



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



KEY DATES

Speakers Trust Final Champion

By Ms Wightman

On March 18th, we ran a workshop with the Speakers Trust for 30 of our Year 10 students, practising their delivery of 3 minute speeches with no notes available! Eva K, Kitty D and Zilpha C were selected as our 3 finalists and presented to a teacher panel, who judged Kitty to be our winner!

On Tuesday 1st July, I had the pleasure of accompanying Kitty and her family, to the East Midlands "Speak Out" Challenge Final at the Y Theatre, Leicester.

20 finalists from other East Midlands schools took part - the standard was amazingly high. Competing against speeches about "Losing a Parent", "Growing up as a Muslim Girl in the UK", and "The Evil Influence of Donald Trump". Kitty delivered a powerful speech on "The Effect of Multi-Dimensional Poverty in Childhood".

Kitty's speech was powerful and hard-hitting with excellent delivery. Kitty was judged to be the winner which is a fantastic achievement against such great competition!

Please join me in congratulating Kitty on her wonderful and well-deserved achievement. You can watch Kitty's speech on the Speakers Trust Youtube Channel [here](#) or by using this QR code.

- 1st Sept - INSET Day
- 2nd Sept - Years 7 & 12 timetable begins
- 2nd Sept - Years 8 to 11 Student Review Day
- 3rd Sept - Timetables begin for whole of the school
- 18th Sept - Year 5/6 Open Evening
- 2nd Oct - Year 10 Parents Evening (on site)
- 9th Oct - Post 16 Open Evening
- 16th Oct - Years 7 & 12 Parent/Tutor Evening (on site)
- 17th Oct - Last day of Autumn Term 1



Summer Term of Success!

By Mrs Angus

As the summer term draws to a close, we are celebrating an exceptional season of student achievement, enrichment and unforgettable experiences.

From sporting victories to public speaking triumphs and educational adventures across the UK and beyond, our students have truly embodied the spirit of excellence and enthusiasm. As I write I can hear the whoops of joy coming from the hall as students celebrate a fantastic sports day yesterday with the achievement assemblies this morning. It was fabulous to see everyone getting involved and our thanks to Platt Lane for being such wonderful hosts.

A huge congratulations must go to our Year 8 girls football team who have made history this term by winning not one, but two prestigious cup titles! Their teamwork, dedication and sportsmanship have been a shining example to all. With outstanding performances throughout the season, they've brought pride and excitement to the whole school community.

We're also incredibly proud of Kitty in Year 10, who delivered a powerful and inspiring speech that earned her the title of Speakers Trust East Midlands "Speak Out" Final Winner! Her confidence, clarity and message captivated both judges and audience, highlighting the importance of youth voices in shaping the future.

This term has also seen students venture near and far on a series of enriching school trips. From exploring French culture and history during their visit to France, to discovering the buzz of the capital in London with a visit to Parliament, as well as enjoying local excursions closer to home, these experiences have enhanced classroom learning and strengthened friendships. Whether on the field, on the stage, or out in the world, our students have shown that South Wolds is a place where talents are nurtured, voices are heard, and memories are made.

I can't sign off the year without reference to our Ofsted outcome: to receive such strong feedback and a thoroughly merited outstanding judgement for our sixth form provision, I would like to thank all of our community for your unwavering support as well as celebrating the continued hard work and aspiration of our students and staff. At the end of the year we say a fond farewell to staff leavers: Mr Shaw departs to take up a new coaching post with the FA, Mr Baines leaves us to take up a teaching post in Malaysia, Mr Kelly and Mr Wood are taking up opportunities outside of teaching and finally we say good bye to three long-serving colleagues who are retiring. Our heartfelt thanks go to Mrs Egglenton, Mr Roberts and Miss Shardlow for all of your fantastic work and commitment to South Wolds. With a combined service of over 56 years between them, they are ready for the exciting opportunities that retirement will bring. Enjoy!

I wish you all a wonderful summer, whatever your plans, and trust you will enjoy some quality family time. Take care and we look forward to welcoming all students back in the Autumn term, ready for a fresh, exciting new year!

Year 8 Girls Football Double Win!

By Mr Shaw

As we approached the final half term of the year, we had the chance to win two cup finals – The Nottinghamshire County Cup and The South Notts Cup.

We produced several strong performances in the County Cup, beating teams from East Leake, OA Portland, Minster, and Arnold Hill, scoring a total of 27 goals and conceding only 2! Our reward was a place in the final, where we would take on Kimberley School in a game played at Burton Joyce FC.



Back Row (L-R): Eviee, Brianne, Millie, Lottie, and Jessie. **Front Row (L-R):** Lilly, Imogen, Lauren, Eva, Molly, Esme, and Isobel

The girls started the game well and quickly raced into a 4-0 lead, thanks to goals from Molly, Eva, and Brianne. We were in total domination of the game and our intensity began to drop. However, we were still able to break up attacks with relative ease and continued to make numerous chances. We were able to add one further goal thanks to a good finish from Brianne, making the score 5-0. Some sloppy play whilst in possession in defence led to Kimberley scoring a solitary goal, just before half time. HT 5-1.

Into the second half, Lauren came out of goal and was replaced with Isobel, as the girls went out looking to consolidate their lead and secure their first piece of silverware. Again, we were able to dominate possession and control the game. A strong defensive performance meant chances for the opposition were exceedingly rare. We continued to create chances and scored 3 more goals, through Eva (to complete her hat trick) and Lauren. The final score was 8-1 and a fully deserved result. The County Cup was secured, medals presented and many happy faces.

The following week we had the opportunity to add the South Notts Cup to the ever-bulging trophy cabinet. In this competition we had a similar route to the final. We had dispatched teams from Alderman White, Col. Frank Seely and local rivals West Bridgford and Rushcliffe. We were even more prolific in front of goal in this competition, registering an almighty 37 goals and conceding only 2. We faced another local rival in The Becket School and were fortunate to play this final at the home of Keyworth United FC. Some of the girls knew some of the opposition, so they knew it could be a tougher challenge, and so it proved to be. Once again, the team rose to the occasion and were thoroughly impressive throughout. Battling and strong in defence, determined in midfield and attack and tried to take the game to the opposition. After an even start we managed to find our feet. Tireless work from midfield and attack put the Becket defence under pressure. We were able to find the back of the net 4 times before half time through Eva and Brianne. A scoreline that did not reflect the closeness of the match, but one we would not relinquish. HT 4-0.

Year 8 Girls Football Double Win! continued

By Mr Shaw

As we entered the second half, we knew another strong 35 minutes and a second trophy was ours. Once again, Becket played extremely well; they continued to fight for every ball and put us under pressure numerous times. They managed to break through our defence and pull a goal back, before we added to our score through Eva, Jessie and one of Imogen's long throws, forcing an own goal by a Becket defender. Becket were to get their second goal of the game from the penalty spot after Millie and Lilly had sandwiched the Becket striker, but further goals from Molly and Jessie ensured that there was to be no miraculous comeback. A final score of 9-2 secured the trophy but did not reflect the tough, close, and battling performance played out before a sell-out crowd.

A local cup double was a fantastic end to the season and nothing short of what the girls deserved. They have been absolutely sensational this year and have achieved amazing things. In almost 20 years of teaching, I have not known of a team that can dominate the local area like this team. They have the ability and potential to go through their school careers, unbeaten in Nottinghamshire, which would be an outstanding achievement.

Football Focused Fiction

By Miss Mitchell

The library now proudly stocks the Ultimate Football Heroes series!

Ultimate Football Heroes dives into the stories behind the world's best players, from Classic Heroes like Maradona to today's superstars like Salah. Plus, test your knowledge next time you are in the library with our Ultimate Football Heroes Quiz book!



Transition Day 2025

By Mr Gell

At the end of June, we were delighted to welcome nearly 200 Year 6 students who will be starting at South Wolds in September.

This followed a month long programme of transition visits to over a dozen of our feeder primary schools by Mr Gell and Miss Drewett, where they met the children and their teachers to hold sessions designed to reassure any anxious students about their new school.

Over the two Transition Days, students met their new tutors and registration group as well as enjoying eight taster lessons. These ranged from Bunsen Burner Safety in Science to Forensic Analysis in Maths, Shape Poems in English to Plasticine Modelling in Art and many, many more activities.

In the evening of the first day, we welcomed the parents of our new students to a packed hall and refectory where they had the opportunity to meet the key staff involved in supporting their child's move to South Wolds.

It was a real delight to witness our new students exploring their new school and meeting teachers and support staff.

We have also commenced the training of new additions to our Student Transition Mentors who will be on hand to support our new Year 7 students from September with adjusting to life at South Wolds. The student volunteers span all of our year groups and will follow a year long programme from the Kidscape organisation, designed to develop their mentoring skills.



Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze Expeditions

By Mr Roberts

On the 17th and 18th June, 49 Year 9 students completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Clumber Park area.

Training had taken place the previous week at Hollygate Lane campsite in Cotgrave, during which the students learnt about navigation, basic first aid, countryside awareness, how to cook safely and how to erect and dismantle tents.

On the expedition they walked 9 miles each day, navigating for themselves whilst carrying everything they needed for the 2 days in their rucksacks. We had a lovely private campsite at Perlethorpe environmental education centre, in the grounds of Thoresby Hall. The camping area was next to a large open field, and it was lovely to see everyone running around the field until it was time to go to sleep.

Everyone camped and cooked their own dinner and breakfast the next day.

We asked some pupils along the way to give tips to next year's students. Here are a few:

“Stick to the shade when you can. It got very hot” (George)

“Sometimes you feel like you want to stop, but just keep going, and you will be glad you did” (Isabella)

“Keep together as a group, so that you can help each other. If half the team rushes ahead, that actually slows the group down” (Caleb)



Concrete Creations

By Mr Bulmer

In our Year 10 GCSE Design and Technology lessons, students have been getting hands-on with materials technology by exploring the fascinating world of concrete and composites.

As part of their studies, they created a variety of concrete items to better understand its properties and practical applications. The students also designed and built small-scale bridges and beams, which they tested to observe how structural reinforcement works. By adding steel to their concrete models, they discovered how reinforcement significantly increases strength to bring their classroom theory to life through engaging, practical experimentation.

Inspired by the impressive concrete work of Year 10 students, a group of eager Year 7's couldn't wait to get hands-on with the material themselves. As part of an extension task, they followed a concrete recipe that cleverly incorporated a little cross-curricular learning—giving them a chance to apply their understanding of ratios in a real-world context. They mixed, poured, and cast their own pots, planters, and even jigsaw pieces, then waited patiently over the weekend for them to cure before painting them with pride. The results were so exciting that many students whisked their creations away before I could photograph them - quick, creative, and surprisingly close to shop-bought quality!



Year 10 Girls Football

By Mr Shaw

The Year 10 Girls' football team has enjoyed success this year, much more than in all other previous years! They have some talented players but for one reason or another, they have not managed to achieve positive results. However, this year was different!



After a tough first round game against Arnold Hill, where we had to rely on a late goal in extra time to secure a 3-2 victory, the next two games were more convincing. A comfortable second round victory against Chilwell School, 6-0, was followed by a semi-final game against Carlton Academy where we won again, 6-1, thanks in part to Zilpha, who scored all 6 goals! A place in the final was secured! A great achievement and one the girls were extremely proud of.

The final took place at Eastwood Town FC, where we would face National C of E School from Hucknall. It was a hot and sunny day, and the pitch seemed enormous. As the opposition team arrived, there were a few looks of horror and disbelief from our team as they recognised several of the players. Talk of defeat filled the air, well at least we had made it to the final...

After some rousing, confidence-building words, the team took their positions. We started incredibly well, positive play and crunching in the tackles. We started to link passes together and work hard for each other. We broke through the defence and Zilpha found the back of the net with her usual assured finish. The first was quickly followed by a second as Beau latched onto a through ball and found the left-hand corner of the goal. The belief was growing. Two became 3 and then 4 as we began to create chances with ease. Zilpha completed the scoring in the first half as we went into the interval, 5-0 up. The girls had played fantastically well and blown the opposition away. We knew that if we could keep the score line the same, defend well for the first 10 minutes of the second half then surely the cup was ours.

Straight from the kickoff, National went through and made the score 5-1. Moments later we would find ourselves conceding another, 5-2. Surely, we could not let the game slip away. The girls raised themselves again and quickly went on the attack, finding the back of the net with their 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th goals. When we raised the intensity and tempo, National could not live with us. We were able to add further icing to the cake with a further 3 goals, whilst National scored one more. The final scoreline of 12-3 was amazing! Zilpha finished with 8 goals, but the team performance and everyone's work rate and attitude were faultless. The nervousness and talk of defeat at the start of the game, a distant memory!

Exploring AI with CISCO

By Mrs Rowe



On Tuesday 8th July, students in Year 8 and Year 9 had the opportunity take part in a live webinar “Exploring AI with CISCO” presented by Louise Mills and Elizabeth Barr, two tech professionals from global technology company Cisco. Students were taken on an interactive journey through the world of Artificial Intelligence – breaking down how AI works, where we see it in everyday life, and how it’s used in real-world roles at Cisco.

Any student has the opportunity to sign up for the following free course: Introduction to Modern AI: Learn to use AI in your daily life, craft effective prompt chatbots, and use computer vision and machine translation <https://www.netacad.com/courses/introduction-to-modern-ai?courseLang=en-US> from the CISCO Networking Academy.



Student feedback:

"The webinar was very interesting; we learnt that we should be more aware using Chat GPT (and other similar platforms) because creating pictures on them takes lots of power and leaves a large carbon footprint." Ben - Year 8

"I learnt that using AI for things that you don't need to, is bad and that AI makes it harder for cyber-security. I also learnt that AI could make mistakes." Jake - Year 8

"I learnt about the multiple types of AI as I hadn't really thought about it before, I often just thought about the general AI as normal but now I know that Narrow AI is more common." Sam - Year 9

"I learnt that AI needs to be taught and can make mistakes. I also learnt you need to train it as if it is a pet or baby and that it can make mistakes however as it begins to recognise patterns and will learn from its mistakes." Dylan - Year 9

"In the cisco meeting they mentioned how in the future AI is going to take peoples jobs and 'make life easier' however I think it's not helpful because it is taking peoples jobs away and it means people must find a new job." Noah - Year 9

Reading Updates

By Miss Mitchell

Thank you!

Miss Wightman and Miss Mitchell would like to say a big “THANK YOU” to all of the parents and carers who have donated to the library via the ParentPay app.

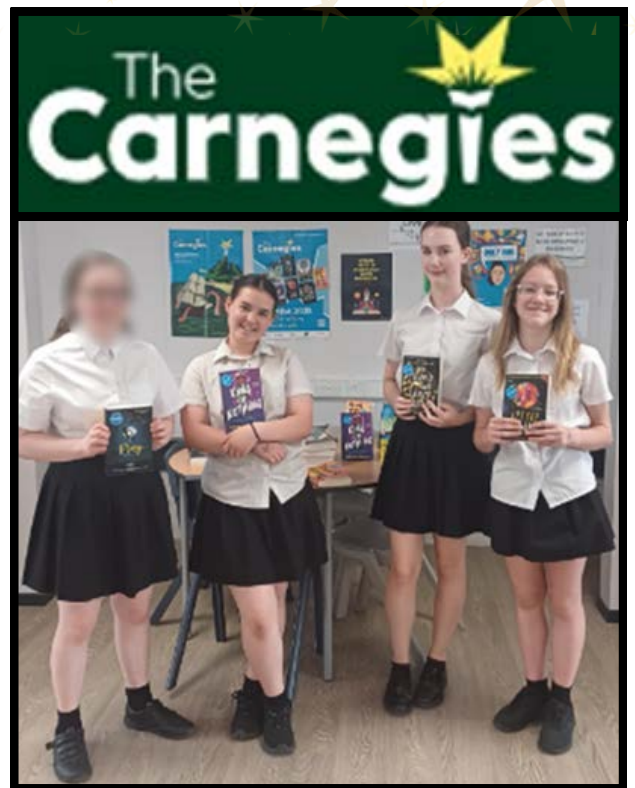
Your generous donations have enabled us to keep our library fresh and diverse!

Students, please make sure to pop into the library soon!

Carnegie Celebrations

Since March the Carnegie book club has been meeting every Friday to discuss the books shortlisted for the 2025 Carnegie medal for writing. The group also participated in book-related activities, such as writing book reviews and completing the diverse range of creative challenges set by the authors themselves.

The Carnegie awards came to a close on the 19th July, and the book club gathered in the library for a special celebration event. We celebrated by having a Carnegie quiz, with questions created by the book club members. The winning team, ‘The Pom Bears’, made up of Briana M, Sadie W, Jess H and Karina M, excelled in their knowledge of the shortlisted stories, scoring 10/10 on their quiz.



This was an extra special celebration event as we had the opportunity to stream the Carnegie awards ceremony live. During the ceremony, the Shadower’s Choice vote and the Carnegie award were announced.

Reading Updates continued

By Miss Mitchell

The winner of the Shadower's Choice was 'King of Nothing' – Nathanael Lessore. 'King of Nothing' is about a boy called Anton who rules his secondary school. The book tells the story of how Anton realises that what he thought was important actually isn't and the true nature of his friends. The story is described as a 'laugh out loud comedy with heart'. This book is a must read, and I suspect will be very popular with reluctant readers as the story line is very relatable.



Margaret McDonald won the Carnegie award for her moving and poignant read, 'Glasgow Boys'. A popular read among our book club, Glasgow Boys is a dual-narrative, following the lives of Finley and Banjo and exploring the power of identity, community and the Scottish working class. This coming-of-age story is an incisive look at young masculinity and the way even the most fraught childhood is not without hope.

Thank you to all the students who joined and engaged with Carnegie Club this year. It has been a delight to read and discuss the stories with you all.



The Carnegie Club. Left to Right: Miss Mitchell, Nyles B, Libby T, Evie M, Ava M, Mohammed E, Sadie W, Karina M, Erin W, Jess H, Isla K, Emma H, Briana M, Hazel C, Evellin H and Lily O-J

By Miss Mitchell

Star Readers Tea with Mrs Angus

On Monday 23rd June, we celebrated the achievements of The South Wolds Academy's Star Readers for this academic year!

Students were invited to a special tea with Mrs Angus in the library. There were some amazing cakes and excellent book recommendations!



All students will also receive a £5 Amazon voucher in recognition of their fantastic achievement.

Please join us in congratulating them all!

(Year 7) Belinda B, Evie D, Janah A, Lily M, Rio N, Harvey S, Sadie S, Torin D, Pollyanna S, Ted M, Joy C-A, Harry P, Rose L, Imogen L, Brooke O, Aiden T, Frankie F (Year 8) Nico H, Jessica H, Samuel H, Briana M, Tasha S, Selena S, Maisie H-B, Blake D, Eleanor B, Isla K, Brody K, Grace E, Aayan K, Nyles B, Jessica T-H, Harley K

Imagery in Poetry - Poem by Kian H (Year 7)

*Patience like a river
Sneaky like the night
Lurks in the shadows
Slides as a sniper, ready to assassinate a wanted
person
Fur as sharp as a thousand blades*

What am I?

Answer can be found
on page 26

Summer Term 2 High Flyers

Evie W, Imogen G, Isla K, Eleanor B & Emma H (Year 8) PE

Exceptional participation in PE. They always attend the afterschool clubs and are a role model to others. They are so supportive and kind to the younger pupils! **Miss Drewett**

Ethan G (Year 10) Maths

Brilliant attitude and work ethic consistently every lesson! Well done! **Mrs Sprake**

Bella K, Maegan C, Matthew H, Ellie Y, Isaac S & Grace W (Year 9) English

Fantastic detailed work in assessments! **Miss Wightman**

Enna M, Max S, Bethany M, Evie F & Sadie W (Year 9) Science

Brilliant engagement in year 9 science right from the start! **Dr Buczek**

Charlotte C, Holly C, Niamh S, Lois S, Izzy F, Lily H & Laila T (Year 12) Psychology

Amazing 'A' grade performance in the Year 12 Psychology exam. **Ms Capewell**

Eliana R (Year 11) Business

Exemplary attitude and achievement in Business Studies over the course of the year! **Mr Wall**

Eliana R (Year 11) Philosophy & Ethics

I will second what Mr Wall has said, and add that Eliana's Philosophy & Ethics book is amazing and she's achieved consistent grades in tests. **Mr Lloyd**

Brooke O, Freya Read & Charlotte M (Year 7) English

For always working so hard and being very helpful! **Ms Wightman**

Kasia B, Ella J, Edward F, Ella S, Ella T, Charlotte D, Madeleine S, Molly W & Curtis P (Year 11) Biology

Brilliant progress on recent Biology mock exam! **Dr Buczek**

Abby W & Sienna R (Year 8) Graphics

Amazing work in Photoshop! A fab start to Year 8 Graphics! Well done! **Ms Aston**

Florence D-S (Year 10) Maths

For amazing effort all year! **Mrs Barr-Smth**

Riley D & Jacob H (Year 8) Maths

Brilliant engagement in Year 8 science right from the start. **Miss Martin**

Lucia C (Year 9) Spanish

Outstanding written work in Spanish and excellent contributions every lesson. **Miss Dixon**

Sia K, Georgie E & Charlotte G (Year 8) English

For excellent, consistent hard work! **Miss Wightman**

Briana M (Year 8) French

For always trying her hardest and keen to learn new things in French! **Miss George**



Summer Term 2 High Flyers

Erin W (Year 9) Science

Great start to your year 9 Science lessons. Brilliant practical work! **Dr Buczek**

Aleks G (Year 8) Computer Science

For excellent work in Computing! **Mr Gell**

Thomas C (Year 11) Business Studies

Consistently outstanding effort and engagement in Business Studies throughout the year! **Mr Wall**

Daniel C (Year 9) Spanish

Great performance in Spanish. A real star! **Mr Roberts**

Jake S & Kitty D (Year 10) English

Excellent speaking and listening presentation! **Miss Wightman**

Erin W, Sadie W & Nancy P (Year 9) Maths

Great start to year 9 maths lessons. Well done! **Miss Williams**

Matilda W (Year 10) Graphics

For an outstanding start to the GCSE Graphics course! **Ms Aston**

Alexander G-N (Year 10) Geography

For sheer enthusiasm, your calm manner with others and a great presentation on climate change!

Mrs Martin

Poppy W (Year 11) Philosophy & Ethics

For always working hard, epic note taking and presentation of her written work and supports other students in our group - a legend! **Mr Lloyd**

Jahkeem L (Year 10) Maths

Excellent work in maths, well done! **Miss Williams**

George P (Year 9) Spanish

Always enthusiastic in Spanish and keen to volunteer. He is doing really well! **Mr Roberts**

Illia M, Riley B & Sophie H (Year 10) English

Great start in English Literature! Well done! **Mrs Hudson**

Charlie S, Ainslee E, George O, George S-B & Ellie D (Year 10) Science

Great engagement. Brilliant start to year 10! **Dr Buczek**

Owen D & Fabian E (Year 8) Year 6 Transition Day

Excellent musical contribution to the Year 6 Transition Day! **Mr Gell**

Jamie C (Year 9) Spanish

For always trying her best and being an amazing student! **Mr Kelly**



Summer Term 2 High Flyers

Thomas S (Year 11) Philosophy & Ethics

Switched on and keen to do well! He has found another level of effort and this is showing in his results! **Mr Lloyd**

Ila B (Year 10) Geography

For always working hard independently and as part of the class. Great start to year 10! **Mrs Martin**

Amelie A (Year 10) Spanish

For the greatest improvement in the Spanish class this year. Well done! **Mr Roberts**

Frankie R (Year 10) Maths

Amazing effort and progress this year, quietly working hard. Well done! **Mrs Sprake**

Ianna K (Year 11) Business Studies

Demonstrated excellent commitment and performance in Business Studies all year. **Mr Wall**

Archie S (Year 10) English

A great start in English Literature.. Well done! **Mrs Hudson**

Daniel F (Year 10) Graphics

Excellent Adobe Illustrator skills; smashing through all of the practice tasks. **Ms Aston**

Harvey S & Sadie S (Year 8) Maths

For an outstanding effort in maths! **Mrs Barr-Smith**

Sophie B & Ben S (Year 7) French

Always ready and aspiring to learn more! **Mrs Pabari**

Ophelia L (Year 11) Philosophy & Ethics

Is doing really well and shows fantastic initiative! **Mr Lloyd**

Samuel B (Year 8) Spanish

For amazing effort in Spanish, working hard to extend his writing and always learning more, amazing work this year! **Mr Kelly**

Riley D & Jacob H (Year 8) Maths

Brilliant engagement in Year 8 science right from the start. **Miss Martin**

Lucia C (Year 9) Spanish

Outstanding written work in Spanish and excellent contributions every lesson. **Miss Dixon**

Alex P, Nihal S & Harry M (Year 9) Chemistry

An excellent start to Year 9 GCSE Chemistry! **Miss Metters**

Richard R (Year 7) Spanish

Always keen to learn new things and use his knowledge to work out how Spanish works. Well done! **Mr Kelly**



Summer Term 2 High Flyers

Jerome B, Carly C, Daniel C, Harry M & Phillip J (Year 10) Maths

Fantastic effort in Maths. Well done! **Mrs Barr-Smith**

Evie D, Sienna R, Elleri C-R & Isabelle H (Year 8) Transition Day

Fantastic presentation skills in our Year 6 Transition video! **Mr Gell**

Amelie A, Sophia C & Morgan B (Year 11) Graphics

Fantastic work and great work ethic in Graphics! **Ms Aston**

Eadie O, Esme H & Natalia T (Year 8) Maths

Worked very well all year in Maths - keep up the good work in Year 8! **Miss Turnbull**

Molly W, Samuel S, Poppy W & Jake S (Year 11) Business Studies

Excellent work, dedication and enthusiasm in Business Studies throughout the year! **Mr Wall**

Jerome B, Shun Y, Mae F, Beth W & Carly C (Year 10) Philosophy & Ethics

Great effort and making some profound contributions! **Mr Lloyd**

Leanne L, Molly T & Torin D (Year 8) Design & Technology

Great enthusiasm for technology! **Mr Bulmer**

Amelie F & Amber L (Year 10) Maths

For always working so hard in maths and having made a great start to Year 10! **Miss Turnbull**

Harley H & Isaac C (Year 11) Philosophy & Ethics

For their amazing contributions and hard work! **Mr Lloyd**

Zilpa C (Year 10) Spanish

For reaching A-Level standard in Year 10 thanks to extra work in her own time! **Mr Reeves**

Charlotte M (Year 8) Geography

For making a very enthusiastic start to Year 8 Geography and for offering well thought out contributions! **Mrs Martin**

Sophia C, Jess G & Ella J (Year 11) Maths

For working hard and great engagement in Maths! **Mrs Farrington**

Herbie S (Year 9) Geography

For always trying your best and contributing well to lessons! **Mrs Martin**

Ben K & Alex G (Year 7) French

Really impressed with their French! **Mrs Pabari**

Charlie H & Sarim J (Year 10) Maths

For being kind students and giving great support! **Mrs Sprake**

Harry H & Naomi H (Year 9) Spanish

For great contributions every lesson! **Miss Dixon**



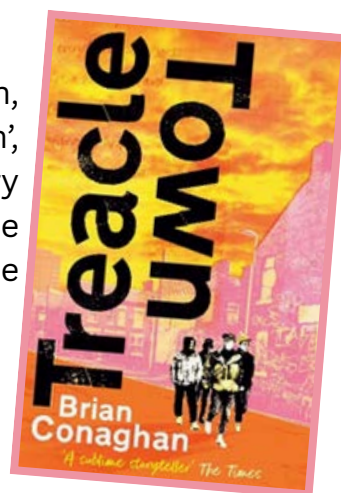
Reading Updates continued

By Miss Mitchell

Slam Poetry Superstar

Briana M, in Year 9 took part in a challenge set by Brian Conaghan, 2025 Carnegie medal finalist. Inspired by his book 'Treacle Town', Conaghan set students a challenge to write a piece of slam poetry about something they feel strongly passionate about. Briana took the opportunity to write a poem about Emily Wilding Davison, one of the most influential women suffragettes of the movement.

With Briana's permission, I sent her slam poem to Brian Conaghan. He was very impressed with Briana's work, calling it 'wonderful, engaging and informative'. Brian also told Briana to 'never give up writing as she has a talent for it' and we couldn't agree more! See Briana's wonderful poem below:



Emily WD

Emily WD

*You gave your life for girls like me
So we could have a say, so fear won't reign
Let's hope it wasn't all in vain*



Clip Clop

*They're getting closer we don't have much time
Rewind the clocks to 1913*

Clip Clop

*The derby, yes good taste
Let's sit back and watch the King's horse race*

Clip Clop

*Oh? That's not what you planned?
Honestly Em, you should be banned!*

Clip Clop

*Clickety clack down the track
Em, look! Wait, Em?*

Neigh!

*Out you come from under the horse
You were knocked out from the force*

*And just like that, you were gone
But women's rights still live on*



Reading Updates continued

By Miss Mitchell

Fabulous, fresh fiction

Take a look at these new titles – recently added to the library and available to borrow now. Here is a closer look at three new library titles:



Howl's Moving Castle – Dianna Wynne Jones

Deciding she has nothing more to lose, Sophie makes her way to the moving castle that hovers on the hills above her town, Market Chipping. But the castle belongs to the dreaded Wizard Howl! This novel is an adventure-fantasy and is based off of the famous film, Howl's Moving Castle.

Amelia Fang Series – Laura Ellen Anderson

The Amelia Fang series is both written and illustrated by Laura Ellen Anderson. The series follows a young vampire named Amelia Fang and her friends as they navigate the contrasting worlds of Nocturnia and the Kingdom of Light. This series has been highly requested among year 7 – so make sure to come and borrow a copy before someone else does!

The Last Bear – Hannah Gold

There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to this remote Arctic outpost for six months. But one endless summer night, April meets one. He is starving, lonely and a long way from home. Determined to save him, April begins the most important journey of her life...



One of the most highly requested genres in our school library is Manga. We have The Legend of Zelda and My Hero Academia mangas, for those who like an action packed adventure. Or, if you prefer something more realistic and romantic, try the Heartstopper series – which we now stock volumes 1-5!

We hope to expand our manga selection even further in the future. If there is a particular manga which you would like to see in the library, let Miss Mitchell know or pop a slip into the 'Book Suggestion' Box!

Year 7 Nottinghamshire Games

By Mr Shaw

In July, I had the opportunity of taking a group of Year 7 students to take part in the Nottinghamshire Schools Summer Games. The event was held at the Harvey Hadden Sports Village on one of the many incredibly hot days we have had recently.

The students competed as a team against 22 other schools from across Nottinghamshire in Dodgeball, Indoor Rowing, Indoor Golf and Athletics. Each event provided the opportunity to register as many points as we could to see if we could become one of the highest scoring schools in our area (Rushcliffe). The students were fantastic throughout the day, showing resilience, positive attitudes, great teamwork, encouragement and best of all having a fun time doing it!

When all the scores were added up, we managed to finish an incredible 3rd place in the Rushcliffe Area, earning each person a shiny bronze medal! A great achievement and one I am sure will last long in the memory of those that took part.



From L-R:
Jessica, Jess,
Abby, Rudy,
Zachary, Joe
and Will (also
Seb not
pictured)

Neurodivergent Support in Nottingham

By Miss Fox

We have been made aware of a new dedicated website from “Minds of all Kinds”, which is offering tailored support and resources for people of all ages who are neurodivergent, including those with ADHD and Autism.

The website has been created by the NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), which serves as a central hub designed to provide clear, accessible and trustworthy information for families, carers and professionals.

Please visit their website at www.mindsofallkindsnotts.co.uk for more information and support.

Nottingham to Normandy: Culture, Cuisine & a Chateau

By Mr Kelly

At the end of June, 40 Year 7 students travelled to Normandy for an unforgettable stay in a traditional French château. Immersed in French culture, they explored local life, spent time at the beach, and took part in exciting activities such as canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding.

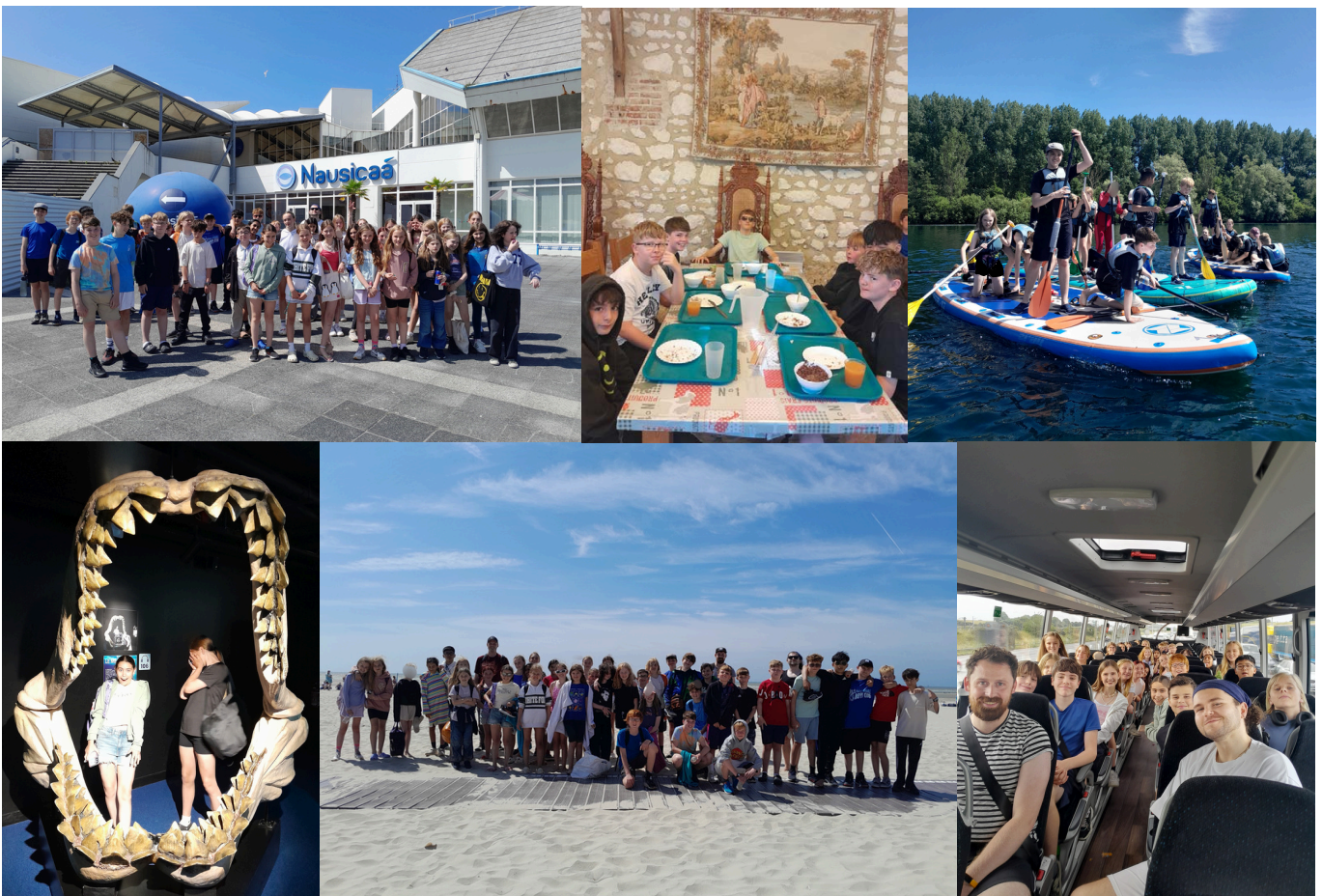
One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to a snail farm, where everyone had the chance to sample the famous French delicacy, snails with garlic butter!

With beautiful weather throughout over the weekend, the trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to practise their French, try new experiences, and make lasting memories. We hope they all had a brilliant time!

Evie D wrote, "The French trip was brilliant. We went to the beach and Nausicaá which is the biggest (and best) aquarium in Europe. We had a tour around the village we were staying in called Rue and visited the market and looked inside the village church.

We also did water sports, which resulted in at least half of us falling into the lake!

The chateau we stayed in was beautiful, and the food and staff were lovely. Overall, it was a fantastic and interesting experience!!"



Astro Pi: Mission Zero

By Mrs Rowe

Students in Key Stage 3 were given the opportunity to take part in Astro pi: Mission Zero, which allows students the chance to have their code run in space!

Students wrote a program to take a reading from the colour and luminosity sensor on an Astro Pi computer on board the International Space Station, and used it to set the background colour in a personalised image. All students who completed the program, received a certificate with a map of where on earth the ISS was orbiting when their program was ran!

Well done to everyone who took part! We will be taking part again next year and information on how to take part will be in student notices.



Alumni: Stop Motion Animation First

By Mr Bulmer

We are proud to celebrate the success of a former South Wolds Academy student who continues to excel in the creative arts.

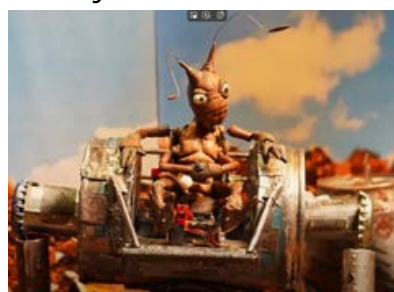
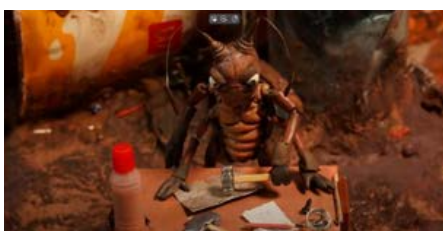
After studying A Level Photography here at South Wolds, this talented alumnus is now pursuing a degree in Film and Television with Innovation at the University of Bristol.

As part of his second-year project, he created a captivating short film centered around a cockroach, using the intricate technique of stop-motion animation. His work not only demonstrated impressive creativity and attention to detail, but also earned him a First!

The University of Bristol has proudly featured his film on its official YouTube channel, where it is now being shared with a wider audience.

You can view the film by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code.

We're excited to see where his creative journey leads next and wish him continued success in the world of film and animation!



I Belong in the Games Industry webinar



By Mrs Rowe

On Friday 11th July, some students in Year 8 and Year 9 took part in the “I Belong in the games industry” webinar.



The event answered the big questions: What’s it really like to work in the games industry? How do games go from an idea to something you can play? What skills do you need to land a job in the games industry?

The main speaker at the event was Sally, a Computing Ambassador who works at Xbox. Sally took us behind the scenes of the gaming world, explaining her role in testing and improving games, and sharing the skills that help her succeed.

"One fact I learnt was that game can take up to 7 years to make even with thousands of people working on it" Evie - Year 9

"When you're making new games for the first time, you will encounter lots of mistakes, you just need to keep on going, and not give up, you will eventually reach your goals and be successful." Ben - Year 8

"In the webinar, I've learnt that I can start making games using websites and I could also try making games in PowerPoint. To succeed in the industry, I need to be able to work well with people and have the patience to solve problems." Chloe - Year 8

Here are some links for games coding websites that were recommended during the webinar:

<https://play.unity.com/en>



<https://godotengine.org/>



NCCE Coding Challenge

By Mrs Rowe



On Friday 18th July, 20 Year 10 and Year 11 students took part in the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) Coding Challenge Escape room, an online event ran by the NCCE.

The event was designed to inspire and empower students in the field of technology and coding, allowing the students to enhance their problem-solving skills and work collaboratively. The

competition was structured as an interactive escape room, where students had to solve a series of challenges, each unlocking the next one.

NCCE Coding Challenge continued

By Mrs Rowe

"We did an escape room challenge where the tension was high as the students made their way through many challenges, involving all their coding skills. But in the end they had a great time and managed to escape!" Jerome

"I really enjoyed this activity as it tested our knowledge / teamwork and was really enjoyable." Billy

"The challenge allowed us to learn several new skills in computer science. It has allowed me to enhance my knowledge and skills." Philip

"We enjoyed it. The event was lovely and challenged our speed of thinking and problem solving. It also involved teamwork. This event really was awesome and beneficial for us." Ojas

"This event has allowed me to utilise many of the computer science skills I know, as well as teaching me some more skills and knowledge that haven't been taught in lessons yet. Overall, it has been a very enjoyable and exciting activity that was a good representation of my knowledge and skills of computer science that was encapsulated in a shell of interactive challenges." Jensen

"Very fun puzzles and teamwork, and lots of jam tarts!" Shun

"I took part in an exciting computer science-themed escape room challenge. It tested our problem-solving skills through a series of tricky questions. Each correct answer unlocked the next question, like a digital puzzle trail that required logical thinking and quick reasoning. Working through the challenges was both fun and challenging - it felt like being a detective solving a mystery using code and algorithms! We had to collaborate closely, combining our knowledge to crack each question and move forward. This escape room was a fantastic way to apply computer science concepts in a creative and interactive way. It made learning feel like an adventure, and it was incredibly rewarding when we finally solved the last puzzle!" Isaac

Well done to Ojas P, Tom C, Daniel L, Liam F, Danny B, Jensen C, Danny W, Billy L, Shun Y, Matthew S, Ben W, Thomas W, Will A, Jerome B, Eunice C, Isaac S, Philip J, Matthew C, Isabel D, Eddie C, Mitchell J, Jaime C and Maegan C!



I'm a Computer Scientist

By Mrs Rowe

On Wednesday 9th July, students in the GCSE Computer Science Year 10 class took part in a live webchat using the I'm a Computer Scientist website, where they got to chat with IT and computing professionals about their career pathways and jobs. Some snippets of the interesting questions students asked:

How do you use Computer Science in your job?

I use computer science to facilitate my biology, I use predictive programmes based on coding, I also code directly to interpret large datasets and results, as well as using RStudio, a more niche coding type to do statistics.

Which programming languages do you use?

It depends on what I am doing. For a lot of bioinformatics R and command line tools are typically best, but for AI/ML or mathematical modelling then python is best!

Why is your job important?

We need computational models to describe how a cancer has changed over time, match that to real data we have and then predict the future of a cancer. We use models to make digital versions of cancers.

What is the best thing about your job?

The beauty of IT roles is you can work anywhere, I have worked for the Police and Construction, Financial institutions and Car manufacturers - every company needs Computer Science Professionals

Ciné Soirée: Our French Film Adventure

By Isabelle W (Year 9)

On Tuesday 15th July, students studying French GCSE travelled by bus to the Broadway cinema in Nottingham to watch Jean De Florette. The film was about a retired french man who moved from the city to a rural natural area, and how he struggles but overcomes the challenges of starting a new life. I think the aim of the trip was to see how french communication is different outside the classroom, and was a chance to discover more about French language and culture.

The movie had English subtitles on but I recognised parts of sentences and noticed that some words or phrases I could understand were ones we had learnt in class. I think it was an amazing experience that I would definitely do again if I had the opportunity to. Me and my friends really enjoyed the trip, and I am happy that I took French! Thankyou teachers for organizing this!

"Le voyage au cinéma francais était vraiment amusant et intéressant. Le film a eu les sous-titres pour comprendre qui se passait. J'ai adoré regarder le film avec mes amis et j'espere que nous pouvons faire d'autres voyages similaires à nouveau." by Florence D-S (Year 9)



Chemistry visit to BGS

By Ms Metters

On Friday 4th July, our Year 13 cohort went to visit the British Geological Survey (BGS) in Keyworth. This visit was to enable our chemists to see the analytical techniques that they will study during their Organic Analysis module in Year 13.

The Year 13 students observed the many different types of chromatography techniques that are used such as High-Performance Gas Chromatography and Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry.

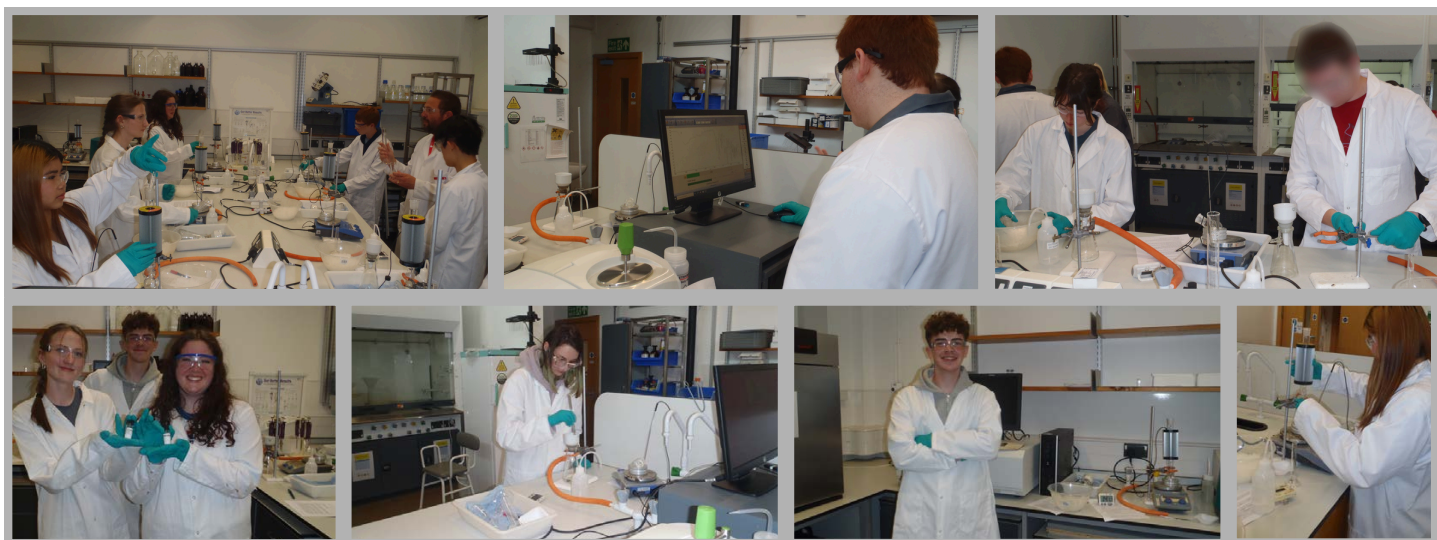
Students were given informative talks by two of the Chemists at BGS, one who specialised in Inorganic Chemistry and the other Organic Chemistry. They informed students about what projects they had worked on and how the analytical analysis was used. The trip really helped students to visualise the instruments and how they are used, in preparation for their Year 13 module.

A Dose of Chemistry: Our Year 12s create aspirin

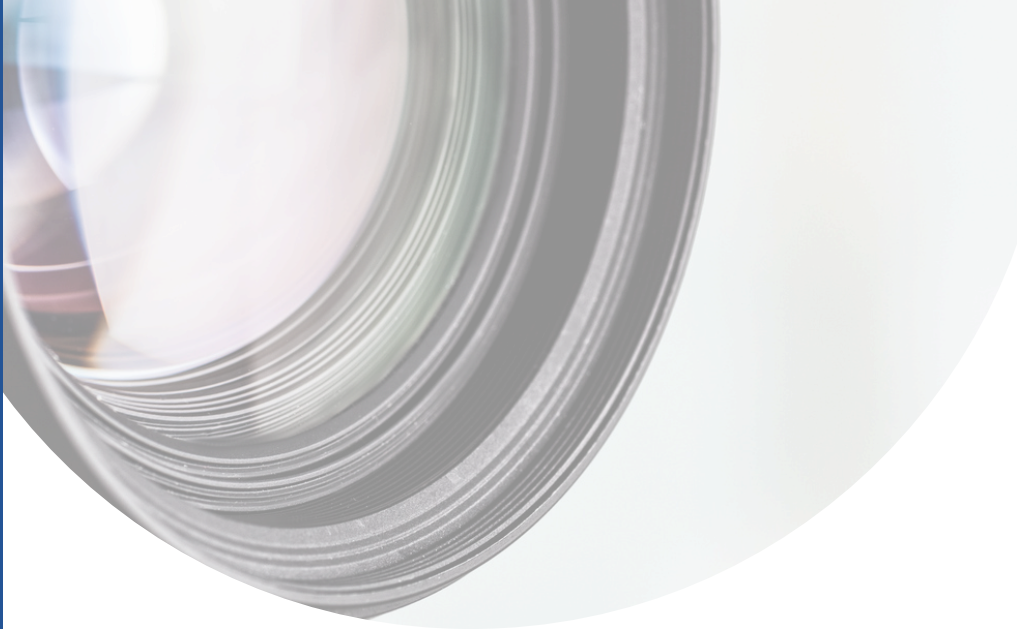
By Ms Metters

On Thursday 5th June, our cohort of Year 12 A-Level Chemistry pupils attended Nottingham Trent University to perform a Required Practical to synthesise Aspirin.

Pupils had the amazing opportunity to use University grade equipment and analyse their product using IR spectroscopy. Pupils were also taken on a tour of the analytical labs and shown an NMR machine which brought their analysis module to life.



Answer: It is a
PANTHER!



An interview with **Oliver Bulmer** **University Student**

oooooooooooooooooooo

Which A Levels did you study at the South Wolds Academy & Sixth Form?

I studied Biology, Product Design and Photography

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

I left in 2022

What is the name of the University/College and the course you are studying/did study?

University of Bristol for a degree in Film and Television with Innovation

Please briefly describe your typical week.

Each week varies massively! I oversee a variety of roles within the organisation from in-field activities, such as filming during underwater dives, going on boat surveys to capture footage of rare marine mammals. To the more technical roles such as video editing, computer animation, graphic design and image manipulation.

What did you do today?

Today I completed some free dives to take underwater footage of invasive lionfish for a video project I'm working on. Later, I began editing the video footage of an interview I conducted with a specialist marine ecologist.

What work/assignments/ tasks need completing this week?

This week, I am split between finishing segments of my university modules on animation and editing a video together to accompany a press release the institute is having later this week.

What are the challenges in your course/job role?

The role requires resilience as things can go wrong in the field and requires thinking "outside of the box" to solve problems. The role requires you to adapt and learn a variety of new skills on the job, The role also requires good communication with other members in my team.

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

My course required good A-Level results in artistic and technical subjects, such as Photography and Design Technology. But, more importantly, it requires you to have a deep interest in the subject you study, as does a willingness to work hard and be passionate about it; it will take you anywhere!

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

You should always follow your interests and be willing to explore and work on them. Seek every and any opportunity that comes your way. It only takes one to change your life.





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...



THE SOUTH WOLDS ACADEMY & SIXTH FORM

POST 16 OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2025

18:00 - 19:30

COME ALONG AND VISIT OUR NEWLY BUILT
SIXTH FORM BUILDING AND HAVE A CHAT
WITH OUR STAFF AND CURRENT STUDENTS

"THE PROVISION FOR STUDENTS IN THE
SIXTH FORM IS EXCEPTIONAL"

OFSTED RATING OF "OUTSTANDING"
APRIL 2025



Story Garden

Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors

My Secret Garden – Children's creative writing Competition

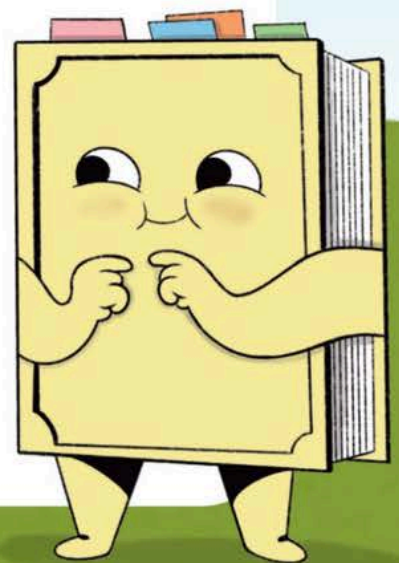
As part of this year's Summer Reading Challenge, Keyworth Library are running a children's creative writing competition. Your entry can be a written story, a poem or a cartoon story

The title of your story must be **My Secret Garden** but after that it is up to you what it is about.

Will it be a real garden that is discovered, or will it be a magical garden entered through your shed or maybe it will be in a computer game and you get transported inside!!!! Let your imagination run wild

There is no set length but all entries must be submitted on paper, with the child's name and age on the back, to Keyworth library by 06 September 2025

If you have any queries, please speak to the library staff.



Inspire

Culture, Learning and Libraries



Workshop : Learn to Write

Creatively

Familiar, well-loved fictional characters are all created by someone's imagination.

Come & join Trevor, a local published author & leader of Ruddington writing group, to explore how **you** could be the next great writer to enjoy the thrill of seeing your creativity come to life.

Every creative idea is unique, so why not share yours and see where it leads?

This group is aimed at children aged 11 and above.

We will meet on **Tuesday, 29th July**, from **2 pm until 4 pm** in **Ruddington Library**.

No cost but Booking & Parental consent is essential. Places limited.

For more information, contact Ruddington Library:

Ruddington.library@inspireculture.org.uk or phone: 0115 9212309
or pop into the library to talk to a member of staff



  @NottsLibraries

#BelInspired – Inspiring Arts and Culture



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WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND
SATURDAYS DURING THE WEEKS
COMMENCING AUGUST 11TH
AND AUGUST 25TH.

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or reach out through facebook
@cotgravecommunitykitchen

Collection from,
Cotgrave Community
Kitchen, Candleby Lane Cotgrave.
NG123JG

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.

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.

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

Cotgrave Community Kitchen
Facebook: Cotgrave Community Kitchen

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

