



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



## KEY DATES

### CyberFirst Success! - November 2023

#### Ms Rowe

We entered 8 teams of Year 8 girls in the NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) CyberFirst Girls Competition this year. The contest is designed to encourage girls to explore the world of cyber and technology, helping to address the lack of diversity in the UK cyber workforce, where women currently make up just 17%. Teams used range of cyber skills to compete in code cracking, decrypting messages and solving puzzles in the contest.

25 students from South Wolds took part out the 12,500 girls across the UK who took part. I'm delighted to announce one of our teams The Dumplings won the competition for the East Midlands. UK schoolgirls secure victory as champions of NCSC cyber... - NCSC.GOV.UK.

The Dumplings, Maegan C, Amelia P, Freda D-F and Freya F have been invited to the celebration event in Oxford in March for a lunch and gala dinner to celebrate their achievements.

- 4th Jan - School returns
- 19th Jan - Year 11 Mock Results Morning
- 23rd Jan - Year 11 Parents Evening
- 25th Jan - UCAS Deadline at 6:00pm
- 31st Jan - Year 9 Options Evening
- 9th Feb - Anti-Bullying and Anti-Racism Day
- 12th - 16th Feb - Half Term



Everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and I'm so very proud of everyone who took part.



# Reading Updates

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By Ms Haywood

## Non-Fiction November

Throughout the month of November, teachers set reading homework across all year groups to encourage access to The Day.com. We saw a significant increase in the amount of engagement with the website, and many students reported how much they enjoyed using the resource. Thank you for your support with this at home; our aim is to move towards more regular reading homework being set by subject areas to highlight how reading can enhance your understanding and engagement of key national and international issues that link to the curriculum.

## Tutor Time Reading

Years 8, 9 and 10 have been enjoying reading aloud sessions in registration as a way to broaden their vocabulary and strengthen their comprehension skills. Research suggests that listening to someone read or listening to an audiobook can increase children and young people's understanding of more sophisticated texts, ideas and writing styles, and we hope to expand our use of audiobooks in the new year. In the meantime, did you know that Spotify now offer free audiobooks as part of their premium subscription, and that BBC Sounds has a number of story podcasts that are free to listen to? Both are worth checking out and perhaps listening to as a family, particularly if you are facing a long car journey over the Christmas holidays!



## Reading Passports - Years 7 and 8

All students in Years 7 and 8 have access to the library in their English lessons once a fortnight where they are encouraged to explore, share and discuss a range of different texts. As part of these sessions we also look at their Reading Passports to monitor their engagement with reading at home and we have been really impressed by the number of students taking part in this. Many students are now starting to receive rewards for exceptional effort with reading, including free treats from the school canteen! Your support at home with encouraging reading three times a week is most welcome and really does make a difference to how well the students participate in this.

# Goodbye to Staff

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## Mrs Angus

At the end of this term we say a fond farewell to staff who are moving on to pastures new. Mrs Gillen has been a staple of our administrative team for 24 years and we wish her the very best of times as she enjoys her retirement. Dr Cliff, Mr Batstone and Miss Baxter are exploring avenues outside of teaching and we wish them well for their future endeavours. Finally, we wish Miss Georgiou the very best as she moves on to a department leadership role at a secondary school in the city.



## A Christmas Carol Trip

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By Harikanth K



On Nov 4th, 47 excited year 10 students went with the English team to see Nottingham Playhouse's production of A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story, starring Keith Allen.

The school trip to watch a live production of "A Christmas Carol" was an absolutely unforgettable experience. The level of talent displayed by the cast was nothing short of amazing. The cast were brilliant, and their commitment to their roles made the story come alive in a way I had never imagined.

The amount of tension and anticipation built throughout the play kept us engaged and immersed in the show. The characters were portrayed perfectly and each line was delivered with pure passion, creating an exciting atmosphere for everyone.

What made the trip even more special was the sheer fun we had together throughout the day. Not a single moment was wasted and it was truly an amazing opportunity we had been given. To summarise, it was a captivating show that I wouldn't miss for the world and would recommend to everybody to watch.



# Teacher Training Partnership with Uni of Nottingham

*By Miss Crawford*

On Tuesday 21st November, we hosted a pilot event in the form of an Immersive Practice Day for an initial teacher training cohort from the University of Nottingham School of Education. The trainee teachers are all part way through the first teaching practice in the fields of English, geography and history.



The foci of the day was on immersive practice to combine the theory and cognitive science of learning to the daily practice and values upheld in our school. The core theme was classroom presence and communication skills to support high expectations for all learners. The programme included expert input and facilitated discussion, lesson observations of a range of teachers looking at inclusive approaches, analysis of observations and practise in a rehearsal environment.

It is no secret that teacher recruitment and retention is facing a crisis with applications to the profession decreasing and teachers leaving the progression increasing. This is particularly prevalent in the East Midlands, which is the second worst affected area in the country. The event offered an opportunity for us to work with the University to support their programme of study and showcase our school to the next generation of teachers in the local area.



The event was recognised as a brilliant opportunity for trainee teachers to visit a school where ‘teachers are doing their jobs so well, making career progression and are seemingly happy’. A colleague from a local Academy joined us for the day and wrote ‘I really enjoyed coming over to your school, it feels like a really fantastic place and your students and colleagues were wonderful. It was great to be able to visit lessons with the trainees and see some really great teaching!’

Feedback from the University:

“We are so grateful to the South Wolds community for inviting us in to spend the day with them. As an Initial Teacher Education provider, we are committed to developing our beginning teachers to become inclusive practitioners who value and respect all learners. The day we spent at South Wolds supported the professional development of our new teachers, as they were able to ‘see’ inclusion in action throughout the whole school. This opportunity, along with the input from expert practitioners, provided an invaluable learning opportunity for our students that will influence and shape their approaches to teaching and learning as well as their ways of being as a teacher. Thank you to everyone who supported our visit.”

# My School Fund Initiative

By Mrs Gillen

A huge 'Thank you' to those of you who have signed up to My School Fund. As a result of your good will the school has received £149.00 over the past year which has been used to purchase footballs for the PE department. For information on how to sign up for FREE please take a look at the poster.



In association with

Sainsbury's

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## Step 1

Visit [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org)  
to register for free



## Step 2

Link to our school



## Step 3

Spend at  
participating retailers



## Step 4

Start receiving  
your eGift Cards!

# We're part of the My School Fund initiative.

## Together we can boost our school's budget, plus your own!

It's completely free to sign up and both you  
and your child's school will receive eGift Cards  
to be used at participating retailers based on  
a percentage of your spend.

**Visit [myschoolfund.org](https://myschoolfund.org) today!**



# Autumn High Flyers

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## Albert F (Year 11) Sports Clubs

For being a constant source of support with helping set up and pack away after school sports clubs. Thank you, Bertie! **Mr Levack**

## Lucy B (Year 10) French

Outstanding start to GCSE French and for asking really complex grammatical questions. Well done, Lucy! **Miss Crawford**

## Ellie C (Year 8) French

Being brilliant in French, working really hard and contributing positively in lessons. **Miss Aves**

## Seb G (Year 8) PE

Outstanding hard work in PE this year and for demonstrating an excellent level of performance. Well done Seb! **Mr Levack**

## Ben H (Year 8) French

Being brilliant in French, working really hard and completing challenge tasks to accelerate progress. **Miss Crawford**

## Leah M (Year 11) Maths

For always trying her best every lesson. **Mirs Sprake**

## Tyler S (Year 10) Maths

For having a positive attitude and trying his best even when he hates averages! **Mrs Sprake**

## Samuel B (Year 7) Maths

For excellent contributions in lessons. **Mrs Sprake**

## Isabelle F (Year 11) Maths

Working really well in all maths lessons and trying her best. **Miss Turnbull**

## Rowan S (Year 11) Maths

For being extremely kind and helpful both to other students and to me! **Miss Turnbull**

## Sebastian G (Year 7) The Bridge

For working really hard in The Bridge and for having such a positive start to the school year. **Mr Murphy**

## Tom E (Year 7) English

Has made an incredibly positive start to GCSE English Language, contributing really positively to class discussions. **Mrs Harper-Williams**

## William B (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent History test! **Mrs Shirra**

## Hector C (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent History test! **Mrs Shirra**

## Florence D-S (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent History test! **Mrs Shirra**





# Autumn Flyers

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## Oliver M (Year 8) History

For always trying his best in History! Miss Fox

## Ellie C (Year 8) History

For her excellent contributions in History lessons - well done, Ellie! Miss Fox

## Daniel C (Year 8) History

For always having a positive attitude and working hard in History. Miss Fox

## Jasmine C (Year 11) History

For always trying her best in History! Miss Fox

## Alshanta H (Year 7) History

For always working in History and contributing in lessons! Miss Fox

## Kayla B (Year 9) History

For her outstanding WW1 Propaganda poster homework. Miss Fox

## Isla K (Year 7) History

For her outstanding work and contributions in History. Miss Fox

## Liam G (Year 9) Geography

For always working hard and enthusiastically in Geography. Thank you!

Miss Martin

## Billy S (Year 9) Geography

For his contribution and positive attitude in Geography. Thank you! Miss Martin

## Lucy B (Year 10) Technology

For always being so kind and hardworking. Mrs Eastwood

## Betsy H (Year 7) Geography

For a great start to learning in Geography. Miss Martin

## Sadie W (Year 7) Geography

For her enthusiasm in Geography and great attitude to learning. Miss Martin

## Freda F-D (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent History test! Mrs Shirra

## Samuel L (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent History test! Mrs Shirra

## George B (Year 10) Geography

A great start to GCSE Geography. Miss Martin

## Anja T (Year 10) French

Superb effort in GCSE French lessons and especially with homework. Miss Crawford

## Scarlett F P (Year 8) Geography

For working hard and contributing well in Geography. Thank you, Scarlett!

Miss Martin



# Autumn High Flyers

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## Tamzin T (Year 7) History

For working really hard in History and always contributing fantastic facts in the lessons. Miss Fox

## Brody K (Year 7) EP

For bringing high level answers to the lessons consistently along with deep questions to help further understand key concepts. Mr Baines

## Emelia M-B (Year 7) EP

Consistently enthusiastic within lessons, being kind to others, and wanting to reach the high levels of EP! Mr Baines

## Ianna K (Year 9) EP

Positive attitude always helps in lessons, achieving high standards, and completing all challenge questions. Mr Baines

## Brody K (Year 7)

For his positive attitude around school, Brody embodies our values of being kind and working hard. A fantastic start, well done Brody! Mrs Angus

## Matthew C (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent History test. Mrs Shirra

## Tamara G (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent history test. Mrs Shirra

## Matthew H (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent history test. Mrs Shirra

## Emilio M (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent history test. Mrs Shirra

## Isaac S (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent history test. Mrs Shirra

## William B (Year 8) History

For an outstanding result in the recent history test. Mrs Shirra

## Eddie C (Year 8) French

Being so enthusiastic and brilliant in French lessons and super competitive in challenges. Miss Crawford

## Daniel C (Year 8) French

For working so hard in French lessons, contributing positively and being an excellent role model for others. Miss Crawford

## Kaitlyn J (Year 8) French

Kaitlyn maybe quiet in lessons but she works hard on every task she is given and is making amazing progress. Miss Crawford

## Oliver M (Year 8) French

Oliver is always cheerful and smiley and approaches every lesson with positivity - Well Done, Oliver! Miss Crawford

## Olivia B-B (Year 12) Music

Olivia has made a very impressive start to A Level music this term, her initiative and commitment is highly commendable. Hats off to you, Liv! Mr Manning





## Year 9 Languages Career Morning

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An amazingly fun way to encapsulate the joys of language learning through simulating how languages are used in the working world that is accessible to anyone of any skill set! The languages staff running the event throughout the day were incredible and made sure everybody understood their tasks and helped encourage everyone to get involved. I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing how languages can help me throughout my career later in life and how informative the day was around languages! - Liam G



The languages morning was a brilliant way to not only capture the joys of languages, but also explore where languages can take you in a career. This was a fantastic and inclusive morning, which I completely enjoyed, which was also fuelled by the brilliant languages staff and sixth-formers. Overall, a great experience and one I would love to do again! - Michael W

## Year 11 Manchester Trip

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*By Mr Wall*

On 12th October, 59 Year 11 Business Studies students visited the Etihad stadium in Manchester to learn about football as a business. On the way to the stadium as a bonus, they were given a tour of the peak district. They were treated to an extensive tour of the stadium, and a presentation on how Man City generates revenue on its match days. Students were a credit to the school, and the staff at Man City, complimented them on their conduct and enthusiasm.



# English Stars - Autumn Half Term

By Ms Wightman



We would like to celebrate the success of our amazing students and so English teachers have been busy nominating you for our Star Student of the half Term!! All excellent nominees are listed below with our winning students. Well done to all of you!

## Year 7

Jessica H

Charlotte G

Joseph R

Ethan B

Alshanta H

Blake D

## Year 8

Abby S

Libby T

Karen C

Maegan C

Isabel D

**WINNER – Abby S**

## Year 9

Holly D

Femke P

Erin P

Olivia D

Kyle N

**WINNER – Kyle N**

**WINNER – Joseph R**

## Year 10

Hayah R

Javis W

Yasmin D

Rebecca N

Josh D

Alicia H

**WINNER – Yasmin D**

## Year 11

Sophie J

Ava M

Katy P

Abi C

Riyah M

Fay S

**WINNER - Sophie J**

# Bebras

*By Mrs Rowe*

Students completed the Bebras computational thinking challenge in October. The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organized in over 60 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing.

## **Juniors (10 - 12)**

Samuel B (Best in School)

Hazel C

Charlotte G

Isla K

## **Inters (12 - 14)**

Jerome B

Daniel B

Tommy C

Peter G

Naomi H

Philip J (Best in School)

Amber L

Benjamin P

Libby T

Sophie W

Benjamin W

Thomas W

Shun Y

## **Seniors (14 - 16)**

Mishti J

Albert R (Best in School)

Harry S

## **GCHQ Christmas Challenge 2023**

*By Ms Rowe*



In lessons on 14th December students in Y10, 11, 12 and 13 took part in the GCHQ Christmas challenge solving puzzles on the Christmas card set by GCHQ. This year's challenge was particularly tricky, but I'm pleased to say, most groups managed to solve the puzzles within their lessons time, and got their completion certificate!

## **Year 12/13 Summer Placement**

*By Ms Rowe*

David J, a current Year 13 student attended a five-day residential course during the summer holidays at Lancaster University, called "Cyberfirst Advanced". The course was funded by the National Cybersecurity Centre (NCSC), a part of GCHQ. The course focussed on teaching concepts within cybersecurity, such as digital forensics, encryption technologies, penetration testing and open-source intelligence techniques while having fun and meeting new people! David said "The lessons took part within Lancaster University's very spacious library with two tutors who have worked for several years within the cybersecurity industry giving us lectures on many concepts. Later on, we then did lab sessions using that knowledge on laptops that were provided to us by the course. It wasn't all about the teaching of cyber security, it also involved doing social activities in the evenings that include: quizzes, lockboxes, karaoke and a barbeque. It was a very nice opportunity to talk with fellow students who are interested in cyber security. Overall I recommend it to other students that are interested in cyber security but do it fast because spaces run out very fast." More information can be found here: [Cyberfirst | Smallpeice Trust](#)

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PARENT EVENT: Supporting your child as they move secondary school

### General Outline

Is your child due to transfer from primary to secondary school in Nottinghamshire? Do they have an additional need that may require some extra support with transition? Transition from Year 6 to Year 7 can be an exciting, but challenging time for a child and for their parent or carer. This session will help parents and carers support their child to say a positive goodbye to primary school and prepare for the secondary school environment. **We will look at practical ideas and resources to use with your child to enable a smooth September start.**

### Who is this event for?

This is a free online event for parents and carers of children with additional needs who are resident in Nottinghamshire, or whose child attends or will be attending a Nottinghamshire school.

### Course Details

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

**VENUE: via Microsoft TEAMS**

(Joining instructions will be sent out prior to the session)

The course presenters will be **Kate Eyre** and **Laura Leedham** from the Cognition & Learning Team, Schools & Families Specialist Services (SFSS)

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**This is a FREE event and there will be no charge for attending**

**TO BOOK via Eventbrite Ctrl + Click Link below here:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/678034638857>

You will receive a joining invite to your email inbox after booking on Eventbrite.

**Closing date: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 12:00 noon**

Enquiries – Judith A Knight: [sfss.sirw@nottsccl.gov.uk](mailto:sfss.sirw@nottsccl.gov.uk) or Tel: 0115 854 6464





# SAFEGUARDING ADVICE

The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form will be closed from 12.30pm Wednesday 20th December for the holidays and will reopen on Thursday 4th January 2024

If you require urgent help during this period, you do not need to be alone:

## Emergency Help and Support

For urgent help, if someone is in danger or an active crime is being committed call 999. If you are aware that someone has committed a crime or been a victim of a crime please call 101.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

There are a range of support services available. Please see below:

**KOOTH** - for children and young people aged between 11-24 years who want to talk to a mental health professional online, anonymously and free. Visit their website [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) for further details.

**HARMLESS** - provide a range of advice and support about self harm, people who self harm, their friends and families. [www.harmless.org.uk](http://www.harmless.org.uk) or call 01159 348445

**MIND** - provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

**THE SAMARITANS** - are available 24/7 to help with anything that's troubling you, no matter how large or small the issue feels. Calls for free on 116 123 or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) (response time for email 24 hours)

**CHILDLINE** - available 24/7 for all mental health needs, concerns, help and advice. Call free on 0800 1111 or visit [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**BE U NOTTS** - to support early mental health and emotional wellbeing for young people and parents/carers. [www.beusupport.co.uk](http://www.beusupport.co.uk)

**Nottinghamshire NHS Mental Health Crisis Line:** Anyone needing mental health support for themselves or others can call the NHS crisis line on 0808 196 3779. 24/7, 7 days a week.

## Abuse and Radicalisation

If you are worried that you or someone you know is being abused or radicalised, even if you're unsure, you can speak to NSPCC about your concern. Call 0800 1111, report it online or email [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk)

If you are an adult call 0808 800 5000

## Online Safety

We value the importance of educating our students in staying safe online. There are a range of support services available. Please see below:

**CEOP** - helps any child or young person under the age of 18 who is being pressured, forced or tricked into taking part in sexual activity of any kind (online and/or in 'the real world'). [www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre) or [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_81](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_81)

**PARENT SAFE** - a very useful website containing top tips for parents. [www.parentsafelgfl.net](http://www.parentsafelgfl.net)

**REPORT HARMFUL CONTENT** - reports can be made online, response time is 72 hours. [www.reportharmfulcontent.com/report](http://www.reportharmfulcontent.com/report)

**UK SAFER INTERNET CENTRE AND NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY** - for additional information and guides for any additional e-safety advice. [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk), [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

## Drugs & Alcohol

**FRANK National Drugs Helpline**  
Call: 0300 123 6600

**DRINK LINE**  
Call: 0800 917 8282  
[www.drinkaware.co.uk/alcohol-support-services](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/alcohol-support-services)

**CHANGE GROW LIVE (Notts)**  
[www.changegrowlive.org/nottinghamshire](http://www.changegrowlive.org/nottinghamshire)

## Housing Support

If you need support to find somewhere safe to stay, please contact:

**Nottingham Community Housing Association**  
Call: 0800 013 8555  
[www.ncha.org.uk](http://www.ncha.org.uk)

## Further Support

If you have concerns for the safety of a child during school holidays, please contact Nottinghamshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0300 500 80 80 or visit the website [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk). If you require an urgent response outside of working hours (8.30am-5pm) contact Nottinghamshire's Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0300 456 4546

If the child lives in Nottingham City please contact Child and Families Direct: 0115 8764800

If you believe that a child is at immediate risk and in need of protection then you should call the Police - 999 immediately.

Alternatively, if you feel the child is at risk of abuse or neglect, but not in immediate need of protection, you should call the Police on 101.

## Food Banks

The Trussell Trust have a range of food bank services within the Nottinghamshire area. Visit their website [www.trusselltrust.org](http://www.trusselltrust.org)

**Keyworth Community Food Bank** at the Xchanging Rooms at the Rectory Field near the Village Hall. Contact [keyworthcfc@gmail.com](mailto:keyworthcfc@gmail.com)

