



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



KEY DATES

Dance Festival 2025

By Ms Drewett

What a great show! Yet again our students showed professionalism and a passion for dance. The two evening performances were sold out and the audiences had great energy!

The show had a range of styles and featured our South Wolds Dance Troupe, Captained this year by Grace S and supported by vice-captain Demi B.

The rehearsals began in September and included students from Year 7 to Year 13. They show true dedication to their preparation and develop positive relationships along the way!

- 2nd June - Start of Summer Term 2
- 19th June - Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 23rd June Diversity Week
- 25th & 26th June - Year 6 intake days
- 26th June - Year 11 Prom
- 27th June - Sixth Form Prom
- 27th June - INSET Day
- 10th July - ADT Exhibition
- 10th July - Summer Music Concert
- 17th July - Years 7 - 10 Awards Evening
- 24th July - Sports Day
- 25th July - Last day of Summer Term 2.
School finishes at 12:30pm
- 28th & 29th July - INSET Days

The Year 7, 8 and 9 groups are supported by Year 11, 12 and 13 students from the Dance Troupe. They assist with choreography and help to rehearse each of the groups. Miss Giugno assists Miss Drewett with the younger groups and the costumes too; it really is a team effort!

Miss Drewett is so proud of the students, "The girls work so hard and show true commitment! They really do remind me why I became a teacher and I am grateful to them all!"

The plans have already begun for next year and Miss Drewett hopes everyone will return for the Dance Festival 2026!



Bebras Coding Challenge

By Mrs Rowe

Students who completed the Bebras computational thinking challenge in November had the opportunity in April to complete the Bebras programming challenge. The aim of the 45-minute coding challenge is to enhance skills, build confidence, and inspire students to develop programmed solutions to computational thinking problems. It's a tough challenge having to write programs against the clock, and I'm really proud of everyone who accepted the challenge to take part! Here are the results:



Level	Participated	Merit	Distinction	Best in School	Gold Award Top 10% Nationally
Novices	Olly C Danny L William P	Aleksander G Sam H Mitchell J	Jessica H	Hazel C Isla K Dylan W	Hazel C Isla K Dylan W Who all scored top marks
Explorers	Maegan C Freya H Rebecca P			Isabel D	
Navigators	Matthew C Harry M Warren R-B Harry S	Carley C Philip J Isaac S Danny W Shun Y	Daniel B Tom C Liam F Libby H Daniel L Ojas P	Jerome B	Jerome B
Pathfinders	Jamie M Jacob S	Matthew B Faizaan D George D Elliott O Kenji S	Mishti J Javis W	Bilal M	Bilal M
Trailblazers	Jacob P			Toby A	

Bebras Coding Challenge continued

By Mrs Rowe



Farewell to Year 13

By Mrs Capewell

We said a very fond farewell to our amazing Year 13 students with a final celebration where they chose fancy dress with the theme of something associated with their first initial. As you can see, they embraced this with great enthusiasm!

We have been very impressed by how hard they are all working for their A level exams. We hope that they go well and that they can make themselves proud.

We are so proud of our class of 2025!



English Star Students

By Miss Wightman

Your teachers have been voting for the Spring Term's Star Students in English!

Please join us in congratulating the following winners and runners up!

Year 7 Runners Up Janah A Elleri R-C Brooke O	Year 8 Runners Up Harley K Louis W Briana M Nyles B	Year 9 Runners Up Louis T Maegan C Louis S Emilio M Finlay H	Year 10 Runners Up Aaron W Sophie C Will B Zilpha C	Year 11 Runners Up Anna G Sienna W Ruby P Amelia B Andy L
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WINNERS!



Cyber Explorers Cup

By Mrs Rowe

On Tuesday 1st April, we entered 3 teams into the Cyber Explorers Cup 2025. Across the UK, 203 schools took part with a total of 498 teams. Students had to work as a team to answer cyber security questions within an hour.

The premise of the competition was a crucial mission for students to help the Cyber Squad secure their cutting edge headquarters. In a race against time to become champions, there were challenges to tackle in 3 essential areas: People, Processes and Technology. Each victory unlocked new puzzles and cyber security tasks, pushing skills to the limit in a race to make the Cyber Squad's top-secret systems safe.



I'm delighted that our 3 teams all placed within the top 100 teams! Such dedication and hard work – well done everyone!

	Year 8	Year 7 & 9	Year 9
	Brianna M Evellin H Hazel C Jess H	Shun Y Matthew C Joy C Phoebe S	Maegan C Esme W Isabel D Karina M
Overall Position	68th	62nd	99th
Total Points	416	474	406

Cyber Explorers Certification

By Mrs Rowe

Well Done to Maegan C for achieving Cyber Squad certification, Hazel C for achieving Cyber Champion certification and Matthew C for achieving both Cyber Squad and Cyber Champion certification!

If you would like to get cyber explorers certification, please sign up here:
<https://www.cyberexplorers.co.uk/register/219610F2-5>



Attendance Matters

By Mr Askham

UNDERSTANDING LEAVES OF ABSENCE

At The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form we know how important every day of school is for our students' academic progress, personal development, and sense of community. Regular attendance gives students the best chance of success, which is why we want to share a reminder about our policy on leaves of absence, especially in relation to holidays during term time.

Under current Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance, we cannot grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The law is clear: parents do not have an automatic right to withdraw children from school for holidays. Any absence that isn't approved will be recorded as unauthorised, and in some cases, could lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice (a fine).

While we understand that family time is precious and that travel can be an enriching experience, holidays during term time will not be authorised unless there is an exceptional reason. These decisions are never taken lightly and each request is considered individually, taking into account the specific circumstances and the student's attendance record.

WHAT COUNTS AS AN "EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE"?

Our attendance policy outlines the situations in which a leave of absence may be authorised. These include:

- Participation in an approved sporting event or performance
- Attendance at an exceptional special occasion (such as a close family wedding)
- A genuine medical appointment (though we encourage booking these outside of school hours - evidence such as an appointment card may be requested)
- Illness that prevents the student from attending school
- Religious observance on days officially recognised by the family's faith group
- Unavoidable causes such as severe weather or transport disruption
- Family bereavement or other serious family matters, where time away is clearly needed

It's important to remember that family holidays are not considered exceptional, and we are therefore unable to authorise time away from school for this purpose.

Attendance Matters

By Mr Askham

HOW TO REQUEST LEAVE

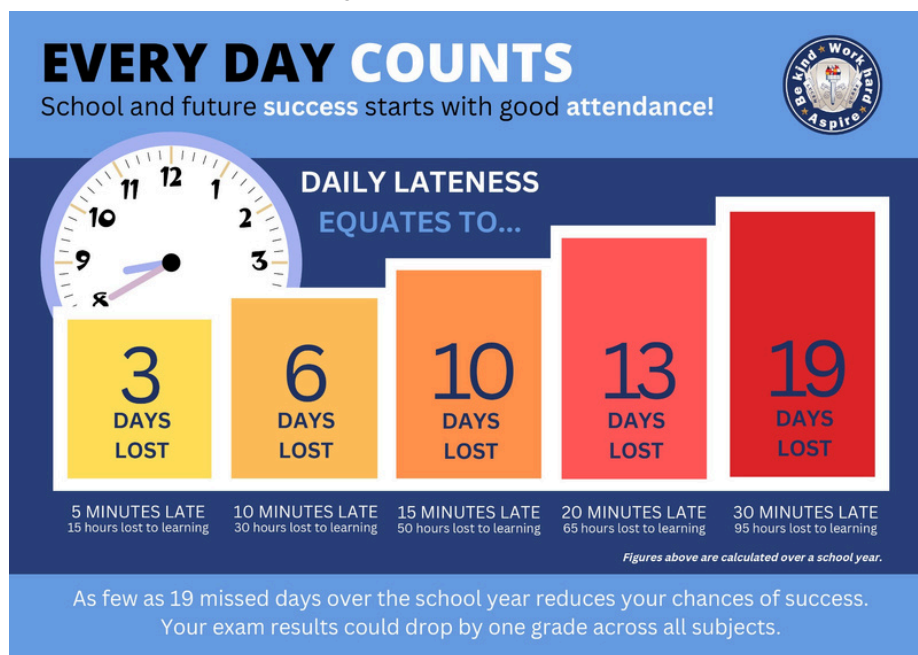
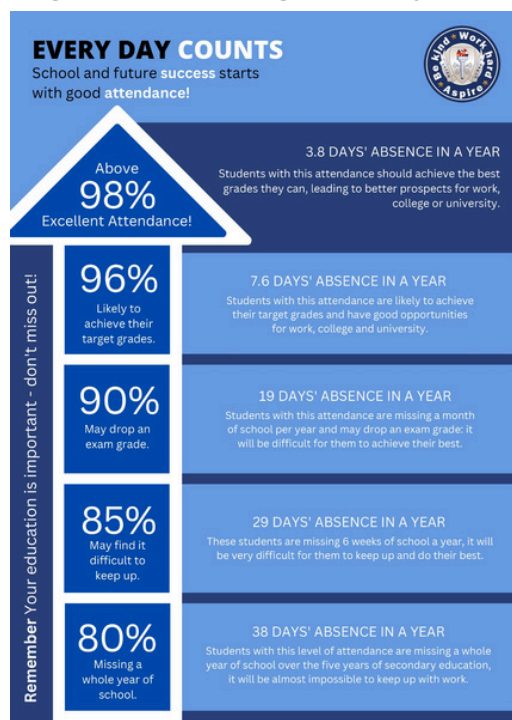
If you believe your child's situation qualifies as exceptional, please contact the Attendance and Family Liaison Officer (AFLO) as soon as possible. All requests must be made at least 24 hours in advance of the planned absence. This allows us to review the request carefully and respond appropriately. The length of any approved absence will be determined by the school based on the situation.

WHY IT MATTERS

Even a few days of missed learning can affect your child's understanding of key topics and their ability to keep up with classmates. More than that, students who are frequently absent can struggle with confidence, routine, and building friendships. We're here to support every child's wellbeing and learning, and consistent attendance plays a big role in that.

We really appreciate your continued support in ensuring your child attends school every day unless there's a valid reason not to. If you have any questions about this policy or would like to discuss a specific situation, our AFLO and pastoral team are always happy to help.

Together, we can give every student the best opportunity to succeed.



Reading Updates

By Miss Mitchell

Student Spotlight: An Aspiring Author

We wish a huge congratulations to Giya K, in Year 11, who despite having her GCSE exams coming up; has been selected as one of the top 40 young writers for The Orwell Youth Prize.



This year's theme for The Orwell Youth Prize was freedom. Entrants were to submit a piece of writing, in any form, exploring what freedom means to them. Giya's piece 'Freedom is with you' focusses on love, relationships and the challenges a young person faces juggling expectations of family with personal desires.

We couldn't be prouder of Giya and we wish her the best of luck in the final stages of the competition.

Carnegie Club 2025

The Carnegie Shadowing Group begun at the end of March and our club members have been reading the fantastic books which have been nominated for the writing medal.



This year the theme is marginalised male perspectives explored with empathy and hope. Every Friday lunchtime, Carnegie Club members visit the school library to discuss the shortlisted books, sharing their thoughts about the plot, characters and themes. We also take part in activities and creative challenges set by the authors, and students even get the opportunity to write reviews to publish online. Voting closes on the 4th June and the winning shortlisted book will be announced on 19th June.

Cake Sale Books

Miss Wightman and myself, took a trip to the charity shops to spend the money raised from our World Book Day Cake Sale. We managed to select a variety of fiction and non-fiction books for our school library, which are all now available to read and borrow.



Reading Updates continued

By Miss Mitchell

Miss Mitchell Recommends

The Asparagus Bunch – Jessica Scott-White

The Asparagus Bunch by Jessica Scott-Whyte is a delightful and funny book about Leon who is diagnosed with Asperger's at 13 years old and has changed schools seven times. This is a story that follows Leon as he comes to terms with his diagnosis and navigates the challenges and issues of every day life.



Minecraft Handbook Series

This one is for the gamers. Master the art of building in Minecraft. Minecraft is a sandbox game where anything is possible! With over 600 blocks to choose from, getting started can feel overwhelming. The Minecraft handbooks will give you all the tools you need to become an expert builder. Whether it's choosing your blocks or decorating your build, this book is packed with expert advice.

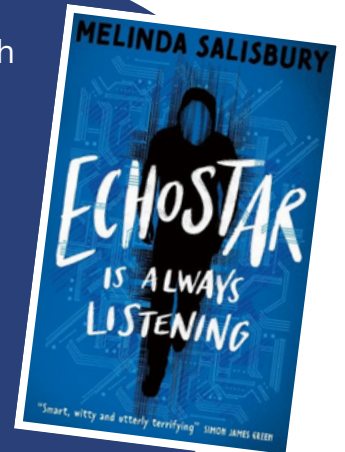


EchoStar is Always Listening – Melinda Salisbury

Ruby Brookes and her best friend Deva have won free places at the Ash Tree Foundation Performing Arts Camp over the summer, but only if their school grades seriously improve. So when Deva suddenly starts getting high marks in all their subjects, leaving Ruby behind, she is confused and jealous.

Until she finds out Deva's success is down to EchoStar, a new app that's helping her get ahead.

Ruby is desperate to start using it too, but there is much more to EchoStar than she has imagined. Because EchoStar is always watching and listening ...



Dragons at Crumbling Castle – Terry Pratchett

Dragons have invaded Crumbling Castle, and all of King Arthur's knights are either on holiday or visiting their grannies. It's a disaster!

Luckily, there's a spare suit of armour and a very small boy called Ralph who's willing to fill it. Together with Fortnight the Friday knight and Fossfiddle the wizard, Ralph sets out to defeat the fearsome fire-breathers.

But there's a teeny weeny surprise in store . . .

Fourteen fantastically funny stories from master storyteller Sir Terry Pratchett, full of time travel and tortoises, monsters and mayhem!



Summer Term 1 High Flyers

Kyle N (Year 10) Geography

For always working hard and contributing in Geography. **Miss Martin**

Grace S (Year 9) Spanish

She has made so much progress in Spanish recently, well done! **Mr Roberts**

Isla K, Eleanor B, Emma H, Lauren S, Grace E, Brody K, Isabelle M, Jack C, Carter K, Vincy C, Sadie W, Bethany M & Louis W (Year 8) English

Amazing homework contribution in English lessons - well done! **Mrs Hudson**

Alexis W-K & Evie B (Year 10) History

For a consistently strong work ethic, drive for success and excellent results in History! **Miss Ward**

Oscar J (Year 11) Technology

Working hard to produce cast aluminium components in a specialist situation. **Mr Bulmer**

Amelia A (Year 10) Geography

For consistently putting in excellent effort and independent work. Good geographing! **Miss Martin**

Holly D (Year 10) History

For consistently surpassing your GCSE target grade through our hard work and determination. **Miss Ward**

Kenji S (Year 11) Chemistry

For being such an incredibly hard working pupil - he is a delight to teach! **Ms Metters**

Kayla B-C (Year 10)

For coming **FIRST** in the RDA Special Olympics Working Trials and **SECOND** in Dressage! **Mr Murphy**

Jake A (Year 7) Geography

For approaching every lesson with enthusiasm and always striving to do your best! **Miss Martin**

Isaac R (Year 10) History

For consistently strong work ethic, drive for success and excellent results in History! **Miss Ward**

Sara W (Year 8) Geography

For always giving your best and being active, positive presence in lessons. **Miss Martin**

Ella S (Year 10) Spanish

For consistently amazing work and contributions in Spanish! **Miss Dixon**

Spike M-T (Year 11) PE

For exceptional skill in a multitude of sports and a role model to the younger students! **Miss Drewett**



Ethics & Philosophy Film Recommendations

By Mr Baines

A Minecraft Movie (PG)

A mysterious portal pulls four misfits into the Overworld, a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination. To get back home, they'll have to master the terrain while embarking on a magical quest with an unexpected crafter named Steve.



Philosophy and Ethics reference:

The film includes a lot on right and wrong with a nice link to imagination being key to happiness. A few ties to yes theory (saying yes to near enough anything), and on the whole, a silly film!

Links to KS4 where we have our peace and conflict module. KS3 looks at ultimate questions and keeping imagination, as well the Nature of Truth on what the world is really like.



Mickey (15)

A disposable employee is sent on a human expedition to colonize the ice world Niflheim. After one iteration dies, a new body is regenerated with most of his memories intact. It gets a little crazy as one doesn't die but a new copy is created.

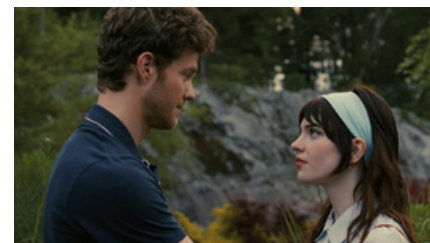
Philosophy and Ethics reference:

Mickey 17 is a movie about political agendas and scarily similar situations on what could be, with space expeditions and lack of job roles. Lots on how politics links to our lives, as well as environmental concern.

Links to KS3 where we discuss existentialism, along with links to KS5 Bonhoeffer topic.

Companion (15)

Companion is a 2025 American science fiction thriller film starring Sophie Thatcher and Jack Quaid as a couple on a weekend getaway with friends at a remote cabin, which unravels into chaos after a revelation that one of the guests is a companion robot.



Philosophy and Ethics reference:

This is all about the relationship with online dating and lack of morals in a world where we are becoming seemingly desperate for an easy form of love. Lots on the ethics of AI and its future uses.

Links to KS5 meta-ethics, situation ethics and KS3 reading on artificial intelligence.



ART DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Exhibition

2025
A LEVEL GCSE

10th July 4pm-6pm



The South Wolds Academy &
Sixth Form are proud to
present our

SUMMER MUSIC 20 25 CONCERT

Thursday 10th July

6:00pm - 8:00pm

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL OUTDOOR
EVENING MUSIC CONCERT CELEBRATING
THE TALENT AND HARD WORK OF OUR
AMAZING STUDENT MUSICIANS!

BRING A PICNIC BLANKET AND
REFRESHMENTS, AND RELAX ON THE
FIELD WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



The South Wolds Academy
and Sixth Form

A top class
education closer
than you think!

Come and join us...

YEAR 5/6 OPEN EVENING

Thurs 18th Sept 2025
5:30pm - 8:00pm



A note for your diary.
Further details coming soon...