about the monthly Duolingo competition run by Mrs. Stevens, Head of Languages? It's a great way to practise your French and/or Spanish and you can even earn house points while improving your language skills! It is so encouraging to see how popular it is with Ringwood pupils - there are over 100 students logging on regularly in their own time to the free language learning app. There is even a separate competition for staff which proves it's NEVER too late to learn a new language!

Mrs. Stevens.



Ringwood Students Meet Royalty at University of Southampton Tech Showcase

A group of excited students from our Sixth Form had the unique opportunity to meet His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh during a special visit to the University of Southampton. The Duke toured the university's world-leading silicon photonics facility, where he met academics and students working at the cutting edge of technology with applications in data centres, healthcare, artificial intelligence, and quantum technology.

As part of his tour, the Duke spoke with our students who had taken part in a hologram workshop with the university. He was keen to hear about their projects, interests, and future aspirations.



Ava West and Katie Collyer, presented their work to His Royal Highness.

Ava said: "He asked us how it works and what we are interested in doing in the future."

Katie added: "It was really nice speaking to him, he was very lovely. He asked about our DofE Awards. I was very excited, and definitely nervous, and it ended up going really well."

They were joined by fellow students Finn Marshall, Marcus Burnay, Matt Budd and Owen Cooper, who also shared their experiences and future plans with the Duke.

Finn explained: "He was interested in what we were doing at school, our future plans and what we wanted to do at university. He asked about the DofE Awards. He was pleased to hear I had a Silver – it was actually the first thing he asked. We showed him some of the different

applications of photonics."

The students' visit was part of their involvement with CORNERSTONE, the University of Southampton's silicon photonics prototyping foundry, which collaborates with industry to develop cutting-edge applications for telecommunications and healthcare.

This inspiring experience gave Ringwood students a unique insight into the future of science and technology — and a royal encounter to remember!



future of science and technology — and a royal encounter to remember!



Drama Roundup

GCSE Drama trip to Blood Brothers

In October, Ringwood GCSE Drama students took a trip to Poole Lighthouse to watch their set text 'Blood Brothers'. It was fantastic to see the play come to life on the stage, and we all agreed it was a fabulous production. We were really lucky to have a post-show talk with Harriet, the Company Stage Manager for the Blood Brothers UK tour. Harriet told us lots of fascinating information about how the play works behind the scenes, and we even got to meet actor Joe Sleight who plays Edward Lyons in the show. Both Joe and Harriet were amazing at answering the students questions and we are really gratefully to have had the opportunity to speak with them.



Curriculum Roundup

Year 9 Drama and Performing Arts trip to see 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe'

In November it was Year 9's turn to visit the theatre, and they saw 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' at the Mayflower in Southampton. It was an utterly spell-biding production, featuring Ringwood School alumni Oliver Magor, who is an actor-musician in the show (training: Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts). It was really inspiring our students to see someone from Ringwood School doing so brilliantly in their professional career.



National Connections 2026

The Drama department is delighted to have been selected to take part in the National Theatre's Connections project once again this year. Ringwood School has a strong history with this project, and we have already started rehearsing our play 'Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth' (Kirsty Housley), which will be performed by Year 9 and 10 students, with a 6th form support team in March, (The Barn) and April (Mayflower Studios) next year.



Technology News

Technology launched "masterclasses" in the Autumn term and have had an excellent up take so far. Students from Years 7, 8 & 9 have been invited to attend a range of one off Technology masterclasses learning skills they may not get a chance to experience until Key Stage 4 or Key Stage 5. So far we have had Sushi making, chocolate truffles and needle felting. The new year will bring opportunities to use the lathes and Computer Aided Design (CAD) programmes.



The Design Challenge

Our competition entries have been trickling in, but Arkwright is excited to see even more in the New Year! The Design Challenge was to design a bin shelter for the brand new bins that are now being used in the Ringwood area. The winning design will be featured in the local newspaper and it will be made and put on display in Ringwood! If students would like to enter, the deadline is the 16th January and entry forms can be found in the Technology Block Foyer.



Help Here



Ringwood School PTA Critically Endangered!!!

The PTA desperately needs new members to continue beyond the end of the Summer Term.

The PTA plays an important role in supporting school events and raising vital funds for resources that the school would otherwise be unable to afford. We generally meet twice a term (currently at the Aboro Lounge), and this year we have already supported the New Parents' Information Evening and the Year 7 Disco, which was a resounding success. Our next event will be the annual PTA Quiz in the Spring Term.

Separate to my governor role, I have been a member of the PTA for over 19 years. In earlier times the PTA was well supported by parents. However more recently, repeated requests for new members have gone unanswered, and our numbers have now fallen to just three. Alison, our Treasurer, will be leaving at the end of the summer term when her children leave the 6th Form, and Jackie—who kindly stayed for an extra year—will also be stepping down. This means that without new members now, the PTA will be forced to fold.

I am willing to stay on for a further year if we can recruit new volunteers, particularly a new Treasurer, but we really are in last-chance territory to save the PTA.

If you are able to help, even in a small way, please do get in touch. Your support will make a real difference to our students.

Hugh Paton PTA Chair

pta@ringwood.hants.sch.uk



Help is at hand

As we approach the festive period, we understand that this time of year can place extra pressure on household budgets. With that in mind, we just wanted to share some information that might be of help to you, or someone you know.

Financial Support with housing, benefits & more

We have access to a financial support worker through Citizens Advice called Martine Frain. She is available to help families with:

- Benefit applications
- Housing concerns
- Managing bills and debt
- Accessing wider community support

You can self-refer directly through our school website.

Hampshire HAF – Winter Activities

The Hampshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme has released its New Forest winter holiday offering. Eligible families can access:

- Free holiday activity sessions
- Nutritious meals provided at each session
- A wide range of clubs, sports, creative workshops and more

This is a fantastic opportunity for children to stay active, social and well supported during the holidays. See our latest email for more details.

For Families Who Wish to Give Back – Bank the Food

For those who are in a position to support



Here to Help @ Ringwood School

others, the Bank the Food app alerts you to items your local foodbank is running low on while you shop in supermarkets. This helps ensure donations meet real-time needs.

Search “Bank the Food” from your app store

If you have any questions or would like to speak with someone in confidence, please do not hesitate to contact us via our Safeguarding email address: safeguarding@ringwood.hants.sch.uk

FACE (Family Advice & Community Engagement)

We are delighted to announce that Ringwood School has partnered with FACE (Family Advice & Community Engagement) to provide free access to a range of expert-led parenting talks for all our parents and staff. Face Family Advice | online parenting classes

This fantastic opportunity will help support you with practical advice and strategies on topics like communication, behaviour management, wellbeing, and much more—all designed to empower you in your parenting journey.

Here's what you need to know:

Access: Unlimited free access to all FACE Parent Talks (normally £24 per session) for the next 12 months.

Discount Code: Use the code RW240925 at checkout to get free access.

Schedule: Talks run on a four-week rotation, alternating between mornings (10:00–11:30) and evenings (19:00–20:30).

Recordings: Can't attend live? No worries—recordings are available for 48 hours after the session. Just book your place and email FACE to request the link.

How to Book: Visit the FACE Parents page PARENTS - Live Talks | Face Family Advice

Choose a talk topic and select a convenient

date/time. Enter the discount code RW240925 during payment to make the session free

Please note: The code is exclusive to Ringwood School families and staff, and misuse may result in cancellation.

We encourage all parents to take full advantage of this resource to support your family's wellbeing and growth.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact safeguarding@ringwood.hants.sch.uk

Saving Good Food from Going to Waste!

We're excited to share a new initiative helping our school do its part for the planet — and your pocket! Our school has teamed up with Aspens Services Ltd and the food-saving app Too Good To Go to make sure delicious leftover food from our canteen doesn't go to waste.

Each Wednesday and Friday during term time, surprise bags containing any unsold meals or snacks from the canteen will be available to purchase at a greatly discounted price through the Too Good To Go app. It's a simple, sustainable way to help reduce food waste and enjoy some tasty surprises at the same time!

Here's how it works:

Download the “Too Good To Go” app from your usual app store.

Search for “Ringwood School” on the app.

Purchase a “Surprise Bag” of surplus food.

Collect it at the specified time directly from our school kitchen.

Every Surprise Bag you rescue helps reduce waste, save resources, and support a more sustainable community. It's a small step that makes a big difference for both the planet and your taste buds!



December 2025

ENDPAPERS



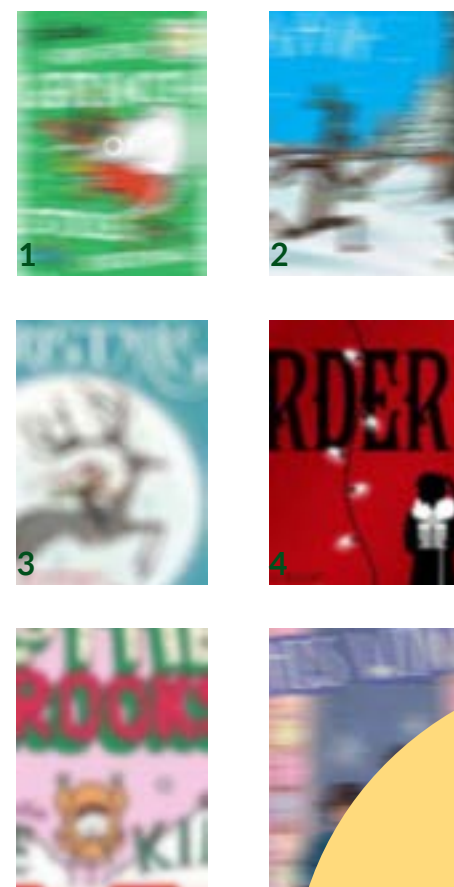
12 BOOKS OF CHRISTMAS



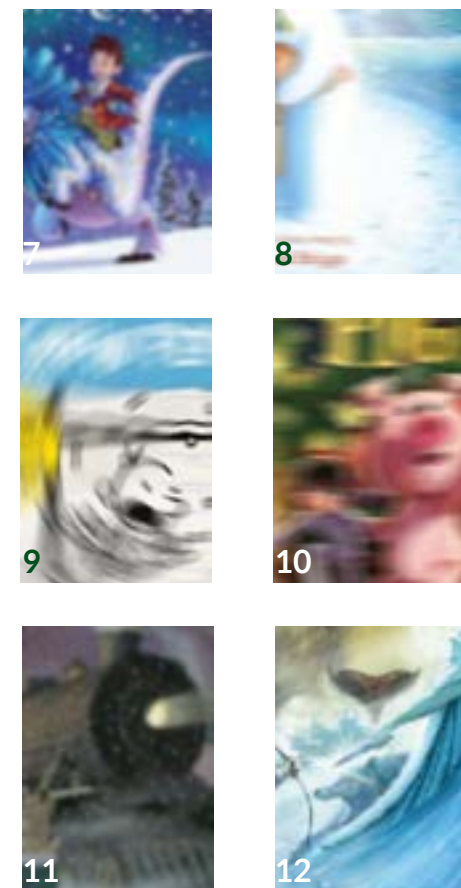
Students have been enjoying identifying the mystery festive book covers throughout December in the library.

All of the images on the calendar have been obscured in some way to make it more of a challenge. There were sweet treats to be won daily, with a chance of being entered into a draw at the end to win a £20 voucher.

Thanks to all that took part. Here are the images from each day. How many can you identify? Answers can be found on the last page.



(Continued)



CRAFTY CHRISTMAS

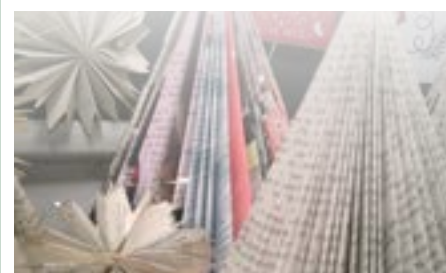


HAMPSHIRE BOOK AWARDS WINNER WEBINAR

Our Hampshire Book Award judges gathered one final time recently to take part in a live webinar with the winner of this year's award.

Barry Jonsberg was kind enough to join us from sunny Darwin in the early hours so that he could take part.

Jonsberg discussed his career, how he was a teacher before becoming a writer and his process for writing.



Students have been busy putting some old and damaged books to good use by making them into Christmas trees.

Thanks to the large clearout that happened in the summer, we had a number of old books that needed to be recycled. They are now enjoying a new lease of life, adorned with lights and pompoms.



NEW SIGNAGE IN THE LIBRARY

Work is continuing throughout the library to make it more user friendly for the students.

The move to genres last year has been incredibly well received and has undoubtedly aided the students in finding what they need.

To make the genres even clearer, all shelving in the fiction section is now colour coded and has signage in corresponding colours.



GET CAUGHT READING THIS CHRISTMAS!

What is the most extreme or bizarre place you can find to read during the Christmas holidays?

We didn't have many entries last Christmas so it would be great to get as many as possible this year!

Take a photo and email it to librarians@ringwood.hants.sch.uk

There will be prizes for the most creative entries. This is of course open to staff as well, so get your (festive) thinking caps on.



SECRET BOOK SANTA RETURNS



Secret Book Santa has visited once again this year. Students have been enjoying selecting a book based on nothing but a few keywords then unwrapping it to see what they have picked.

DISPLAYS IN THE LIBRARY



The library had a year of genre displays last year. This year, it is the turn of Authors to be in the spotlight.



12 BOOKS OF CHRISTMAS ANSWERS

Door 1 How The Grinch Stole Christmas



Door 2 Stickman



Door 3 A Boy Called Christmas



Door 4 Mistletoe and Murder



Door 5 Completely Chaotic Christmas of Lottie Brooks



Door 6 This Winter



Door 7 The Christmasaurus



Door 8 The Snowman



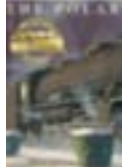
Door 9 Diary of a Wimpy Kid - Cabin Fever



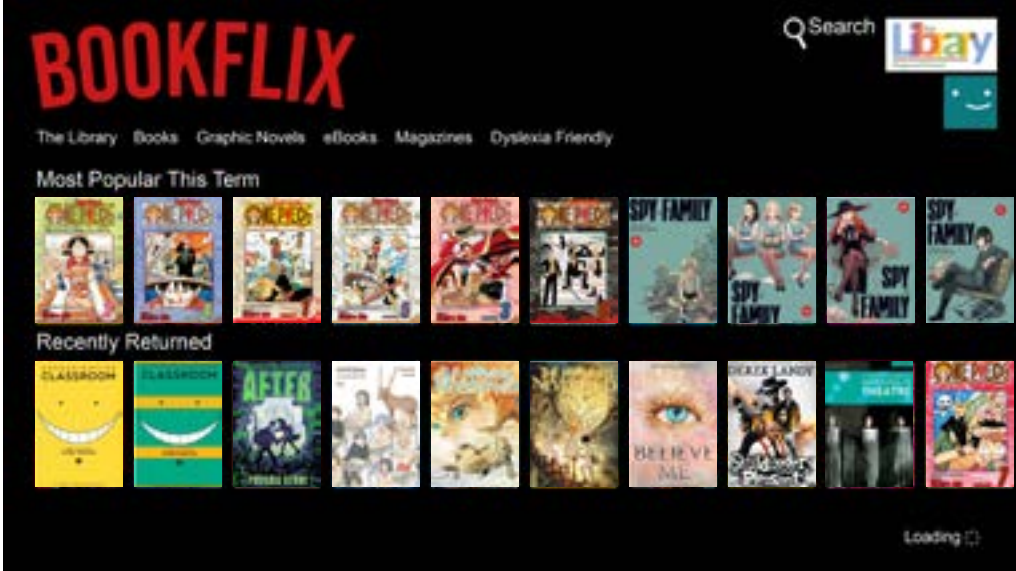
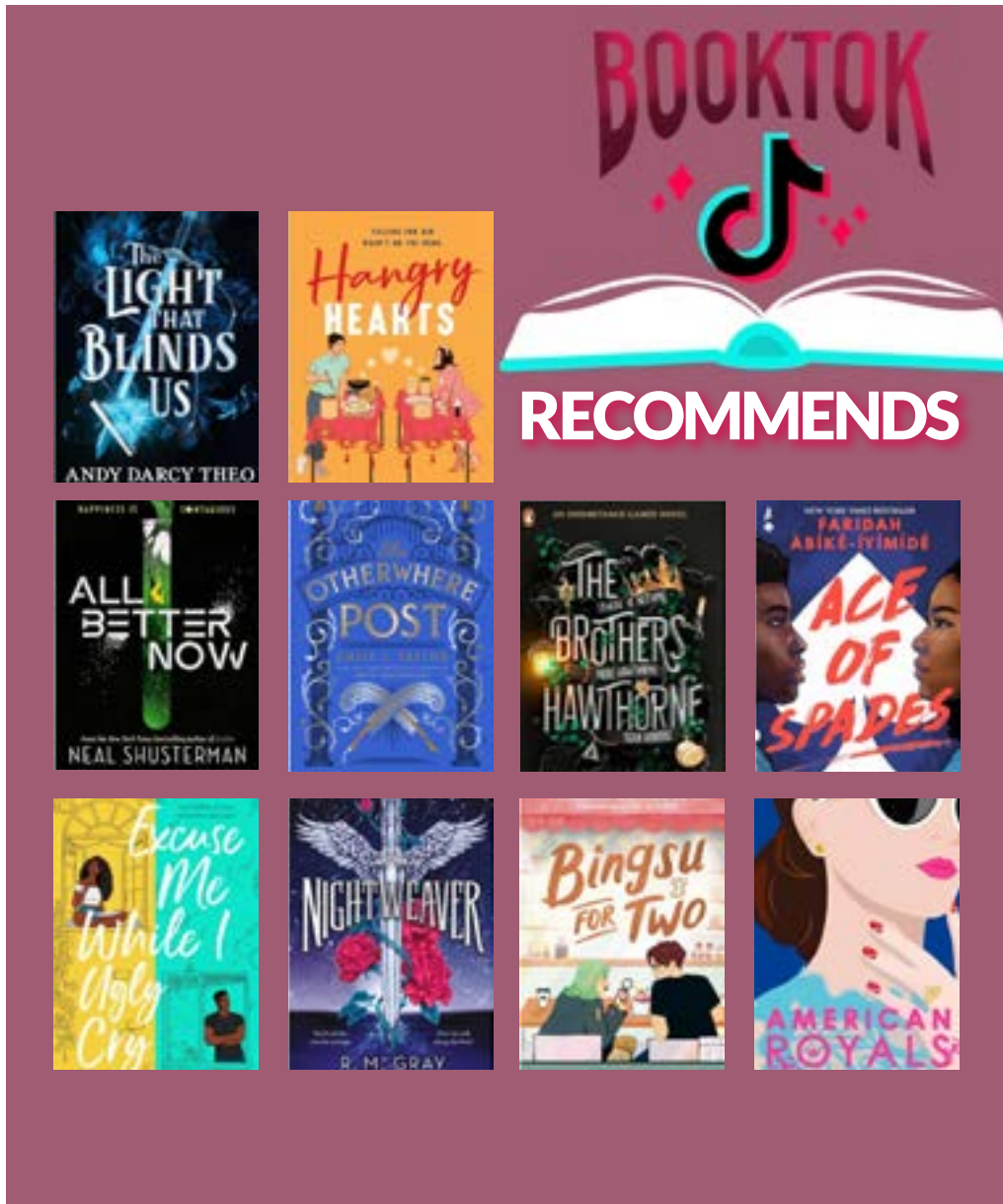
Door 10 The Christmas Pig



Door 11 The Polar Express



Door 12 The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe



lets **talk** about it

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CLUBHOUSE**

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