

Summer 1 2026 Issue 4

Welcome!

Pessimist: The glass is half empty.

Optimist: The glass is half full.

Journalist: You won't BELIEVE what's in this glass!

What have you guys been up to in the last term? We have been busy *amassing* a repertoire of great interviews, brain-wrenching puzzles, reliable study-tips and so much more!

This is our fourth issue and with every issue we aim to keep you informed and entertained, Now, we're asking you: what would *you* like to see included in your school newspaper? Each tutor group will receive a short feedback form to complete and return to Ms. Fitzgerald, D3.5 who will share your thoughts with the editorial team.

If you have a news story you want to shout about from the roof tops, please feel free to drop into the newspaper club weekly meeting in D3.11 on Thursdays from 3pm.

We hope you enjoy this issue and make sure to fill out the feedback form being sent to your tutors!

#Proud To Be Blue Coat



A timely reminder that summer holidays are on their way by Ella Year 7

Blue Coat Goes Green!

Ethan and Maite interviewed Mr Pouney (Head of Maths) about his brand-new Gardening Club.

Why did you set up Gardening Club?

I love gardening and I wanted to share that love with pupils here.

How did you get into gardening?

I wanted my house and garden to look nicer and wanted something to do while on leave. I turned to Gardening and never looked back.

What sorts of things are you planting?

Fruits and vegetables like tomatoes, courgettes and raspberries to tie in with food tech and potentially help the canteen with extra supplies. This might help lower the cost of food for students there.

How does it benefit the students?

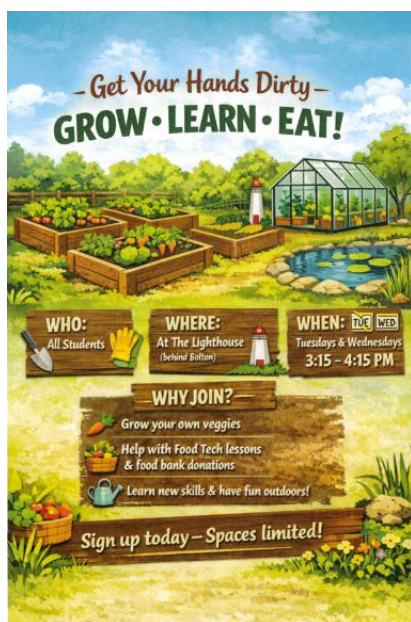
The students get to learn important life skills like how to grow their own food (which would be useful in the RAF, where I worked before becoming a teacher) and how to cook it. And spending time outside is always a good way to unwind after a long day.

Any gardening tips for our readers?

Small, frequent acts of care (watering, pruning, repotting, etc.) make for a healthy plant. If you want to help the bees, look out for the bee-friendly logo on plant labels such as lavender and crocuses in garden centres.

When and where is the club?

We meet every Tuesday and Wednesday at the Lighthouse (the big blue building near the front gate) from 3-4 pm. If you or anyone you know are interested to join Gardening Club and grow your future, speak to Mr Pouney in W2.5 today!



A poster seen around school promoting the Gardening Club in TBCS

Basingstoke and Dean District Cup Winners - Year 9 Boys Football Team

On Wednesday 29th April, Year 9 Boys Football team were victorious in the Basingstoke and Deane District Cup Final. This fantastic achievement marks their second consecutive District Cup victory, following their success in Year 8 last year.

Despite a scrappy match, the team showed real quality throughout, dominating play and fully deserving the win. Their performance is a testament to the talent and determination within the squad, and we look forward to seeing what they can achieve in next year's competition.

Maite caught up with Finn S, following the team's victory and asked him for his thoughts on winning.

How did it feel when the final whistle went, and you realised you had won the trophy?

It felt great to win the trophy for the 2nd year in a row, especially against a competitive team.

What makes this team such a strong group to play in?

Everyone is friends on and off the pitch. We communicate well and know each other's strengths. We always encourage one another. If we lose the ball, we work hard to win it back.

What does it mean to represent the school in an important final?

It felt good to represent the school. We all wanted to win the trophy for the 2nd year running, not just for ourselves but for the school as well.

How did the support from staff, family, and other students make a difference?

It makes a massive difference to have support at the matches. Their support is appreciated.

What would you like to say to everyone who came to support the team?

A massive thank you to everyone that came to watch. Also thank you to the parents who provided lifts for some of the players to and from away matches.



Year 9 Boys Football Team District Cup Winners 2026

An interview with Mrs. Voce Newell, (Head of Technology)

Ethan and Maite ambushed Mrs Voce-Newell during Art Club...

Why teach Tech?

I love everything creative and have done so since my days as a schoolgirl. The creative subjects were always my favourite.

If you didn't teach Tech, what would you teach?

Ooh, tricky. If I had to choose, I'd go for English. It's still creative, and I did always love writing stories...

What is the weirdest thing a student ever said to you?

Er, well, there was a group of students who made a spiderweb out of string bigger than me and then asked me if I'd like to be the spider.



Van Gogh's *The Starry Night* (1889)

What is your favourite artist and painting?

Easy! Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night*.

Nice! What is your proudest achievement?

Before the lovely lot I have now, I had a challenging tutor group. I helped them as much as I could and it was wonderful when I met one of them, as an adult, in town recently.

Why did you set up Art Club?

I wanted to help students with projects, in their own time.

Do you have a message for the readers?

Be creative and follow your dreams.

Book Review: The Name of This Book is Secret

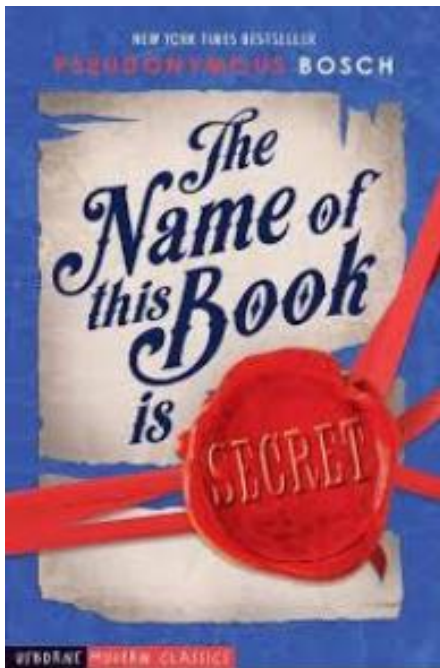
The Name of This Book Is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch is a captivating entry into the world of children's mystery novels. It's a tale that combines humour, suspense, and intrigue, appealing to readers who love a good puzzle.

The story centers around two quirky protagonists, Cass and Max-Ernest, who embark on a thrilling adventure after discovering a mysterious box called the Symphony of Smells. Their journey unfolds in a series of cleverly woven clues that lead them to the enigmatic Dr. L and Ms. Mauvais, who are up to some nefarious deeds.

Bosch's writing style is uniquely engaging, often breaking the fourth wall to speak directly to the reader. This technique not only adds a layer of humour but also creates a sense of intimacy, as if the reader is part of the secret-keeping club. The author's playful approach to storytelling is enhanced by the use of footnotes and secret messages, encouraging active participation from the audience.

The book is filled with vivid descriptions and a rich backdrop that brings the mysterious world to life. Bosch skillfully balances wit and suspense, making it an exciting read for both young readers and those young at heart. The characters are well-developed, each bringing their own quirks and charm to the narrative.

In summary, *The Name of This Book Is Secret* is a delightful blend of mystery and adventure. Its clever plot and engaging narrative make it a must-read for fans of the genre. Whether you're a novice reader or an adult looking for a whimsical escape, this book promises an unforgettable journey filled with secrets and surprises.



The front cover of *The Name of this Book is Secret*, TBCS recommends book

How to prepare for technical exams by Kundana

In the previous editions we went through the humanities subjects but now we flip to cover the practical subjects shown below:

DIT (Digital Information Technology):

Focus: data types, validation, legislation; user interface (UI) design; client briefs & evaluation.

Top tips: make a glossary and self-test; break down briefs (audience, purpose, success criteria); compare good vs bad UIs and explain why; practise past-paper long answers; mind-map legislation and security risks.

DT (Design & Technology):

Focus: materials & properties; tools, processes & manufacturing; sustainability and iterative design.

Top tips: create a materials comparison table (properties, pros/cons, uses); sketch quick ideas daily; annotate designs with reasons linked to user needs and sustainability; use flashcards for tools/processes/fixings; analyse existing products and how well they meet requirements.

Hospitality & Catering (WJEC):

Focus: types of restaurants, cafes, hotels & job roles; what affects menu planning (nutrition, allergies, costs, seasonal food); food safety rules (HACCP, how food goes off, cross-contamination); cooking methods & the science behind them; what different customers want.

Top tips: make a quick-reference sheet of key food safety rules (e.g., the 4 Cs – chilling, cleaning, cooking, cross-contamination); practise writing weekly menus that make sense for a budget, season, and dietary needs (e.g., vegan, gluten-free); smash 12-mark questions by using real examples (e.g., “how a school canteen meets halal/vegan needs”); draw simple flowcharts for food safety steps (delivery → storage → prep → cooking → holding → serving); compare two real menus (e.g., McDonald’s vs a local independent café) on price, choice, special diets, and seasonal ingredients.

Drama:

Focus: Performance Skills (vocal and physical skills); key practitioners; script analysis & evaluation.

Top tips: Practise vocal and physical warm-ups regularly, create revision cards for practitioners, and annotate scripts with intentions, subtext, and staging ideas. Record rehearsals to evaluate performances, and structure written answers by describing, explaining, analysing, and evaluating clearly.



Posters displaying design technology and food technology departments in Bolton.

Transaction Denied, a short story by Ethan C

London Waterloo. An old lady called Trina emerged from the bookshop with no books and a rumbling tummy. The people rushing past ignored this slightly unhinged-appearing lady. She bore an oversized handbag held guiltily at her chest; a strange bulge could be seen within. Her body language blatantly stated:

"I have a handbag, and I'm not afraid to use it."

Meanwhile, a shout came from inside the shop. Something about a Lion Toystore, apparently.

Oh, they noticed. Trina thought. *Took 'em long enough.*

Then the old woman sniffed the air and smelled chocolate. Her eyes took on a misty quality, like when a toddler sees a teddy bear in the shop window. Then you'd buy it for them just to stop the tantrum...

There was a vending machine leaning against the wall nearby. Trina stared at it, confused. Had it been there five minutes ago? Er...

Though its state would've suggested otherwise, it was chock-full of chocolate. That was the source of the irresistible smell, and Trina could see passers-by restraining themselves.

Well, I am hungry, she thought, *and I have some change.*

From deep inside her bag, she took a black purse with flowers embroidered on it. She hobbled stiffly to the vending machine before adjusting her oversized glasses.

Two pound fifty for a KitKat? she thought bemusedly.

She was about to turn away when her stomach rumbled. Trina cursed her insatiable appetite and checked the purse. It held five fifty pence coins glimmering in the light. She inserted the coins which shot inside with a reassuring click. The keypad lit up, and she chose her order.

As if thinking, the machine rattled. Nothing happened for a few seconds. The appliance trembled again. Finally, the chocolate bar slid down towards the slot. Annoyance coursed through Trina as it suddenly got stuck just above it.

She stared and angrily banged on the glass.

"Where's my chocolate?"

As Trina was battling with the vending machine, a man came up behind her. Together their eyes shot to the KitKat, pressed against the glass.

The man took out a credit card from a jacket pocket and waved it at Trina. She growled and banged on the glass again.

Not to be outdone, Mark tapped his card to the reader. A ping confirmed his purchase, but the packet did not appear in the slot. Trina stuck her tongue out at him and he growled faintly.

"Transaction denied." The machine intoned.

TBC.....

Wordsearch Corner

R M C M G O R C W R I W Q Q K
Z E K Z R P M N S E W N H R Z
O V M M B A W B S P I P P N H
U W T M T A H L E A O P B U U
Q L C H A E Z I N P R X R W J
S M S X K H H G T S S T Z L N
H Z L I Y C R C I W O G E L E
S V U L N D P A F E F A Z U K
C D K E A D E N W N A A E O V
I D R B B B X A M E N S H E D
E F L L A B T O O F O E T V S
N T I B A S K E T B A L L L G
C G K R X I J Z N V S S N E C
E J H L C P M U H R G X A M E
A E Y A N V A A U X B A B F I

Art	Basketball	Fitness
Football	French	Lego
Maths	Menshed	Netball
Newspaper	Science	WarhammerClues

Summer Jokes

1. **Why do bananas use sunscreen?** Because they peel!
2. **What does a bee do when it's hot?** He takes off his yellow jacket!
3. **Why are gulls named seagulls?**
Because if they were by the bay, they'd be bagels!

Summer Riddles

1. **Riddle:** I'm the highlight of many summer days, kids love to play with me in a variety of ways. I'm sometimes a ball, sometimes a disc, what am I? *Answer: A beach ball or a frisbee!*
2. **Riddle:** I'm full of keys but I can't open a door. What am I?
Answer: A piano! (Perfect for summer music by the beach or campfire)
3. **Riddle:** I'm taken from a mine, and shut up in a wooden case, from which I am never released, and yet I am used by almost every person. What am I?
Answer: Pencil lead! (Essential for summer camp activities)

Keep these jokes and riddles handy to share with friends and family. They're sure to bring a smile to anyone's face and make any summer gathering a little brighter! Enjoy!

School Calendar June

THURSDAY

11th June

All Day
Year 10 Reports to Parents

TUESDAY

16th June

1:45pm
Year 11 End of Term BBQ and Leavers' Presentation

THURSDAY

18th June

3:30pm - 7:00pm
Year 10 Parents Evening

MONDAY

22nd June

All Day
Year 10 Mock Exams

TUESDAY

23rd June

All Day
Year 10 Mock Exams

WEDNESDAY

24th June

All Day
Year 10 Mock Exams

School Trips

2nd June – Year 7 Navy Day

19th June - Year 8 History Trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

29th June - Year 7 Geography Trip to Rushall Farm

THURSDAY

25th June

All Day
Year 10 Mock Exams

All Day
Year 6 Transition Day

All Day
Year 6 Transition Evening

FRIDAY

26th June

All Day
Year 10 Mock Exams

All Day
Year 6 Transition Day

MONDAY

29th June

All Day
Year 10 Mock Exams

TUESDAY

30th June

All Day
Year 10 Mock Exams

School Calendar July

THURSDAY

2nd July

All Day
Year 10 Mock Exams

All Day
Year 5 Taster Day

FRIDAY

3rd July

All Day
Year 10 Mock Exams

All Day
Year 11 Prom

All Day
Year 5 Taster Day

WEDNESDAY

15th July

All Day
Sports/House Challenge Day

THURSDAY

23rd July

All Day
Summer Holiday Starts

School Trips

7th July – Year 10 BCoT Trip

9th July – Year 10 Enterprise Day

14th July - Year 8 Trip to Science Museum

16th July - Year 7 Trip to Marwell Zoo

17th July - Year 9 Trip to Science Museum

20th July - Year 8 - 10 Rewards Trip

A dark blue shield-shaped badge with a light blue border. At the top is a white crown above a large white letter 'B'. Below the 'B' is the word 'Ambition' in a white serif font. At the bottom, in a smaller white font, is the text: 'We strive to pursue the best possible outcomes regardless of any barrier. We collaborate and aspire to be the best possible version of 'ourselves'.'

B

Ambition

We strive to pursue the best possible outcomes regardless of any barrier. We collaborate and aspire to be the best possible version of 'ourselves'.

A dark blue shield-shaped badge with a light blue border. At the top is a white crown above a large white letter 'B'. Below the 'B' is the word 'Respect' in a white serif font. At the bottom, in a smaller white font, is the text: 'Through our actions we treat everyone and everything in our school community, with fairness, understanding and care.'

B

Respect

Through our actions we treat everyone and everything in our school community, with fairness, understanding and care.

A dark blue shield-shaped badge with a light blue border. At the top is a white crown above a large white letter 'B'. Below the 'B' is the word 'Kindness' in a white serif font. At the bottom, in a smaller white font, is the text: 'We actively consider the feelings and thoughts of others. We intentionally conduct ourselves in a way which contributes to happiness in our school.'

B

Kindness

We actively consider the feelings and thoughts of others. We intentionally conduct ourselves in a way which contributes to happiness in our school.