



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



KEY DATES

Year 8 Football Success

By Mr Shaw

The Year 8 Girls' football team continues to relish enormous success this year as they compete in four different competitions. They have made progress through the early rounds of the South Notts Cup and the Nottinghamshire County Cup, enjoying victory against The West Bridgford School, Outwood Academy Portland and East Leake Academy.

They also find themselves through to Round 5, and the last 32, of the English Schools National Cup competition after beating Ashfield School 2-1 in Round 4. A tight game was won with two second half goals from Eva. After missing a number of chances in the first half, we went behind through Ashfield School's only shot at goal at the start of the second half. The girls continued to play good football and secured the win with those two late goals.

The fourth competition they are competing in is the Utilita Cup, a national competition organised by the English Football League (EFL), that is aimed at girls in Years 7 and 8. Our local EFL team is Notts County, and they arranged the local stage of the competition, hosted by Nottingham University. There were 7 schools in a round-robin format scheduled, with the top 4 teams qualifying for the semi-final stage. The competition rules stated that games were 10 minutes in duration and played 7v7. The girls all played fantastically well and comfortably made their way through the round-robin stage, beating teams from Toothill School, Farnborough Spencer Academy, Alderman White School, Outwood Academy Kirkby, and a close victory against local rivals Rushcliffe Spencer Academy.

- 6th Jan - Start of Spring Term 1
- 9th Jan - Year 11 and Year 13 Awards Evening
- 23rd Jan - Year 7 & Year 8 Parent Information Evening
- 30th Jan - Year 11 Parents' Evening
- 6th Feb - Year 9 Options Evening
- 14th Feb - End of Spring Term 1



Year 8 Football Success continued

By Mr Shaw

This meant we finished top and would play the team in 4th again for a place in the final. Another comfortable victory against the team from Outwood Academy Kirkby in the semi-final, and another game against Rushcliffe Spencer Academy in the Final. Once again, it was a close game but fantastic goals from Molly and Eva secured the victory and the title of Utilita Cup Club Final Winners! This means that we will now represent Notts County in the next round – the Midland Area Finals at the end of January.

Another fantastic achievement! The girls continue to display their undoubted talents on all stages and we look forward to the next challenge.

Year 8 Cyberfirst

By Mrs Rowe

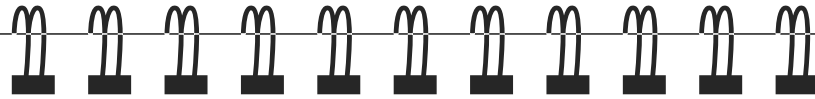
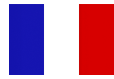
The CyberFirst Girls Competition aims to inspire girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security. This year we entered 28 students in 7 teams for the competition. Teams worked to solve tricky puzzles based on logic and coding, networking, cyber security and cryptography. All the teams worked incredibly hard on the puzzles in school and at home. The competition ran from Monday 19th November to Wednesday 28th November. It was great to see lots of teamwork and smiles when flags were found!

I'm delighted to share that we came 3rd in the East Midlands group this year! I'm really proud of everyone who took part.

Team Name	Points
Tech Tyrants	7790
The Chips	6860
CtrlAltElite	5341
The Gingers	4565
SMHT	4178
Code Cracking (Eggs)	4134
The SPEC-TACCULAR	2636
MetalHeadz	1210



Students who attended the event: Eleanor B, Imogen G (not in photo), Lily O-J, Isla K, Briana M (not in photo), Jessica H, Karina M, Alwande M, Tamzin T, Kitra Y (not in photo), Sherine C, Vincy C, Bethany M, Ava M, Evellin H, Ava I, Lauren S, Layla B, Katie P, Martha G, Brooke K, Humaira R, Tasha S (not in photo), Selena S, Maisie H-B, Hazel C, Eva M (not in photo) & Evie H.



Recently my French class have been exchanging PenPal letters with some Year 10 students in France where they write to us in English and we write to them in French

I've found it a much better and exciting way to practise my French writing skills in order to develop more complex sentence structures and difficult phrases. It's also nice to communicate with other students outside of my usual circle and it's refreshing to do it through letters rather than online.

My classmates and I have found it really interesting to discover our penpal's hobbies and interests and we share them amongst each other to see how the French culture differs to English culture.

I look forward to writing many more letters and developing my language skills which will certainly support my GCSE French exams.

Languages Careers Morning

By Mr Reeves



Our Year 9 students recently took part in a Languages Careers morning where they were working in different roles for Spanish or French companies. They all put in a lot of effort during the session and earned lots of Wolds (South Wolds' Currency) for their CEOs. It was a great opportunity for the students to put their language learning to use and to see how they could use their languages in the future!

One student said; "I really enjoyed this experience, it helped me understand what languages can help with in your career. It helped me with my teamwork skills and overall was a great day."

University of Nottingham Geography Visit

By Mrs Martin

Our A level Geographers were invited to take part in the University of Nottingham's pilot stage of their Geography Departments Projected Augmented Relief Model (PARM) project. The project has developed a 3D model of Nottingham (that sits above a 1950's paper map) and can have a variety of spatial current and historic data projected onto it. We were able to provide ideas for how it could be used for the geography curriculum key stages 3 - 5, as well as finding out how it is used in the wider context, for example, planning for flood defences or transport. We are hoping that their small model version will be able to come to us in 2025 to show pupils the very wide variety of uses for maps today. (For more information on this project, please click the University of Nottingham logo below or scan the QR code.)



University of
Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA



Nottingham Trent University Chemistry Trip

By Ms Metters

On Wednesday 4th December, our Year 13 Chemists attended Nottingham Trent University to perform a Required Practical to synthesise Aspirin. Students had the amazing opportunity to use University grade equipment and analyse their product using infrared radiation (IR) spectroscopy. Students were also taken on a tour of the analytical labs and shown an Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) machine that brought their analysis module to life.

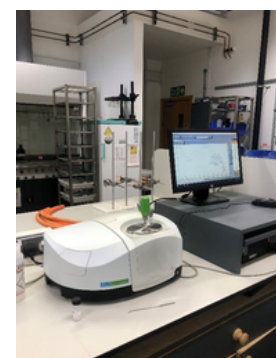


The Chemistry trip was a really fun opportunity and an interesting insight into the hands-on side of studying chemistry at University. It was really exciting to produce our own aspirin and watch the crystallisation process. I particularly enjoyed seeing an NMR machine in real life after having studied NMR in class.

Joseph C-B

Visiting Nottingham Trent University was a really great experience. Being able to go through the actual method to make aspirin with the proper kit helped to build my understanding of the topic itself. As well as this, it was interesting to be able to use technology like an infrared spectrometer to analyse our own samples ourselves.

Nancy G



The Reading Passports

By Ms Shaw

Two of our Year 7 contributors share thoughts on their reading and The Reading Passport students take part in to celebrate their reading outside the classroom:

By Imogen L (Year 7)

I enjoy taking part in 'The Reading Passport' because it gets me to read more books that I like. It's fun to use my imagination to create what is happening in the stories I read. Library lessons, which are once a fortnight, are fun because you don't just sit in the classroom but are able to explore types of books that could be good to read. It's also enjoyable because you get to chill with books and do tasks linked to my hobbies as well as reading.

The thing I most enjoy about reading is that you get to explore different worlds inside the books. Reading also takes my mind off other things going on in the world.

At the moment, I am reading a book called The Small Things. I love this book because it's about a girl who can't physically come to school because of an illness – it's a great story.



By Matilda L (Year 7)



The Reading Passport is so enjoyable because it's a great way to be gently encouraged to read more. Library lessons are a brilliant way to find different genres and talk to friends about the books you are reading as well as finding different sorts of books you might find interesting.

What I love about reading is that different books you read can take you to different places or tell you about interesting facts. My favourite genre is Murder Mystery because these stories always have a lot of drama and massive amounts of tension so you don't want to put the book down. Lately, I have been reading a series called Murder Most Unladylike which is about two young girls, Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells, who cannot stay out of mischief.

Reading Updates

By Miss Mitchell



Non-Fiction November

We have been celebrating the non-fiction genre throughout November. Non-fiction November is the Federation of Children's Book Groups annual celebration of all things factual. The theme of this year's non-fiction November was 'Why don't you?' which aimed to stimulate discussion about hobbies and leisure activities and to encourage children to try something new.



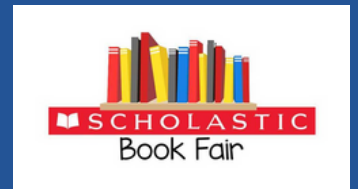
To celebrate, years 7 and 8 had library lessons with a non-fiction November focus. Students explored the different non-fiction books available in the library and they learnt more about their own hobbies and interests. They also had the opportunity to learn about a new hobby or interest – this proved to be very entertaining when some of Miss Wightman's class tried their hand at line dancing!

Non-fiction workshops ran in the library every Friday lunchtime during November, which proved to be popular. Students had the opportunity to try out a new hobby or skill in a drawing and origami workshop. Other sessions included board games, a non-fiction quiz and a non-fiction November competition workshop.

Scholastic Book Fair

The library welcomed the Scholastic Book Fair's return during November. We were delighted to receive three cases full of a variety of fiction and non-fiction books. Students were invited to come and explore the diverse range of books on offer.

The book fair proved to be successful as always, and it was wonderful to see the students' excitement over fresh new books! Scholastic offer a rewards scheme, where the amount of money raised during the book fair can earn our school money to spend on new books for the library. I am pleased to confirm that we managed to raise enough money to qualify for the Scholastic award. We will be spending the reward on a variety of books for the library which have been suggested and recommended by South Wolds students. Thank you to all who supported the Scholastic Book Fair – we could not have done it without your enthusiasm for reading!



Reading Updates continued

By Miss Mitchell



Starbooks Reading Reward Launch

The Starbooks Reading Rewards scheme continues to be a roaring success among years 7 and 8. It has been wonderful to see so many students share our passion and excitement for reading. The scheme has been so popular that I have already done a restock on the rewards since its launch earlier this term.



To get involved, year 7 and 8 students must have a Starbooks bookmark. For each book they read, parents and carers should sign and date the back of the bookmark to confirm that their child has finished reading their book. Students can read books from the school library, their local library or from home. If a student needs a new bookmark, they are welcome to collect one from Miss Mitchell in the library.



There are a variety of rewards on offer. If a student finishes reading one book, they can win a miniature duck or a pencil. If they finish reading two books, they can win a dinosaur pen and if they have read three books, they can win themselves a rubber duck. If your child is not currently involved in the scheme, please encourage them to get involved and to visit the library to collect their Starbooks bookmark!



English Stars - Autumn Term

By Miss Wightman

Your teachers have been voting for this term's Stars in English! Please join us in congratulating the nominees and winners:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Jaxon R Megan K Isabelle H Brooke O	Charlotte G Sam H Georgie E Ethan B	Lucia C Loui M Annabelle W Isaac S Matthew C	Bayleigh H Sophie C Ianna K Femke P Kitty Y Ella J	Kenji S Will B Thomas C-B Katie M Javis W Yasmin D



Autumn Term 2 High Flyers

Holly W (Year 13) English

For producing work for English Literature of an exceptionally-high standard; for probing texts with insight and enthusiasm in equal measures. [Mrs Bell](#)

William B (Year 11) Languages

For showing dedication to improving and creating support materials to share with his classmates. [Mrs Pabari](#)

Matilda L, Rosie R & Joseph H-S (Year 7) French

For fantastic effort in French lessons! [Mrs Pabari](#)

Jack T, Queenie T, Gianna C, Noah H, Harrison M & Richard R (Year 7) Maths

Excellent work on the Farm Project in Maths. Well done! [Mrs Turnbull](#)

Hari K, Jarvis W, Spike M-T & Tom C-B (Year 11) English

Excellent work in English Language. [Miss Wightman](#)

Kate B & Sophie A (Year 10) History

Constantly achieving greatness in History! [Mr Addis](#)

Thomas C-B (Year 11) English

For producing work in English Literature of exceptional standard. [Mrs Bell](#)

Georgie E, Rebecca D & Sia K (Year 8) English

For great work in English! [Miss Wightman](#)

Grace L, Amber L, Jamie C, Herenia C & Bella K (Year 9) Maths

Working really well in Maths and always trying your best. [Mrs Turnbull](#)

Beau S (Year 10) French

For working hard in French as the only fast track student in our class and making excellent progress! [Miss Crawford](#)

Kian H (Year 7) Maths & English

Kian's consistent hard work and attitude to learning, in both Maths and English, has set a wonderful example to his peers. [Miss Delapena](#)

Isla K & Eleanor B (Year 8) English

For hard work and dedication to tasks in English lessons and outstanding homework. [Mrs Hudson](#)

Charlotte S, Isabelle P, Skye H, Bo W, Sarim J & Alex G-H (Year 9) Maths

Quietly being brilliant in Maths. Well done! [Mrs Sprake](#)

Brooke O, Freya R & Aiden T (Year 7) English

Excellent work in English. Well done! [Miss Wightman](#)

Matilda A (Year 11) German

For showing resilience and determination in her German work. [Mrs Pabari](#)



Autumn Term 2 High Flyers

Isaac S, Bella K, Matthew H & Maegan C (Year 9) English

Excellent work in English! [Miss Wightman](#)

Poppy W, Fern G, Sophie A & Holly T (Year 10) PE

For outstanding achievement at The m - be proud. [Ms Shaw](#)

Holly W (Year 13) German

For being the most consistently hard working student in German. [Mrs Pabari](#)

Jensen C, Olivia D, Kiki F, Michael W, Liam G & Benjamin P (Year 10) English

For consistently working hard in English Literature lessons and setting a fantastic example to others. [Mrs Hudson](#)

Rebecca C & Sophie W (Year 11) Maths

For always working hard in every lesson. Well done the hard work will pay off! [Mrs Sprake](#)

Matilda A, Lucy B, Rebecca C, Amelia F, Lucianne H & Alicia H (Year 11) History

Being amazing in History! [Mr Addis](#)

Further Maths (Year 12)

Well done on a brilliant start to Further Maths A Level. [Mrs Turnbull](#)

Alex B (Year 13) Technology

The best work ethic I have ever seen from an A Level student. Extremely hard working work, talented and an incredibly nice young man. [Ms Aston](#)

Sana H, Tania F, Femke P & Kitty D (Year 10) English

Excellent work in English. [Miss Wightman](#)

Florence D-S, Eunice C, Isaac S, Carly C, Daniel C & Naomi H (Year 9) Maths

For always trying your best and having an exceptional attitude. [Mrs Barr-Smith](#)

Javis W (Year 11) English

For producing work in English Literature of an exceptional standard. [Mrs Bell](#)

Leo B (Year 10) English

Thoughtful attitude towards *A Christmas Carol*. [Mrs Bell](#)

Tamzin T, Ethan B & Brody K (Year 8) English

For dedication to tasks and enthusiasm in English lessons. [Mrs Hudson](#)

Olivia B-B, Alex B, Demi B, JJ O, Grace D & Lucy C (Year 13) EPQ

Amazing job on completing your EPQ. Well done, I'm really proud of you! [Miss Gale](#)

Rebecca C (Year 11) English

Really improved work in English. [Miss Wightman](#)



Autumn Term 2 High Flyers

Alicia H (Year 11) Languages

For going above and beyond. [Mrs Bell](#)

Megan K (Year 7) English

Wonderful work in English. [Mrs Bell](#)

Mia D (Year 10) French

For showing determination and resilience in French and putting maximum effort into every lesson!

[Miss Crawford](#)

Ella J & Charlotte D (Year 10) English

For hard work and determination in English lessons. [Mrs Hudson](#)

Tom E & Yasmin D (Year 11) Maths

For always trying your best and having exceptional attitude in Maths. [Mrs Barr-Smith](#)

Grace E (Year 8) English

Dedication to reading widely and independently. [Mrs Hudson](#)

Sophia A (Year 7) English

For her hard work, super listening and beautiful handwriting in English. [Miss Delapena](#)

Charlotte B (Year 11) English

Charlotte's improvement over the past 6 months is stellar - her knowledge and understanding of what we're studying is great and her growing confidence is wonderful to witness! [Ms Shaw](#)

William B (Year 11) Graphics

Outstanding independent learning and enthusiasm to do well in his Graphics coursework. [Ms Aston](#)

Enzo H (Year 8) Maths

His maths work has been amazing. In addition, he has been using his own knowledge to support his peers with their learning. [Miss Delapena](#)

Evie B (Year 10) Languages

For always being so cheery and positive in every lesson. [Miss Crawford](#)

Evan H (Year 12) English

For producing work in A Level English Literature to an exceptional standard. [Mrs Hudson](#)

Emma M (Year 12) German

For hard work and always having a positive attitude in German. [Mrs Pabari](#)

Hannah B (Year 11) History

For really putting in effort in preparation for mock exams.

[Mr Addis](#)

Luca B & Liam G (Year 10) Maths

For working really hard! [Mrs Turnbull](#)



Bebras: Computational Thinking Competition

By Mrs Rowe

In November, students through Years 7 to 13 took part in the 'Bebras: computational thinking' competition. Students have 45 minutes to tackle a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving skills appropriate for their age group. We are very proud of everyone who took part in the competition. Some students scored in the top 10% world-wide and are through to the next round in March!

Rankings	Juniors Year 7	Inters Years 8 & 9	Seniors Years 10 & 11	Elite Years 12 & 13
Merit	Belinda B, Riley D, Sebastian F, Joseph HS, Sadie S, Arya T, Grace C, Janah A-J, Oscar F, Rudy N, Jacob P, Richard R, Hannah S, Zachary B, Issy R, Gracie T, Jacob H, Will S, Charlotte S, Cara H, Rosie K, Imogen T, James A, Aimee M, Shelton C, Torin D, Fergus J, Rex S, Lily S, Maximus G, Sherlock C, Lily M, Danny S, Harvey S, Darcey B, Ruari H, Bailie B, Dylan F, Brooke G, Elijah M	Peter G, Richard J, Thomas W, Tamzin T, Millie B, Hannah D-W, Wolf S, Eunice C, Herenia C, Amelia A, Lucia C, Charlie H, Oliver C, Finley H, Evie D, Daisy S, Toby C, Esmé W, Nate F, Dylan A, Carter K	Zak G, Charlie T, Rebecca K, Michael W, Daniel M, Alex C, Jensen C, Billy-Scott L, Ojas P, Edmond Y	George D, Libby H, Harry S
Distinction	Aleksandr G, Rebecca P, Freya H, Ben S, Freddie B, Elliana D, Olivia B, Sophie B, Zac H, Megan K, Hadrian Y, Chloe C, Leanne L, Mara L, Jake L, Isobel D, Isabelle H, Joy C-A, Rose L, Charles A, George G, Oscar E, Hugo W, Eden M, Molly T, Isabella H, Aniya S, Enzo J, Harry P, Emma F, Oliver M, Freddie W, Evie D, Olivia H, Sienna R, Elleri R-C, Rosie R, Sebbie F	Philip J, Matthew C, Isaac S, Hazel C, Molly C, Shun Y, Jerome B, Dylan W, Maegan C, Harry H, Samuel L, Bethany W, Carly C, Isabel D, William P, Samuel H, Isla K, Jessica H, Mitchell J, Charlotte G, Agnes M	Kenji S, Mishti J, Daniel B, Jacob P, Barnaby T, Daniel L, Javis W, Danny W	Harry C, Faizaan D, Jacob S
Best in school	Danny L Amazing score of 220/220	Harry M Amazing score of 220/220	Bilal M	Toby A
Gold (Top 10% World-wide)	Danny L, Aleksandr G, Freya H, Ben S, Freddie B, Elliana D, Rebecca P	Molly C, Dylan W, Jerome B, Harry H, Samuel L, Bethany W, Philip J, Matthew C, Harry M, Isaac S, Hazel C, Shun Y, Maegan C, Carly C	Daniel B, Bilal M, Kenji S, Mishti J, Jacob P	Toby A, Harry C

English Schools National Swimming Finals

By Mr Shaw

On Saturday 16th November, I took four Year 10 girls to the English Schools National Swimming Finals at Sandwell Aquatics Centre in Birmingham. They had qualified for the finals by registering the 15th fastest time across England for the 4 x 50m Individual Medley Relay, with the top 24 times being invited. We were extremely pleased and proud to have qualified, especially as we were one of the only state schools there, but knew the competition was going to be tough.



Team above (from L-R): Sophie, Holly, Poppy, and Fern

We arrived early for our pool familiarisation session, and as the girls were swimming up and down the lane, I was asked if they would also like to compete in the 4 x 50m Freestyle relay too. The girls were a little bit apprehensive as they knew that their time was not in the top 24. They decided to give it a go and use it as extra experience in the pool and to relieve some of the nerves. It meant that we would race in heat 1 of 3, with the top 10 times qualifying for the final later in the session. The girls swam extremely well, finishing in 7th place in their heat with a time of 2.01:93. As we watched the other heats, we knew our time was not going to be quick enough to qualify for the final. However, we finished 20th overall, improved our best time by 2 seconds and were happy with the outcome.

Onto the next event, the individual medley. We would race in Heat 2 this time; our aim was to qualify in the top 10 and make the final. As the girls lined up on the starting blocks confidence was high. Sophie led us off on the backstroke leg, flying off the wall and swimming hard down the lane. She handed it over to Poppy who swam a magnificent breaststroke leg and at the halfway point we were in 3rd position. Fern was up next swimming butterfly and moving effortlessly through the water, before finally handing it over to Holly to swim the final leg of freestyle. As Holly powered towards the wall, we had maintained our position and were being closed down by the team in 4th. As Holly reached for the wall, we were pipped to 3rd place and had to settle for 4th with a time of 2.13:72. However, we knew that after 2 heats we were in 6th place overall and with only one more heat to go, a place in the final was within our grasp. In heat 3, there were 3 schools that took a commanding lead, leaving other schools in their wake. As the clock ticked by and we had the agonising wait of watching the 4th placed school swim towards the wall. With every stroke that went by, the seconds continued to tick and as the swimmer touched the wall, it was clear that their time was slower than ours and we had made the final!

The girls (and teacher) were over the moon! We had achieved our aim and would have the chance to compete in a National Final. The girls swam magnificently throughout the day and secured 9th place overall in the final. The 9th best team in England!

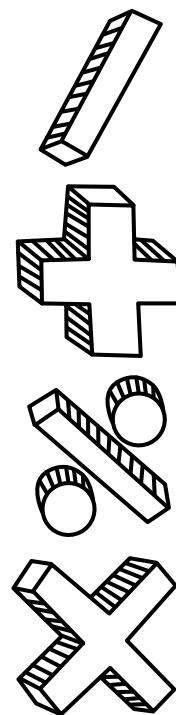
A fantastic achievement by the girls and they were a huge credit to the school.

Maths Inspiration at Nottingham Playhouse

By Mrs Sprake

This term, a group of our enthusiastic sixth form students attended the Maths Inspiration event at the Nottingham Playhouse, where they were treated to a day full of engaging talks and interactive presentations that brought mathematics to life in exciting and unexpected ways.

The event featured a lineup of expert speakers who explored a variety of fascinating topics. One of the highlights was Maths in the Video Game Arcade with Matthew Scroggs, a Research Software Engineer at University College London. Matthew, who has written numerous articles on the mathematical concepts behind video games, introduced students to the intriguing connections between mathematics and the video game world. His talk covered topics like Optimal Pac-Man, where he used graph theory to determine the best route for Pac-Man, and Video Game Surfaces, which explored the geometry of classic games like Pac-Man and Asteroids. Matthew also discussed his own game, Mathsteroids, explaining the different mapping projections and the unique hyperbolic surfaces featured in the game, showing students how advanced mathematical techniques shape the games they love to play.



Colin Wright, who graduated in pure mathematics from Monash University, Melbourne, before earning a PhD at Cambridge, took the stage next with Patterns, Predictions and Juggling. Colin, now the director of a company that specialises in software for marine radar, also delivers maths talks to schools on a variety of topics. In his talk, Colin demonstrated the fascinating connections between mathematics, patterns, and the art of juggling. He introduced students to the Perrin pseudoprimes, a sequence that fails to follow its expected pattern after 271,440 terms. This Fibonacci-type sequence, where each term is the sum of the two previous terms, generates fascinating results that could lead to further mathematical exploration. Motivated students might be inspired to investigate how this sequence defies expectations at 271,441. Colin also shared a video on patterns in the incircles of Pythagorean triple triangles, which incorporates ideas from GCSE and A-level maths and offers an interesting challenge for those keen to dive deeper into mathematical investigations.

Alison Kiddle, a mathematician and educator from the East of England, presented on Risk and Reward. Alison, who creates maths resources and runs face-to-face and online workshops for students and teachers, explored how mathematics is essential for understanding decision-making and risk management. She introduced students to a range of resources, including the NRICH Mathsland National Lottery, a great tool for exploring probabilities in different lotteries. Alison also highlighted the micromorts website, which shows the relative risks of different activities, offering a valuable way to build lessons on comparing risks. To illustrate real-world applications, she referenced data from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention on lightning strikes, providing students with the opportunity to explore how maths can be used to understand and calculate risk in everyday life.

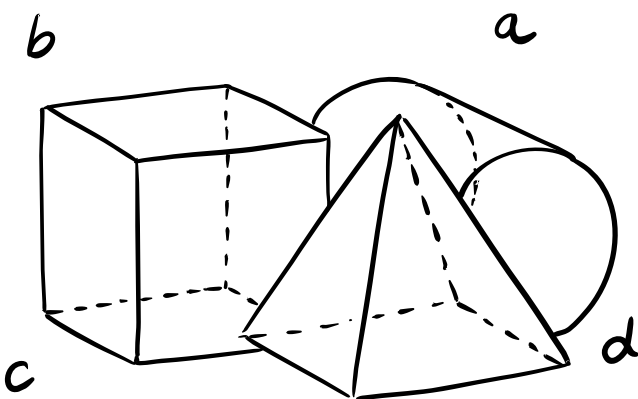
Maths Inspiration at Nottingham Playhouse continued

By Mrs Sprake

Finally, Maths in the Arctic with host Sammy Buzzard captivated students with tales of how mathematics is crucial for understanding the extreme conditions of the Arctic. From climate prediction to survival strategies, Sammy demonstrated the vital role that mathematics plays in scientific research in some of the most remote and challenging environments on Earth.

The students left the event feeling inspired and motivated, with many eager to explore these exciting areas of mathematics further. The Maths Inspiration event not only sparked new interests in maths but also showed our students how the subject connects to real-world applications in video games, science, art, and even risk management.

We are grateful to the organisers of Maths Inspiration for providing our students with such an enriching and thought-provoking experience. It was a fantastic opportunity to inspire our sixth formers and show them the wide range of possibilities that studying mathematics can offer. We look forward to future events that continue to fuel our students' passion for the subject!



**NOTTINGHAM
PLAYHOUSE**



I Belong Christmas Challenge

By Mrs Rowe

On Monday 9th December, 25 Year 8 and 9 girls took part in the 'I Belong' Christmas Challenge hosted by the NCCE. This was an exciting and engaging event which was designed to inspire and empower young girls in the field of technology and coding.

The event began with an introduction and explanation of the tasks. Once the competition started, students worked independently in groups, solving challenges within a set time period. The event concluded with a regroup session to discuss solutions and celebrate achievements.

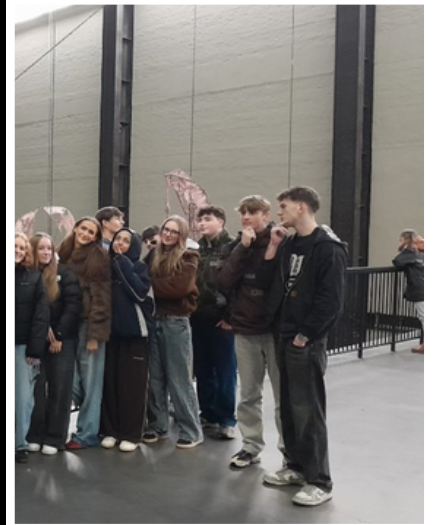
Well Done Maegan C, Isabel D, Hannah D-W, Esme W, Isabelle W, Agnes M, Naomi H, Carly C, Mya F, Freya F, Amelia P, Freda F-D, Matilda W, Libby T, Scarlett F-P, Zoe N, Jamie C, Tamzin T, Evellin H, Hazel C, Isla K and Humeria R.

Trip to the Bank of England

By Mr Wall

On Thursday 12th December, students from Year 13 studying A level Economics and Business took part in a day trip to London. The primary purpose being to visit the Bank of England to learn about the functions of a central bank and how it operates its monetary policy operations.

During the visit students also visited St Pauls Cathedral, Sky Garden, the Tate Modern and Covent Garden where they tried to help kickstart the UK economy. Over the course of the day students covered in excess of 10 miles.



Christmas Community Project

By Ms Drewett

Our student council have been working hard over the last few weeks to prepare for our Christmas community project.

Candy canes were packaged for the staff of our local primary schools and cookies and cupcakes were baked by our student council and then delivered to our local residents.

The student council were out in the village on the morning of Friday 20th December to deliver the gifts and spread some Christmas cheer with a few songs.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!



Ethics & Philosophy Film Recommendations

By Mr Baines

Wicked: Part One (PG)

Misunderstood because of her green skin, a young woman named Elphaba forges an unlikely but profound friendship with Glinda, a student with an unflinching desire for popularity. Following an encounter with the Wizard of Oz, their relationship soon reaches a crossroad as their lives begin to take very different paths.



Philosophy and Ethics reference:

The film centres around good and bad and how we are often misunderstood on what the true right thing to do is. Very ethical!

Links to KS3 where we look at identity, respect, and what truth is. Further links in GCSE with what is morality topic.

We Live In Time (15)



Almut and Tobias are brought together by a surprise encounter that changes their lives. As they embark on a path challenged by the limits of time, they learn to cherish each moment of their unconventional love story.

Philosophy and Ethics reference:

We live in time features a lot on the questions we don't really want answering. What do we do if we're faced with a life threatening decision? There are some real deep questions faced within this topic.

Links to KS5 with the issues on conscience, situation ethics, and meta ethics.

Sleepless In Seattle (PG)

Realising that Sam has still not come to terms with his wife Maggie's death, his eight-year-old son Jonah forces him to call a national radio talk show, with the hopes of finding him a new love. A classic.



Philosophy and Ethics reference:

Similar really with the ideas of love linking into situation ethics nicely, where agape (unconditional love) is central to the theory.

Links to KS5 situation ethics, as well as GCSE where we look at what the most loving thing to do is.

A visit to the University of Oxford

By Albert F (year 12)

This November, a group of Year 12 students were offered a fantastic trip to the University of Oxford, where we were given an introduction to the unique university experience that is available there. We were enlightened during a session on the university's traditional and enriched style of education and student living. We also got the chance to speak to current students, which helped to paint a picture of day-to-day life at the university.

A tour was given of one of their colleges, Magdalen (where we were treated to a served meal), and later a second college, Brasenose. These tours included views of: the stunning grounds, with their historic architecture and beautiful gardens/parks; student accommodation; libraries; food halls; common rooms and more.

In addition to this, we received an inspiring and interesting talk from an academic in the Neuroscience department, followed by some information on how their applications and admissions process works. This gave us an understanding of what the entry tests and interviews could be like, and what Oxford are looking for from their applicants. From my point of view, the day gave me the opportunity to not only learn what an education at Oxford would be like, but to have an enjoyable introduction to university life.





An interview with **Gaia De Angelis** **PhD Student**

oooooooooooooooooooo

What year did you leave the South Wolds Academy & Sixth Form?

I left in 2015

Please briefly describe your typical week.

Life in Switzerland as a PhD student is very different from when I was at school in the UK. Before work I either go to the gym or to the swimming pool, at least twice a week. Then, I go to the lab every day from Monday to Friday, since my PhD is experimental, and here in Switzerland we are considered employees, not students. I work 60% in the lab doing experiments, and the remaining time I spend in the office analysing data and reading articles that other scientists in my field have published. I often visit other labs to collaborate with other PhDs in different fields, which is my favourite part of what I do! I have lunch with my colleagues every day, then head home at around 5pm. Sometimes, if the weather is nice, we all go to the lake for a swim and a BBQ. During the weekends, I either visit the UK, or my family in Italy, or spend it with my friends in Switzerland playing board games, eating good food, watching films, or going for long walks by the lake.



What did you do today?

I went to my office this morning and I started by checking my emails, then I looked at the plan for the day - I make sure I plan what I have to do for the whole week as a last task on a Friday afternoon - and went to the lab to start some experiments. Today I had to repeat some experiments with my master's student for an article we are writing, and we had to come up with a new idea to test the damping energy properties of a new material we developed together. We tried a couple of different things and then agreed with one option. I had lunch with everyone else in my lab and then I went back to the lab to do some more work. Around 3pm I had a coffee break with a friend from a different lab, then wrote all the results from my experiments on a power point presentation to show my supervisor, and finally went home.

What work/assignments/ tasks need completing this week?

The main three tasks for this week are: reliably test the energy damping properties of a material I developed together with my master's student, present my latest research findings to the other members of my research group, and understand what experiments I have left to do before I can finish an article I am writing.

What are the challenges in your course/job role?

Doing a PhD can sometimes be stressful: there have been times where I did not understand why my experiments were not working and was not sure how to move forward. Another big challenge is coming up with creative and out-of-the-box ideas on how to test specific properties that interest me, especially if nobody has tested them before. These two aspects can be very challenging, but also interesting when my PhD supervisor and I come up with a solution together!

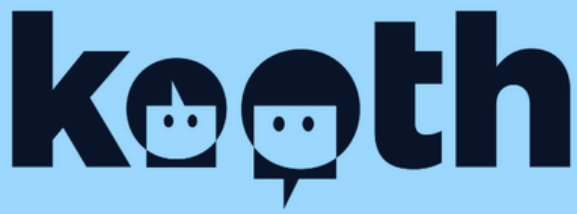
How did you get this job/onto this course? (previous jobs, qualifications needed)

I completed my MChem with a Year in Industry in 2019 and applied to do a PhD at EPFL that same year, although I had to do a 6-month internship before officially starting my PhD, as I came from a different field.

What advice do you have for students either generally or to do with following your example?

Do as many extracurricular activities as you can: this allows you to meet people in different fields early on, even when you do not yet recognise how important networking is.





Whatever's on your mind during the Christmas holiday, we're here to listen

Free, anonymous and safe support for children and young people aged between 11 and 25 in Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw

[Kooth.com](https://kooth.com)



We're still here

Supporting you over the festive period

Kooth's live chat hours over the holiday period

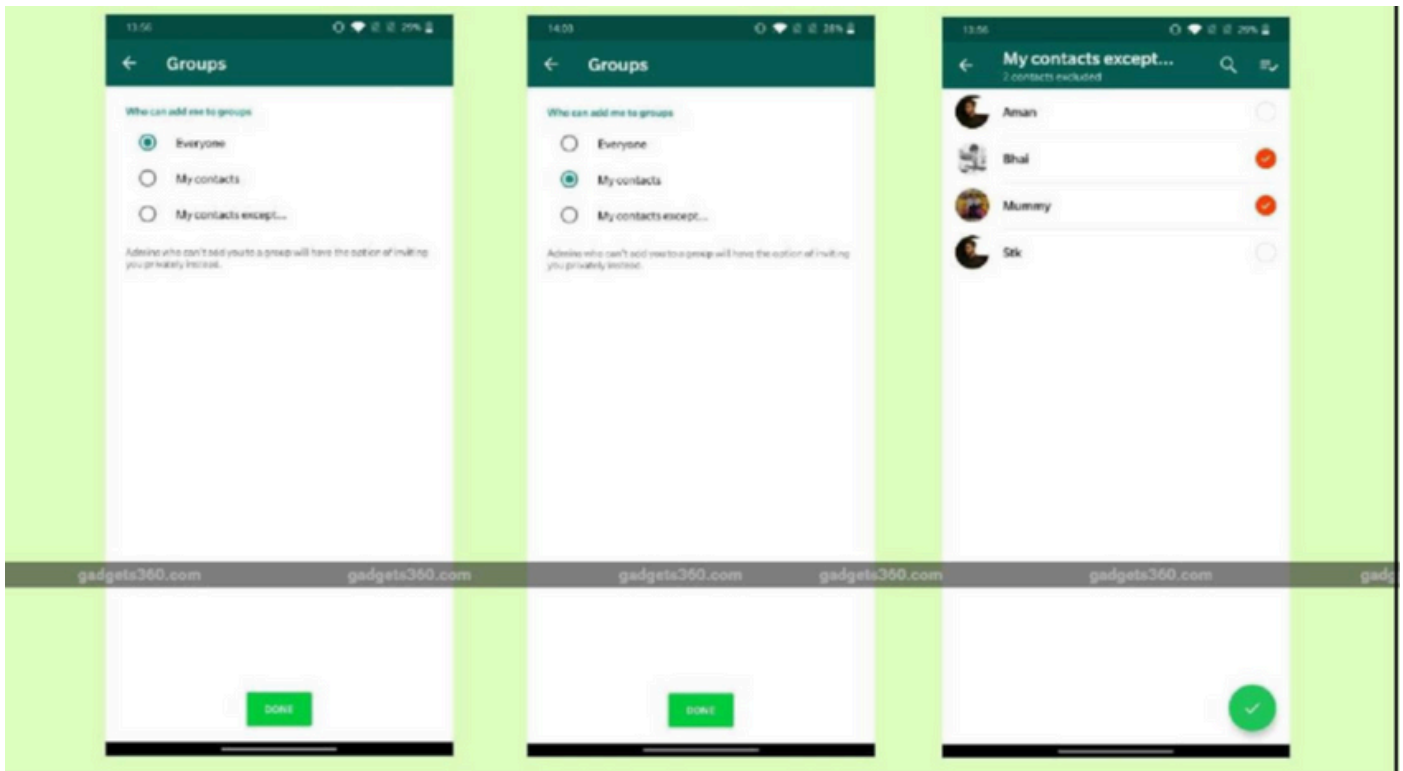
24th December	(Christmas Eve)	12pm – 8pm
25th December	(Christmas Day)	4pm – 8pm
26th December	(Boxing Day)	12pm – 8pm
31st December	(New Years Eve)	12pm – 8pm
1st January	(New Years Day)	4pm – 8pm

Other days over the holiday period will follow our usual live chat hours of 12pm – 10pm on weekdays and 6pm – 10pm on weekends.

kooth.com

Stay Safe: WhatsApp

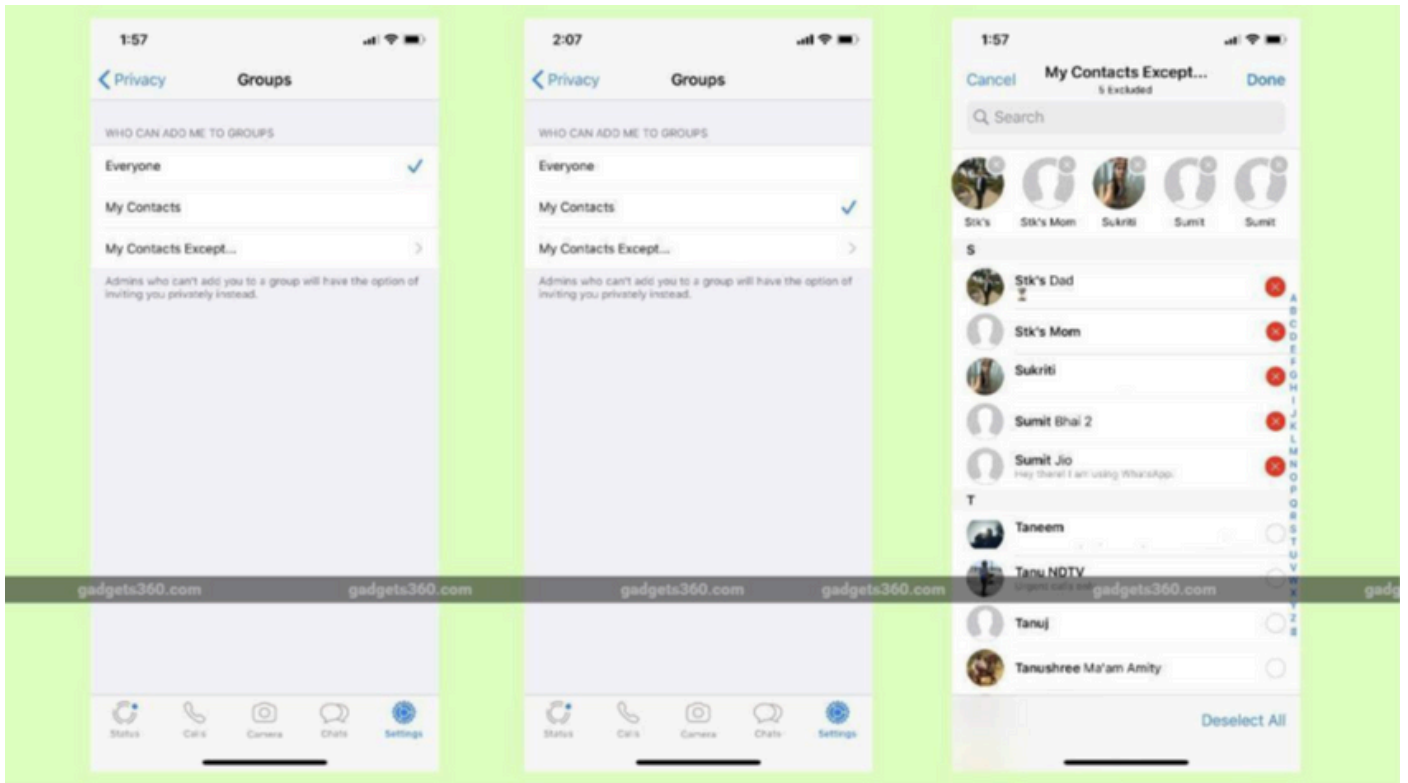
If you are an Android user, follow these steps to stop people from adding you to WhatsApp groups without permission.



1. Open WhatsApp on your Android smartphone and tap the vertical three-dots icon on the top-right.
2. Next, tap Settings > Account > Privacy.
3. Now tap Groups and select one of the three given options – Everyone, My Contacts, or My Contacts Except....
4. If you select Everyone, anyone can add you to groups.
5. Selecting My Contacts only allows your contacts to add you to WhatsApp groups.
6. Finally, the third option My Contacts Except lets you allow only selected people to add you to WhatsApp groups. You can either select contacts one by one or you can even select all contacts by tapping on the Select All icon on the top-right. These people will be prompted to send you the group invite through a private chat. You will then have three days to accept or deny the request for joining the group before it expires.

Stay Safe: WhatsApp continued

If you use WhatsApp on iPhone, here's how you can stop others from adding you to WhatsApp groups.



1. Open WhatsApp on your iPhone and on the bottom bar, tap Settings.
2. Next, tap Account > Privacy > Groups.
3. On the next screen, select one of the three given options – Everyone, My Contacts and My Contacts Except. Over here as well you can select contacts one by one or you can just select all the contacts by tapping the Select All button on the bottom-right

SAFEGUARDING ADVICE

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 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

MIND - provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. 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 (response time for email is several days)

CHILDLINE - available 24/7 for all mental health needs, concerns, help and advice. Call free on 0800 1111 or visit 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 or call 0115 708 0008

NOTTALONE - provides local mental health advice and help for young people in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

YOUNGMINDS - supporting young people, parents and those that work with young people's mental health. www.youngminds.org.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.

Drugs & Alcohol

FRANK National Drugs Helpline
Call: 0300 123 6600

DRINK AWARE
Call: 0300 123 1110
www.drinkaware.co.uk/alcohol-support-services

CHANGE GROW LIVE (Notts)
www.changegrowlive.org/nottinghamshire

Food Banks

The Trussell Trust have a range of food bank services within the Nottinghamshire area. Visit their website www.trusselltrust.org.uk

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

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 or www.ceopeducation.co.uk/11_18

PARENT SAFE - a very useful website containing top tips for parents. www.parentsafelgfl.net

REPORT HARMFUL CONTENT - reports can be made online, response time is 72 hours. 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

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. 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 876 4800

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.

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



