



Updates for the parents and community of The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form



KEY DATES

World Book Day

By Olivia Year 10

World Book Day, like Christmas, comes once a year, a time when readers (and non-readers) can celebrate the importance of books and delve into why they're so significant in our lives.

A good book often allows a reader to escape into another world. From a normal, uniform-wearing, regular school day, to a campus teeming with book characters, not just British authors but books that come from as far as the other side of the world. On display are a range of cultures and styles, of all centuries, past to present. From Cruella De Vil to Oompa Loompas, the students and staff at South Wolds didn't disappoint.

Such a day doesn't come without its challenges though. There was a fast-paced quiz to test our knowledge of literature, with participants ranging from all year groups. Competition was at a high with the English teachers watching the plot unfurl before them.

All in all, it was a successful World Book Day and a definite must for the school calendar. Who will you be next year?

- 26th April - Year 7 Inter-Tutor Sports
- 27th April - Year 9 Inter-Tutor Sports
- 28th April - Year 8 Inter-Tutor Sports
- 5th May - Year 12 Parents' Evening
- 12th May - Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 20th May - SEND Awareness Day
- 30th May to 3rd June - Half Term



World Book Day - A New South Wolds Chapter

By Team English

It's been a while coming but on the 3rd March this year, students and staff embraced the celebrations of the 25th World Book Day. Whilst it is now a well-established event nationally, this year was the first time we have been able to plunge page-first into the bookish festivities at South Wolds.

Back in 2018, we had a splendid day planned by the awesome Ms Toolin but the season was against us and thanks to the pesky weather, we were left dressed as our literary heroes at home whilst the school closed because of snow. The next few years meant World Book Day was celebrated at home and on screen so we were determined to make this year really count... and like the Hungry Caterpillar chomping through pages of food, we did!

Members of The South Wolds community did World Book Day proud. There were inspired appearances by the likes of Charles Dickens, Willy Wonka, Anna Karenina, Miss Trunchball, The Fantastic Mr Fox, Gandalf, the Queen of Hearts, several Harry Potters, a couple of Ron Weasleys and the BFG. There was even an Aladdin who was so in character he carried a rather large, rolled up rug around school with him all day. It was genuinely lovely to see so many join in with the spirit of the day and dress in a way to celebrate their favourite literary characters and writers.

The lunchtime quiz was fun – funnier still were the Jurassic Park dinosaurs who gallantly tried to quiz with their little dinosaur hands. We suspect that dinosaurs were probably excluded from prehistoric pub quizzes before they became extinct. However, what those ferocious quizzing beasts lacked in terms of being able to answer the questions, they made up for in energy and kept their fellow quizzers entertained. And if you ever want a secret weapon in a quiz round about The Hunger Games, Dylan might just be the person.

It will come as no surprise that reading was a key theme of the day. Every student in the school was given a World Book Day token to put towards a book of their choice. All our students in Year 7 and 8 were given a free reading book to choose and take home. Keen to promote reading, staff shared their favourite reads with students throughout lessons and displayed them in school. Lastly, students and parents donated over 60 reading books for us to share with children at South Wolds who would like to read more at home but might not have one that will Mr Tickle their reading taste buds. Thank you to everyone who supported this, and we have already started to share some of those donations.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who took part in World Book Day, both in and out of school. You made the day tremendous fun and one to remember. Roll on the 2nd March 2023....



Hayah has read and reviewed one of the books given to students to celebrate reading and World Book Day:



If you have heard of Sophie McKenzie's *Girl Missing*, then you will love this! *Boy Missing* starts when Harlen and his whole family go on a camping trip but he and his cousin have a fight. Angry, Harlen storms off into the woods and disappears.

His cousin, Ellen, is worried. Can she find Harlen before it's too late?

This story is absolutely a rollercoaster of emotions: happiness, sadness and many more. Sophie McKenzie has definitely accomplished the art of writing thriller books and this is the cherry on top.

Students Experience in the Eco-Council

By Thomas C-B

Year 8

Hello, my name is Thomas, and I am lucky enough to have had the wonderful opportunity to be part of the school eco-council. We, as a school, strongly believe in keeping what keeps us breathing alive, nature!

I joined the eco-council at the first opportunity, which was the start of year 7. I was delighted to hear that I had been accepted and could not wait to get to work. I strongly believe that we must protect the environment, and that we should all do our bit to save the planet!

Being part of the group has been a very enjoyable experience, as all the other members are a joy to work with and the ideas we all come up with are amazing! It is so important to be an eco-friendly school, as we must win the fight against pollution and make our world a better place for the next generation! We hope to change many things in the school in the near future.

First of all, we have started a pen recycling scheme, so the used pens do not reach our oceans. We have also taken part in the switch off fortnight activity, which was a huge success, and we hope it will inspire more people to join the cause.

Finally, we have crisp packet bins dotted around the school, so we can recycle them instead of just throwing them away.

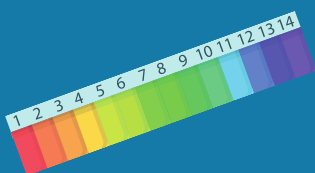
We hope that these small changes will contribute to the bigger picture and improve the planet that we call home...



Year 7 Science - What have they enjoyed so far?

By Poppy W

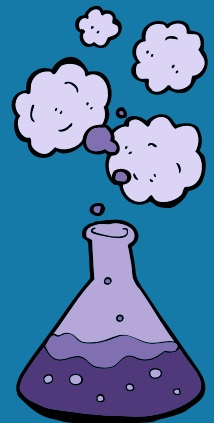
So far in Science I have enjoyed meeting my teachers and learning so many new things. The best thing that I have enjoyed is all the practicals. For example, mixing acid and alkaline to make a natural solution also learning what PH means. Another practical is using Bunsen burners and so much more.



I have enjoyed using the Bunsen burners to evaporate water in science this year. I have also really liked testing acid/alkaline strength with universal indicator and putting different metals in acids and testing their reactivity. I enjoyed putting the three alkaline metals into water, especially potassium, and watch it set on fire and turn into spheres.

By Ben P

I have enjoyed many things in Science at South Wolds. The first thing I have enjoyed is extracting salt from sea water. It was fun, safe and educational at the same time. Another thing I have enjoyed is putting lithium, sodium and potassium in water to see the reaction. The outcome was a bright purple flame and a small 'plop' when it had finished dissolving.



By Isaac R

I have really enjoyed using the Bunsen burners and doing experiments. All of the teachers are very nice and supportive. I have really enjoyed doing Science so far. It is great fun to set things on fire and experiment with different objects.

By Jessica G

Year 7 Representing The South Wolds Academy Netball

By Miss O'Horan



It's official, sporting fixtures are back on the calendar! This month, the year 7 netball girls got the chance to represent South Wolds Academy for the first time, and they did not disappoint!



After weeks of after school practice, the day for the Rushcliffe Schools Netball Tournament arrived...

In true British style, we were greeted by a full day of torrential rain to honour the occasion. Despite the downpour, the spirit of the team remained high and the girls arrived at West Bridgford School full of excitement (and desperately clutching onto their coats). After a short warm up the girls stepped onto the court to face the music. Seven teams, six matches and one great prize – the pride of Rushcliffe.

First up was the battle against Becket School. The girls had a nervous start, unsure how to navigate the wind and the rain. However, after two minutes the first South Wolds goal was secured, shortly followed by another. South Wolds ended the game as winners and as the rain came faster, so did the victories. The girls went on to win the next four games against Toot Hill School, East Leake Academy, South Nottinghamshire Academy and West Bridgford School C team.

Undefeated, the girls went into the final match against West Bridgford School B team with everything to play for. The girls fought hard and worked together as a solid unit but were unable to score the extra few goals needed to take the win. As the final whistle went, the girls left the courts with second place and full of pride for not only completing their first tournament, but for securing a place on the podium whilst doing it.

It may have taken a week for their kits to dry out, but their glory will live on much longer! Well done to the girls, they were a real credit to South Wolds. Keep an eye out for their future (hopefully sunnier) sporting adventures!

Dance Festival

By Miss Drewett

This year was the return of the school dance festival. The students and staff were all very excited to be relaunching this event after the effect that Covid had on our extra-curricular activities in the last couple of years.

This year's festival called 'Rhythm Nation' involved approx 50 students and covered a wide range of dance styles and music!

It took place in the school hall on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th March.

Alongside this we also invited our feeder primary schools for an extra show and this was a very enjoyable morning.

We relaunched the South Wolds Dance Troupe who guided our younger students through the shows. They are pupils at year 10 and above who have auditioned for a place in the troupe and follow a strict rehearsal schedule. They are led by our dance captain Emily S and our two vice captains Lili R and Ffreuer J who have worked closely with Miss Drewett to ensure a high standard was maintained throughout.

This really was a highlight of the school year for some of our students and we hope that you will support us in saying big congratulations to all involved.



The South Wolds Way...

- ✓ be kind and aware of others
- ✓ understand and accept different ethnicities, backgrounds, cultures, religions
- ✓ celebrate our uniqueness!



STOP RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
21 March 2022

Anti-Racism Day

Anti-Racism day can be a sensitive subject for some but here at The South Wolds Academy we like to think that all of our differences are understood and often celebrated.

As part of our awareness day during tutor time the students were educated on race, ethnicity, religion and culture.

They also explored the importance of understanding each other and how these things can affect people within our community.

We also covered how to recognise and report racism/ racial stereotyping, supported by the release of our new anti-racism posters which will be displayed across school and on our school website.



ONE VOICE
FACE
HEART
RACE
THE HUMAN RACE

Year 9 Careers Day

By Albert and Nat 9T

My year 9 careers day was great. Here is what happened:



We started the day with 3 very interesting presentations from people who do jobs which involve analysing data. With the new information we had on how companies analyse data and what data they analyse, we came up with an idea for a business with our friends and wrote about what data we analyse, how we analyse it and what we use the data for.

We then presented our ideas to our tutor group. This was just the first half of our very fun day! Next, we went on computers onto a website called Unifrog. This website suggests jobs based on your personality and interests and also helps you find universities. Finally, we saw a presentation about 6th form at South Wolds and did a big game of Kahoot with two other tutor groups about the same thing. It was such a fun day!

Student Council

By Miss Drewett and Mr Askham

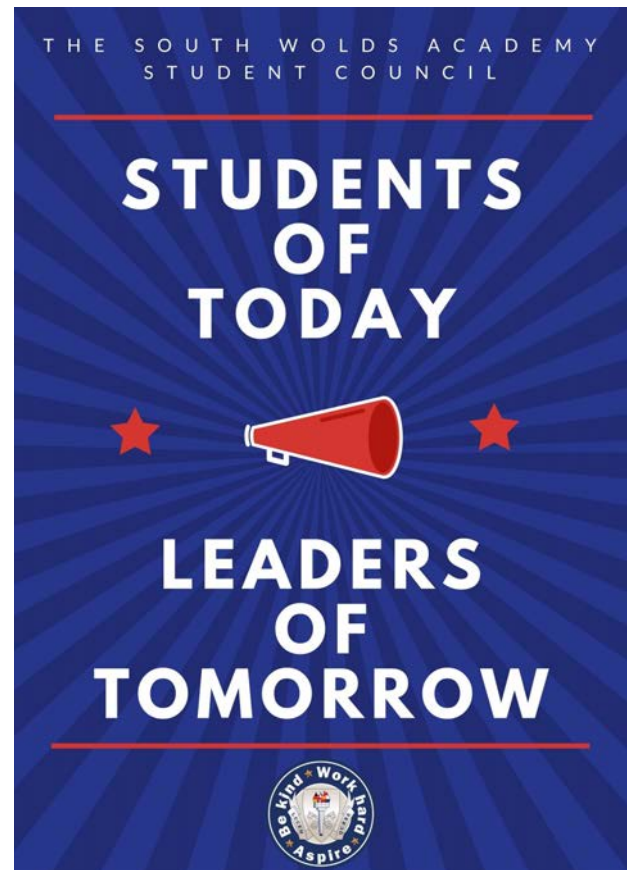
We are very excited to reintroduce the student council this year!

Our long term plans involve a strong student led body that will have a presence across the school and be involved in many of our school events and initiatives.

We have already begun with a group of student volunteers to introduce student voice across our year groups. There will be a number of topics and we hope to see our community embracing the opportunity to have a voice and influence some of the decisions made in school.

Progressing on from this will be our election for year group representatives and head council.

We will also be introducing an events team, a news team and pupil ambassadors.



Year 13 Extended Project Presentations

By Miss C Fox

Our year 13 students delivered their Extended Project Presentations on Wednesday 2nd March to an audience of year 12 students and staff. The Extended Project is an A-level qualification designed to extend and develop students' abilities beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare them for university or their future career.

The students have spent the past year working incredibly hard on their projects which involves researching a topic of their choice and writing an extended essay. They covered a range of topics, such as global warming and the 2008 financial crisis, and it was fantastic to watch them present their findings. There was a great atmosphere in the room as staff and students visited different students to hear more about their research and experience of completing the EPQ.

The students have now handed in their projects and are focusing on their summer exams. Well done year 13 - I am incredibly proud of all of your hard work!

Extended Project Qualification Presentation 2022

1. Why are we so late to act on climate change?
2. The most effective way to use cinematography and sound in horror films.
3. How effective is music as a treatment of Alzheimer's disease?
4. Can one person be to blame for the horrors of the Holocaust?
5. Does contemporary CCP foreign policy support more economic structures than in previous administrations subsequent to Mao's original communist government?
6. The 2008 Financial Crisis and interest rates: To what extent did the UK and U.S' respective Governments use quantitative easing to help their economies and societies.
7. To what extent do carbon offset projects ethically and effectively combat carbon dioxide emissions?
8. Could roller coasters be safer or does the media catastrophize events?
9. Is love Nature or Nurture?
10. To what extent does a Psychopaths upbringing affect their morality?
11. What area of society does maths impact the most?
Barclays or RBS – which was worst effected by the 2008 financial crisis?
12. Did cost reduction or time saving have the bigger influence on the no.4 reactor meltdown at Chernobyl?

"I found the EPQ project immensely interesting and the experience of undertaking the research to write my essay and create a presentation have made me feel much better equipped for university and the future in general"

The students have now handed in their projects and are focusing on their summer exams.

Well done year 13 - I am incredibly proud of all of your hard work!

Careers Fair

This year's Careers Fair was incredibly successful. We had some wonderful feedback from students. Here is a lovely letter received from a year 11 student about her experience at the careers fair and her intentions for Post-16.



From Gabriella G

I found the careers fair really useful. I have left with a good idea of what path I'd like to take through sixth form and university. I had a general idea before but having the chance to speak to different people and learn about different options really inspired me.

I visited (with serious interest) the early years stand, Nottingham Trent Uni to talk about the different teaching routes they offer and also the education stand for Nottingham Trent University. The two ladies at the Nottingham Trent education stand explained about a teaching route I didn't even know existed. I really enjoyed having a long conversation with them and now I feel really inspired. I have gotten to know more about this specific education course which I think will really suit me, their university and a like-minded student they have at the university at the moment who I could get in touch with.

Often school gives you lots of support for the next stage or year group of school and helps you through the next steps. It is reassuring to know that we are even being supported with the gradual transition into a career even though this is not part of the school. It is making me feel more and more settled as I get a better and better understanding of the specifics of what I need to do and what options there are to reach my goal.

With this inspiration, it is also motivating me to keep working hard at my GCSEs because going to the careers fair has really reminded me of an end goal. I also enjoyed starting with the sixth form students and moving on from there as that was reassuring to get some of my queries answered and some suggestions and advice was given to me too by the sixth formers and Miss Capewell which has made me feel more prepared.

Overall the turnout was amazing and there were so many different stands with lovely people too. I think Miss Crawford did a great job at organising all this! I genuinely think the careers fair gave me so much information, inspiration and interesting suggestions.

Ukraine Appeal Fundraiser

Sixth Form Students

The South Wolds Academy had a non-uniform day on Weds 23rd March to raise funds to help provide food, water, shelter, healthcare and protection to families fleeing the conflict.

Sixth Form volunteers collected £1 donations from students as they arrived at school.

A huge thank you to students and staff - collectively we managed to raise a fantastic amount!

£803.15

Funds raised will be sent to the DEC Ukraine appeal.