



Jake Eaton and Adam Baker

### Pair crack code to win challenge

The Valentine's Day Caesar Cipher was a great success. Students were asked to navigate around campus finding coded locations and using a key to solve them. Using the final key, students were asked to solve a riddle in binary. Thank you to all the staff and students who participated.

Congratulations to the winners Jake Eaton and Adam Baker in Year 12.



### Lunchtime shows draw a crowd

Frome College music department has recently begun running lunchtime "open mic" concerts in the College Hall fortnightly on Fridays.

The first two have been a massive success, with students showing great support for the performers.

Performances have included

solo pianists, acoustic singer / songwriters and even full bands! This is a great opportunity for music students to hone their skills and talents in a fun and friendly environment.

Well done to everyone who has performed so far.

Mr J Hampson, subject leader of music

### Health staff lead workshop

The Health and Social Care department was very fortunate to welcome some very knowledgeable and dedicated NHS staff to lead a workshop with Year 11 students on Tuesday, February 25.

Anna, Alana and Jane from Frome Hospital gave their time to demonstrate to the students how to carry out certain health observations. They looked at blood pressure, peak flow, resting pulse rate and body mass index.

It was a hands-on session where the students were able to not only see the equipment in operation, but also try their hand at taking some of these measurements.

It also offered them an opportunity to ask the professionals some questions and really grasp an understanding of the theoretical work that they are currently cover-



ing for exam preparation. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the NHS staff who gave up some of their very precious time to run this session for us. We appreciate all the work they do for the community and also their dedication and commitment.



## Students 'an asset' on work placements

The last week of January saw 265 Year 10 students undertake work experience hosted by 225 employers.

While the vast amount stayed locally, some seized the opportunity to venture as far afield as London, Exeter, Plymouth, Manchester and Dublin and even abroad to Oslo and Paris.

Students tried a wide breadth of careers, including in graphic design, film-making, politics, engineering, marketing, sport, publishing, photography, beauty, construction, landscaping, architecture, catering, childcare and logistics.

Placements included working at The National Trust's Stourhead Park, at Bristol Crown Court watching real cases, the MOD, the physio department at Warminster Hospital, Exeter Airport with Aviation South West booking flights in and out of the airport and a flight with an instructor, assisting an MP, and joining the teams at East Somerset Railway and Helicopter and Aviation Services. Violet worked with prop-makers on casting, mould making and painting at Mangostone, which makes set props and models for TV, film, advertising and museums.

The students pictured worked at We Hear You charity and Radio Frome FM gaining on-air presenting skills and interviewing an Adam Ant tribute band.

Others showed their love of animals by attending Garston Vets and assisting the nurses, working with a dog trainer at Frome K9, grooming pets at KD Grooming Studio, working as a farm hand and feeding livestock, at pet shops and Happy Landings Animals assisting in animal welfare.

Frome College has really enjoyed the array of positive feedback being emailed from so many employers. Ben from First Group said: "Aiden was an absolute pleasure to have with us. He responded really well to everything asked of him and did a great job overall."

Michael from All Hallows School emailed: "The pupils, from Reception to Year 8, really enjoyed Abi's contribution to the lessons and various musical activities she helped with. What a super student and a credit to her college."

Some companies found that the benefit they received outweighed the time they donated and some told us they will miss their placement student as a team member.



Frome College work experience students at Frome FM and We Hear You

Sean from Wiltshire Council's communications department told staff he would miss Evelyn and later wrote to say she "was a credit to Frome College and we really enjoyed her working with us last week. She produced some great work that will be genuinely beneficial to us and we really appreciate it." A couple of our students impressed so much they were offered part-time jobs.

Frome College teacher Miss McMunn visited Aron at his placement at SPC International in Wincanton and reported: "He really has thrown himself into everything and by all accounts been given quite a bit of responsibility. When I arrived, he was grinning from ear to ear and said he was loving it so I think he must have found his niche. The employer was really impressed."

Year 10 student Hallie enthused: "Work experience is a great opportunity for knowing about your future career. I really enjoyed my placement because I got to see behind the scenes with a publishing company and got to meet new people. I'm happy our school helps us do this because it also prepares you for later life."

Louise Friend, employability co-

### Pupils join quartet to celebrate the bassoon!

Students from Frome College, Oakfield Academy and Selwood Academy took part in the Jackdaws Year of the Bassoon workshop with the Genovia Bassoon Quartet.

The workshop on Friday, February 14, involved an assembly for the students on the capabilities of the instrument as well as astonishing performances from the quartet.

The standard of music performed by the Genovia Quartet was of the highest level and left the students feeling inspired and excited to perform with them.

After the assembly, the music students from the three Frome schools amassed to create a mini orchestra and worked on three pieces arranged by the quartet. The sound was fantastic and the pieces learnt at the workshop will be per-



formed at the Cheese & Grain on Tuesday, March 24. Mr J Hampson, subject lead of music

The Genovia Bassoon Quartet give an inspiring performance in a celebration of the instrument

### Interview: Mr Schneider

Raya Franklin-Turner and Hallie Burgess in Year 10 worked with Jane Davis, communications officer on the Frome College News Desk, during their work experience placement. Both are interested in careers in journalism and were asked to interview assistant principal Aron Schneider to find out more about "the man behind the English faculty".

He told them: "I have always worked with young people since I was 16, so going into teaching just seemed like a natural extension for me. However, I struggle a lot with the amount of paperwork - and looking at my desk! Being unorganised in general is distracting."

He continued: "If I had not become a teacher, I would have liked to go into writing or journalism. I have always wanted to travel around the world as well, which I would have time for if I hadn't pursued the career I have today. I went to university in Bournemouth, and then did my degree in London. I enjoyed some parts as I made some brilliant friends and practiced my teaching. At school, I loved English. My teacher was different and he opened my eyes to other things and perspectives. I also enjoyed history, drama, music and some languages, such as French and Russian. I didn't mind maths and science but I wasn't a massive fan of business studies and database."



However, since having children I have worked my way out of disliking any subjects so I could be a good role model for them.

In my spare time, I love to read. I am currently enjoying *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood. I am a massive fan of her. I have always adored music, computer games and building models, but hanging out with family and friends is probably at the top of my list. I have two children, a boy of nine and a girl of seven."

He added: "My favourite holiday destinations to take them would have to be mainland Spain. I am not a fan of the beachy areas; I prefer mountains and rocky scenery. Closer to home, I love Devon and Cornwall, although a few years ago I went on a safari in Africa which was amazing!"

### Maths stars give top performance

Sixty gifted mathematicians from Years 9, 10 and 11 competed in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge on February 6. They had to answer multiple-choice questions such as: Farmer Fatima rears chickens and goats. Today she returned from market and said, "I sold 80 animals, and now there are 200 fewer legs on my farm than before!" How many goats did she sell? A) 15 B) 20 C) 25 D) 30 E) 35

All students conducted themselves impeccably, while 39 of them - 65 per cent - were awarded certificates, well above the national average of 40 per cent of entrants.

Bronze Certificate winners: Gareth Everton, Gethin Henley, Neve Brautigam, Samuel Cotterell, and Toby Evans in Year 9. Amelia Sharp, Danny Nguyen, Lucy Sheppard, Thomas Willis and Jacob Roberts in Year 10. Alisha Fewell, Ames Barrell, Angus Slade, Hannah Ryder, Laura Curle, Matthew Deighton, Max Holloway, and Ruby Young in Year 11.

Silver Certificate winners: Elinor Cann, Oliver Wagstaff, Patrycja Raczowska, Ted Lewis, Tom Kelly, Thomas Waterman, and Ronnie Downes in Year 9. Aaron Bowring, Anna Willomitzer, Ella Durston, Jack Bishop, Leon Cooper, Luca Wade, Mary Evans, Melissa Verwey, Oliver Morton, and Sophie Kennedy in Year 10. Summer Vowell and Joseph Walk in Year 11.

Gold Certificate winners, who will now compete in the Kangaroo Round, are Harry Forrester, who also won Best in School, and Samuel Fordham in Year 11. An outstanding result!

### Fern raises funds

Fern Andrews in Year 13 is running the Bath Half Marathon on March 15 in aid of SADS, the charity supported by Lauren Mead's family.

If you would like to support her, please pledge to her Just Giving page via [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fern-andrews](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fern-andrews)

Many thanks for your continued support.

Dr J Sadowski, Head of Sixth Form



Derek Trick from the Frome Allotment Association

### A welcome gift from gardeners

We would like to thank Frome Allotment Association, who kindly donated two tonnes of compost on Thursday, February 13. This donation arrived on site for the second year running. This is a great help for the classes of Grow It, Cook It as compost is the largest outgoing the project has.

### Students weigh up their options

We welcomed our new students joining Frome College in September to the Year 8 Options Evening on Thursday, February 13. Explanatory talks in our Merlin Theatre by the leadership team were followed by opportunities to visit departments and discuss subject choices with staff. If you have questions regarding the options process, please email [options@fromecollege.org](mailto:options@fromecollege.org)

### Thinking Green! Do we fully appreciate our beautiful school campus?

As you may have noticed, the Frome College site is full of green spaces that attract nature and beauty. It is a place for the students to relax and to take their mind off the struggles of school life. This is something that all visitors comment on and something that we as a community should all be proud. Not many schools have this advantage, therefore we are extremely lucky.

However, maintaining these green spaces and making sure that the school campus is healthy is just as important as having them here. It is crucial that we continue to put our litter in the bin and start recycling more. I have noticed that this has improved with more recycling bins around the site, which encourages people to deal with their litter responsibly. Likewise, there has been more



awareness of climate change and global warming through the Eco Club, run by Mr Black. This has encouraged us to take more care when looking after our environment because we know that small steps can lead to big changes. Recent studies have shown that having these trees and green spaces helps reduce stress levels

and improve mental and physical health. This benefits students and staff alike. According to the Biophilia hypothesis, humans have an "evolutionary bond to nature" and that contact with nature, including green spaces, has a "crucial role in brain development" in children. It has also been scientifically proven that the pres-

ence of green spaces can enhance the health and wellbeing of people living and working in urban environments. The Frome College campus is a perfect example of this. Having green areas that are well looked after around the school site means that students can enjoy being outside while experiencing nature. Having the grass all around also allows people to become more active as they have the space to run about, play sports and have fun with their friends. The English department sometimes takes classes outside to take advantage of this wonderful emerald space.

I hope that nurturing our immediate environment will inspire us all to be better guardians of our wider, natural world.

Raya Franklin-Turner