JOHN CABOT ACADEMY

Term 2, Issue 1 ◆ 02/11/2026

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Click here to access the Student Navigator. The student navigator page contains links to all the pages you will need if you are learning from home.

Contents

Key Dates 1
Principal's Message 2
JCA Routines – Key Routines and Policies 3
Attendance Update 3
Break Time Food Update 4
JCA School Newspaper 5
Student Book Review: The Hunger Games 6
Portrait Competition 7
Keeping Safe Around Fireworks 8
South Glos Parents and Carers Survey 9

Key Dates

2nd November	First Day of Term 2
2nd – 15th November	Year 11 Mock Exams
6th November	Integrate Trip to Clevedon
11th November	Remembrance Day – 2 Minutes Silence
16th November	Year 8 Inter Community Day
17th November	Year 9 Inter Community Day
18th November	Year 7 Inter Community Day Year 9 Careers Day
23rd November	INSET Day – School Closed to Pupils
26th November	Year 8 Parent / Carer Evening
30th November	2025 Year 11 Leavers Certificate Celebration

1st December	A Christmas Carol Theatre Trip
11th December	Year 7 Pantomime Trip
14th December	Winter Concert
16th December	Culture Dress & Festive Jumper Day Christmas Lunch
18th December	Last Day of Term 2
4th January	INSET Day – School Closed to Pupils
5th January	First Day of Term 3

Principal's Message

Welcome back to Term 2!

I hope all of our families had a restful break and are ready for another exciting term of learning. As we continue to inspire through learning, nurture the individual, empower one another and raise our community, I'd like to thank everyone for their ongoing support.

A key part of student success is excellent attendance. Every day in school counts, and we look forward to seeing students in school, on time and ready to make the most of every opportunity.

As work continues to improve our perimeter fencing and parking areas, please take extra care during drop-off and pick-up times. Following our one-way system, parking considerately and allowing a little extra time will help keep everyone safe while these important improvements are completed.

Finally, a huge thank you to our fantastic site team for their hard work in supporting the installation of the new hardcourt surface over the half term. This much-improved space will benefit students both during PE lessons and at social times, providing an even better environment for sport, activity and enjoyment.

Thank you for helping us make a community where everyone can thrive.

Gemma Read
Head of School

JCA Routines – Key Routines and Policies

JCA students have had a really strong start to the academic year, whether that's from Y7s who have adapted wonderfully to JCA or Y11's who are navigating their mocks wonderfully. The success that we strive for at JCA is built through strong consistent routines built through everything that we do. As we move into term 2 this a chance to remind students and families of some of our key routines and feedback on new systems.

Toilet Passes - A reminder that at JCA we maximise time spent learning during lessons. As such, students are not allowed out of lessons to use the toilet, unless they have a toilet pass. This makes sure that students are getting the most from their lessons. Of course staff will use their professional judgement if students are desperate, but students have enough time to use facilities at break, lunch and between lessons. If you believe your child needs a toilet pass, we request medical evidence supporting this to be send to jcainfo@clf.uk marked FAO Year Team , with the relevant year team indicated.

Mobile Phone Policy - Thank you for your support with our new mobile phone policy. This is where students need to keep any electronic devices turned off and in their bag, as they are not allowed onsite. This has seen a vast reduction in the amount of time students use their phones in the JCA building. Since the introduction of the policy there have only been 12 students who have had their phone confiscated more than once. With student's feedback including:

"it's encouraging me to have more conversations with people face to face"
"we are seeing less phones in school"
"fewer pictures from school/being posted online, which is good"

This is all very encouraging and is beginning to show the positive impact this can make for our academy community.

Kind regards

Andrew Buck
Vice Principal

Attendance Update

We're really looking forward to seeing everyone back after half term. After a break, getting back into routine isn't always easy. Mornings are darker, bedtimes may have slipped, and coughs and colds are going round. Thank you for everything you do to get your child into school each day. It makes a real difference.

A few small things can make the first week smoother:

- **Reset bedtimes:** bring them forward a little over the last couple of days of the break.
- **Prepare the night before:** lay out uniform and pack bags.

- **Give yourself time:** allow a few extra minutes on the first morning so it feels calm, not rushed.
- **Mild illness:** a cold, sore throat or cough usually isn't a reason to stay home. If you're unsure, check the NHS "Is my child too ill for school?" guide, and we'll keep an eye on them.

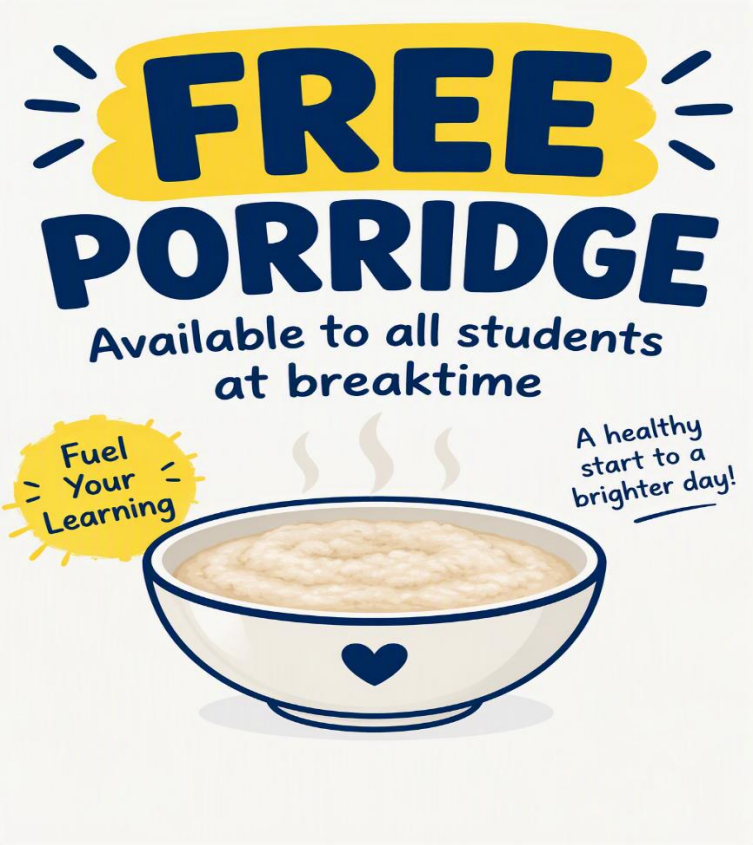
If anything is making mornings difficult, please get in touch with the school. We're here to help, and we'd much rather support you early.

The second half of the autumn term is a busy and important one. There are new topics in every subject, clubs and fixtures, and, for older students, key exam preparation. Every day in school is a day of learning, time with friends and growing confidence, and even a few days off soon add up to a lot of missed lessons. Thank you for working with us. See you soon!

Celia Corrigan
Designated Attendance Lead

Break Time Food Update

We now have free breakfast porridge available to **all students** in the canteen at break time. They just have to join the queue and ask for it. Porridge is both delicious and nutritious, and as the winter months draw in, and it gets colder and darker, it makes for a wonderful breakfast. Enjoy!



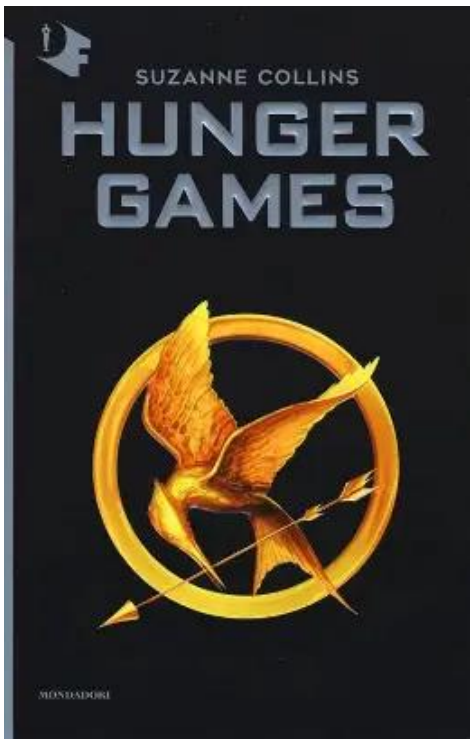
JCA School Newspaper

The countdown to our new Student-led newsletter is on! More details to follow!



Student Book Review: The Hunger Games

Title: The Hunger Games
Author: Susanne Collins

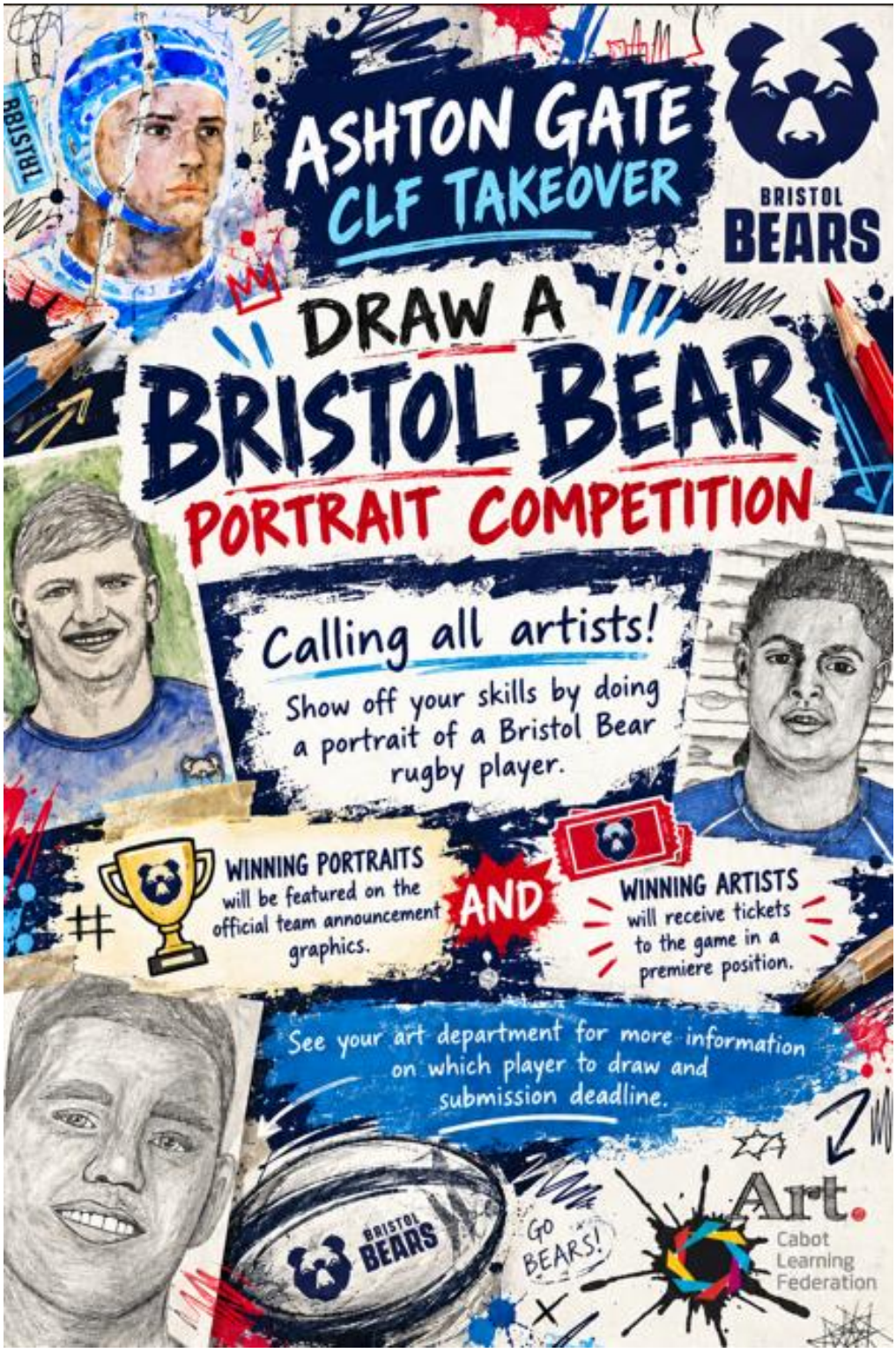


What's it about?
A dystopian world where each year the districts must send 1 man and 1 woman to fight to the death in a huge arena. The story follows Katniss, a brave girl who volunteers to save her sister. She must use her intelligence, survival skills and courage to stay alive while facing dangerous challenges and strong opponents. It is an exciting book full of action, suspense and unexpected twists that shows how people can stand up against unfair rules.

Why should you read it?
I think people should read this book because it is a mix of lots of different genres, not just one. It has action, adventure, suspense and drama, which makes it exciting and interesting all the way through. It is also a good book that teaches a lot about life, including bravery, friendship and standing up for what is right.

Reviewed by:
Georgia Y8

Portrait Competition



Keeping Safe Around Fireworks

Fireworks can be exciting to watch, but they can also be very dangerous if they are not used properly. Misusing fireworks can cause serious injuries to the person using them and to other people nearby.

Please talk to your child about:

- The importance of using fireworks safely and responsibly. We encourage families to remind children and young people that fireworks should only be purchased by adults who are old enough to do so legally.
- The risk of serious injury if fireworks are used in the wrong way.
- Staying away from activities that involve throwing, carrying, or misusing fireworks.
- Respecting other people, property, and public spaces.

The police are taking a zero-tolerance approach to anyone who misuses fireworks, carries them unlawfully, or buys them when they are underage. Young people involved in unsafe behaviour could face serious consequences, including police action and restrictions that may affect their future access to places in the community.

If you become aware of anyone putting themselves or others at risk through the misuse of fireworks, please do report this to the police:

- **999** in an emergency
- **101** for non-emergency concerns
- Online through your local police reporting system

Thank you for your support in helping our young people make safe choices and in keeping our communities safe for everyone.

South Glos Parents and Carers Survey

