



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



KEY DATES

Year 8 Girl's Crowned East Midlands Regional Winners!

By Mrs Rowe

On Friday 6th March, Olivia, Edie, Belinda and Phoebe travelled to Glasgow to take part in the CyberFirst Year 8 Girls Celebration Event, representing the East Midlands as regional winners.

Saturday brought an exciting and action-packed schedule at the Glasgow Science Centre. The day began with an immersive cyber-security workshop, where the girls worked together to "save" the Centre's iconic tower from hackers. After lunch,

they enjoyed some free time exploring the exhibitions before heading back to the hotel to prepare for the evening's gala celebration dinner.

- 13th April - Start of Summer Term 1
- 14th April - Annual Awards Evening at Carriage Hall (re-arranged from Jan)
- 16th April - Year 11 Parents' Evening (online)
- 4th May - Bank Holiday
- 11th to 15th May - Year 9 & 10 Athletics Week
- 15th May - Year 13 Leavers Day and Assembly
- 21st May - Year 12 Parents' Evening (online)
- 22nd May - Last day of Summer Term 1



CyberFirst Girl's Competition Winners (continued)

By Mrs Rowe

The gala, held at the Science Centre, was attended by representatives from DSIT, NCCE, CyberFirst and various regional sponsors—an inspiring setting to recognise the achievements of talented young people in technology.

The team had an unforgettable weekend celebrating their success and gaining even more motivation to continue developing their digital and cyber skills.

They were delighted to receive their prizes which included a laptop with accessories for each student, along with a trophy and certificate for the school.



Hockey Champions of Nottinghamshire

By Mrs Sowerby

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 students, Alec M, Hugo S, Alex H and Henry B, who achieved success recently with their hockey team, West Bridgford Hockey Club (U12s).

Competing in a highly competitive county hockey tournament they showed exceptional teamwork, determination, and skill to come out on top as Champions of Nottinghamshire! This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of their effort and commitment. Their victory means they have now qualified for the regional finals taking place next month.

Well done to all involved!



Photo credit to West
Bridgford Hockey Club

Celebrating Colour & Culture in Textiles

By Mrs Hunt

This half term, Year 7 Textiles students have been working to an exciting design brief: to design and create a decorative cushion inspired by the vibrant Mexican celebration Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). This important cultural festival honours the lives of loved ones who have passed away, celebrating memory, family, and the natural cycle of life and death through colour, symbolism, and joyful imagery.

As part of the project, students began by researching the rich visual traditions associated with the celebration, exploring motifs such as sugar skulls, marigolds, decorative patterns, and bold colour palettes. This research helped them develop a deeper understanding of the cultural significance behind the imagery while inspiring their own creative design ideas.

Throughout the project, students have developed a wide range of practical textile skills. They experimented with tie-dye and transfer printing to create striking surface designs, while also learning how to safely and confidently use sewing machines. In addition, students practised traditional hand embroidery techniques, including running stitch and back stitch, to add decorative detail and personal touches to their work.

Students were also encouraged to think like designers, considering their target market and how their ideas could be developed for a commercial audience. By exploring how their designs might translate into industry, they gained an insight into the creative processes used within the textile and fashion sectors.

The final cushions demonstrate impressive creativity, technical skill, and thoughtful design development. The outcomes are vibrant, imaginative, and full of personality, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and achievement shown by all of our Year 7 students.



Pictures Left to Right: Maisie S, Rex J, Minnie M & Sophia P-G

Achievement Awards

By Mr Addis

This year at The South Wolds Academy we have introduced a new range of rewards to recognise all the fantastic work that pupils do in and out of lessons.

These new achievement awards will be presented at the end of each term to pupils who have achieved the level for their year group. Pupils can gain a bronze, silver and gold award as they collect be kind, work hard and aspire achievement points in lessons and around school.

We hope this will, in addition to our weekly achievement awards and break or lunch passes given out in assembly, reward those students who are being kind around school, working hard in lessons and aspiring to be the best they can.

In years 7 & 8, students will need to gain 175 achievements points for bronze, 300 for silver and 450 for gold. These pupils are:

Year 7 - Bronze

Isaac R	Logan G	Maddox C	Amber C	Arya R	Ethan M	Oscar S
Maisie S	Finley G	Samson J	Daisy D	Henry H	Megan R	Ella H
Theodore W	Jay B	Isabella S	Evie B	Leo C	Henry J	Megan C
Louie A-H	Laila G	Fred S	Jack S	Hunter H-J	Aidan C	Noah M
Minnie M	Rupert H	Lucio E-L	Joseff F	Daisie H	Alannah D	Ella-Mai M
Aadhya S	Summer B	Corey H	Jasmin D	Mia T	Skye L	Joshua D-W
Joshua F	Charlie F	Faris H	Elizabeth A	Henry B	Henry B	Tilly H
Katelynn H	Emilia S	Zoe K	Willow D	Daisee N	Oscar B	Heidi C
	Tyler S	Georgiana D	Amani D K	Noah M	Dimitri M	

Year 7 - Silver

Dillon S	Lachlan T	Muhammad M B N
Harriet M	Lewis C	Frank C
Emily T	Ava O	

Achievement Awards (part 2)

By Mr Addis

Year 8 - Bronze

Molly T	Danny S	Imogen L	Ella M	Zak S	Rose L	Eadie O
Jake A	Joseph H-S	Isla B	Queenie T	Gianna C	Oliver M	Samuel A
Shelton C	Jake L	Noah H	Eve P	Chloe C	Rio N	Elizabeth D
Hadrian Y	George D	Jacob P	Matilda L	Charles A	Ruari H	Hugo O
Jack T	Caleb P	Isobel D	Finley M	James A	Mara L	Issy R
Amelia H	Oscar F	Frankie F	Lewis W	Rebecca P	Megan K	Jessica L
Elijah M	Niamh M	Anaya B	Jacob M	Aiden T	Charlotte S	Sunnie T
George G	Rosie G	Richard R	Ben T	Freddie W	Torin D	Luke P
Abel S	Alfred C	Natalia T	Aniya S	Kian H	Sienna R	

Year 8 - Silver

Evie D	Sophie B	Sadie S	Emma F
Phoeve S	Brooke O	Annie H	Aleksandr G
Sebbie F	William S	Fabian E	

Achievement Awards (part 3)

By Mr Addis

In year 9, to achieve a bronze award, pupils need to gain 175 achievement points, 300 for silver and 400 for gold. Congratulations to the following pupils who achieved a bronze award in the spring term.

Year 9 - Bronze

Noah H-H	Ava I	Brooke K	Konstantinos K	Ethan B	Harry S	Aidan A	Thea F
Tia-Rose H	Aristo L	Jack C	Nancy P	Johnnie R	Elliot S	Noah I	Oakley P
Isabelle M	Sara W	Oliver C	Alexander P	Lily O-J	Harry D	Harris F	Jonah C
Ashton S	Oliver C	Amelia A	Eleanor B	Miranda M	Samuel H	Tamzin T	Rosario S
Ibrahim S	Marcus C	Aayan K	Charlie R	Connor H	Selena S	Mia F-B	Emelia M-B
Sherine C	Louis W	Evie W	James M	Wolf S	Isla K	Rebecca D	Owen F
Maalang B-H	Maisie H-B	Layla B	Daisy S	Georgia M	Brianne W-K	Nihal S	Blake D
Hamish S	Joshua R	Freddie W	Hazel H T C	Humaira R	Scarlett H-H	Riley B	Annabelle P
		Max S	Evellin H	Lauren C	Briana M		

Year 9 - Silver

Jessica H	Carter K	Bethany M	Tom H
Harry O	Oscar C	Brody K	William H

Achievement Awards (part 4)

By Mr Addis

In year 10, to achieve a bronze award, pupils need to gain 150 achievement points, 250 for silver and 350 for gold. Well done to the following pupils who have achieved a bronze and silver award in the spring term.

Year 10 - Bronze

Oscar W	William B	William P	Matthe w C	Menaal K	Ethan G	Ellie D	Eunice C
Isaac S	Jerome B	Charlie H	Shun Y	Benjamin W	Isabel D	Bobby P	Chislon S
Caleb V	Louis T	Spencer T	Jaime C	Aidan L	Finley H	Alfie R	Philip J
Thomas W	Karen C	Moham med E	Jaiden B	Euan F	Charlotte S	Angus T	Matilda W
Jake E	Bethany W	Illia M	Arthur S	Alice C	Matthew H	Loui M	Isabelle P
		Oliver R	Tamara G	Estyn B-G			

Year 10 - Silver

Peter A	Oliver M	Philip M	Mitchell J
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Finally, in Year 11 to achieve a bronze award pupils need to gain 100 achievement points, 150 for silver and 200 for gold. Well done to the following pupils achieved a bronze and silver award in the spring term.

Year 11 - Bronze

Morgan B	Massiray B-H	Daniel L	Miles M	Bhadra S	Isabelle J	Poppy W
Spencer S	Whitney C	Tash H	Millie G	Thomas C	Tyler H-H	Bayleigh H
		Liam F	Nova J	Albert R-M		

Achievement Awards (part 4)

By Mr Addis

Year 11 - Silver

Amelia E	William B	Liam G	Zak G
Jack O	Ojas P	Ashton C	Lucas P
Jensen C	Toby J	Luca B	

We also have a special Head of Year Award for the one pupil in each year group who has really gone above and beyond and consistently shown the commitment to our school values of Be Kind, Work Hard and Aspire. The following students won this award in the Spring Term:



Finally, we have also started a tutor group competition that will include all achievement points and competitions such as sports day and present the Tutor Group Cup at the end of the school year. The 'Spring Champions', the tutor group currently winning in each year group were.



I look forward to updating you with the students who have achieved their first or further awards and an update on how the Tutor Group Cup is going after the next rewards assemblies.

Parent Survey

To help us make sure we're providing the best standard of education for your children, we'd like to know how you feel about our school, with a particular focus on personal development.

This will help us to reflect on what we're doing well and where we could do better as well as help decide which areas to prioritise when developing our school improvement plan.

The link to the survey is here [Parent View Spring 2026 – Fill in form](#) and will remain open until 12th April.

Your feedback is very important to us, thank you for sharing your thoughts.

Digital Discovery: Inside Computer Science

By Mrs Rowe



Bebras: The Raspberry Pi Foundation Coding Challenge

Students have been taking part in The Raspberry Pi Coding challenge this month. 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. There will be two types of challenges available for students to enter, Block-based programming and text-based programming, both of which include two levels of difficulty.

All the students who took part, worked really hard and the results will be shared in the next newsletter.

Nottingham University - Step Into Cyber By Bilial M (Year 12)



On the 24th of February, I attended the Step Into Cyber event at Nottingham University with my classmate Kenji. The event introduced us to several areas of cybersecurity and demonstrated how professionals work to protect systems and data from attacks. I found the talks particularly interesting because they explained real-world security problems and how they are investigated and solved. It was engaging to see how technical knowledge can be applied to defend organisations from cyber threats. The experience gave me a clearer understanding of how broad and important the cybersecurity field is.

Attending the event has made me seriously consider a future in cybersecurity. Listening to the speakers helped me realise that the field involves problem solving, logical thinking, and continuous learning, which are all aspects I enjoy. The practical examples of security challenges showed how cybersecurity professionals analyse systems and identify vulnerabilities. This made the career path feel both challenging and rewarding. Overall, the event encouraged me to explore cybersecurity further and consider it a potential direction for my future studies and career.

Digital Discovery: Inside Computer Science (part 2)

By Mrs Rowe

Astro Pi Mission Space Lab

Bilal and Kenji in Year 12 have successfully submitted a project for the Astro Pi Mission Space Lab, an exciting ESA Education project delivered in partnership with the Raspberry Pi Foundation. This international challenge invites young people to run their own scientific experiments on the International Space Station (ISS) using the Astro Pi computers.



Mission Space Lab challenged our students to design and code a scientific investigation that could help calculate the speed of the ISS as accurately as possible.

To achieve this, participants:

- Created their own Python program.
- Collected real data from the Astro Pi computer's onboard sensors and camera, including orientation and motion data.
- Used this information to calculate the ISS's speed in kilometres per second (km/s).

"I took part in the Mission Space Lab competition, where I worked on a small program designed to analyse satellite data. My task was to write code that captured images and used the GPS metadata stored within those images to calculate the speed of the satellite as it orbited Earth.

Although the program itself was relatively small, it was exciting to apply programming to a real space-related problem. Working with real data and using it to derive meaningful information made the project feel far more practical and engaging than a typical classroom exercise.

The experience showed me how coding can be used in scientific and space research, which made the competition both interesting and rewarding to participate in."

Programs that pass all testing stages receive 'flight status' and are deployed on board the ISS. If our team is successful, they will receive an official certificate showing the exact coordinates where their code ran in space, and a unique set of data and images captured by their program while orbiting Earth.

Programs will be deployed between April and May 2026.

Reading Updates

By Miss Mitchell

World Book Day 2026

On Thursday 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day – one of our favourite celebrations of the year!

World Book Day encourages every young person to enjoy the life-changing benefits of reading for fun, and we sure did have a lot of fun!

Students arrived in wonderful costumes, dressed as their favourite book characters, bringing many beloved stories to life around the school. From classic heroes to magical figures, the creativity on display was amazing. Teachers joined in the fun too, dressing up and sharing their love of reading with everyone. Students found it quite amusing when Miss Chantrey shouted 'Bah Humbug!' at them as she walked across the school site dressed as Scrooge, and Miss George had a hilarious time teaching dressed as a giant cockroach!

A World Book Day costume scavenger hunt ran throughout the day, where students had the challenge of matching up which teachers were dressed as which book characters!

Well done to all who took part. Ten winners were randomly selected to win a prize! Congratulations to our winners Jessica W, Evie M, Brooke O, Heidi C, Georgiana D, Zoe K, Charlotte M, Dorothy G, Verity T and Millie MB!

At lunchtime, students also took part in an exciting World Book Day themed quiz, testing their knowledge of famous books and characters. The quiz was designed, organised and hosted by Liam G, and on the day Kyle N, Michael W, Ben P and Jaime C helped facilitate and run the quiz. Thank you very much to those involved in a brilliant and fun quiz! Congratulations to the quiz winners, who named their team 'The Special Force'. The team members included; Dillon S, Elijah M, Noah H and Connor H. The boys won a certificate and a brand new book of their choice.

Our celebration of World Book Day was a wonderful success. The fantastic costumes, the enthusiasm shown by both students and teachers, and the fun lunchtime quiz all helped make the day memorable. Most importantly, it reminded everyone of the joy of reading and the power of stories to inspire imagination. We hope the excitement from the day encourages students to continue exploring new books and sharing their love of reading throughout the year. We cannot wait to do it all again in 2027!



Reading Updates (part 2)

By Miss Mitchell

The Carnegies 2026

It's that time of year again when the Yoto Carnegie Awards begin! The Carnegie medals is a national celebration of young adult literature and authors. Each year, 8 titles are shortlisted to be in with a chance of winning the prestigious Carnegie Medal Award.

Each year, our South Wolds Carnegie Book Club forms. Meeting weekly, the group discusses the books they have read on the shortlist (books provided by the school library). It really is a great opportunity to meet new people, and to share the love of reading. There is something remarkable about sharing the joys and griefs of a character's journey together and to discuss the meaningful topics which the books explore. This year's theme is 'Identity, Belonging and Home' – everything that we embody and promote here at South Wolds school!

If you are interested in joining the Carnegie Book Club this year, please come and see Miss Mitchell in the library to discuss further and sign up.



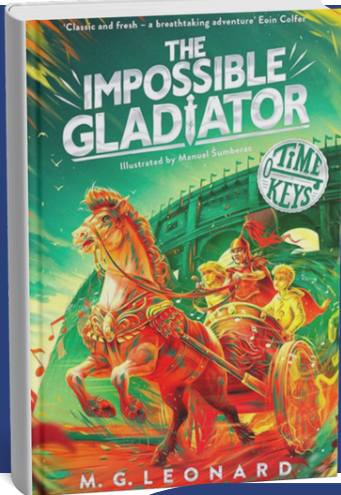
Starbooks Reading Rewards

The Starbooks Reading Rewards scheme still continues in the library. For every book you finish you can bring your signed Starbooks Bookmark to the library to claim your prize!

We have lots of ducks, fun erasers and funky pencils on offer! Starbooks Bookmarks are available to pick up from the library desk, so pop down to the library today to pick up your bookmark and get involved!

Reading Updates (part 3)

By Miss Mitchell



The Impossible Gladiator by M. G. Leonard

The third thrilling instalment in Leonard's Time Keys series sees Sim, Jeopardy and Nelson transported back to Ancient Rome to rescue a gladiator who seems an awful lot like a modern-day illusionist. The action adventure of Gladiator meets the time travel of Doctor Who in the third title of this epic series by bestselling award-winner M. G. Leonard.

Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell

A tale of fanfiction, family and first love. Cath and Wren are identical twins and until recently they did absolutely everything together. Now they're off to university and Wren's decided she doesn't want to be one half of a pair anymore. It's not so easy for Cath. She would rather bury herself in the fanfiction she writes. Now Cath has to decide whether she's happy to open her heart to new people and experiences, and she's realising that there's more to learn about love than she ever thought possible...

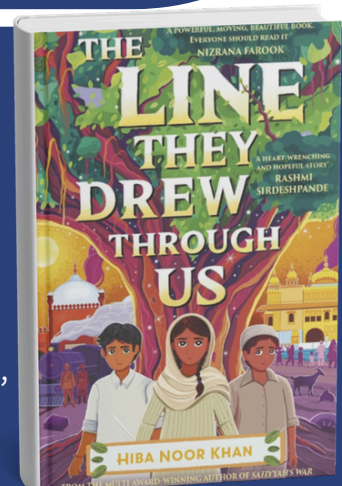


After by Padraig Kenny

A thrilling sci-fi adventure! Life is different in the after. With few people and no technology, Earth is a green but empty planet. Everyone is out to survive, and Jen and Father are a world of two. When they come across a community, Jen is tempted by a different life. But while she could stay, Father cannot, he's no ordinary man, but a human-appearing AI – and a secret that must be kept...

The Line They Drew Through Us – Hiba Noor Khan

A heart-wrenching and hopeful story from the author of Safiyyah's War. Three best friends are born on the same day under miraculous circumstances. But by their twelfth birthday, Jahan, Ravi and Lakshmi's lives are about to change forever. The British announce Indian independence and draw lines of Partition that tear apart the country, and the friends. One of them flees, one of them disappears, and the other is left wondering, could another miracle bring them back together?



A Shakespearean Weather Tale

By Mrs Harper-Williams

In our Year 7 English lessons, students have been asked to write a weather report in Shakespearean style. Here are a selection of those pieces we'd like to share with you.

'Thou wilt not believe thine eyes: the sun doth visit us today, here, in Keyworth! The sun doth rise as the seventh hour of the day. Forsooth, there shall be showers little, so hark to the gentle breeze cooling down thy shoulders. The present day shalt wend up to fifteen degrees Celsius. The travelling lamp shall setteth at six in the evening. Alloweth us thanketh god for this most wondrous weather!'

Henry J

'Good morrow, the day shall dawn a tempest! Lightning and thunder the like of which one cannot dream even in one's worst nightmares will strike from the east. The day's coldest breath may only climb unto five degrees Celsius. The winds this day shall bluster and scream through the lands; thus do we warn thee to remain within thy dwelling, yet if thou be'st bold and venture beyond thine safety, forget not thine trust umbrella! May thine luck hold true, dear voyagers, for seas of England shalt be turbulent and treacherous. Alas, fear not, for on the morrow, the skies will halt their cruel torment and be blue once more!'

Abigail H

'Greetings all can I interest thee
In a day at home with a cup of tea?
As a tempest is brewing at sea
So thou shouldst not travel
If thou shouldst ask me!
Heavy downpour should occur
So makest sure to be laden in thine
thickest fur.

In the hours of three and four
Or else be soaked to the bone.
Although the weather may seem
dreary,
There is no need to query
As the storm wilt pass in a matter of
days
And we wilt enter a sunny phase.
In no times at all to our delight
We will start to have a warmer day
and night'

Harriet M

'Hark! The sun hides behind the grey and gloomy clouds. A great storm comes, so thou shouldest wear a thick cloak. The wind blows loud and the thunder speaks to the hills. Rain falls upon the earth as if the heavens weep for us. Fear not, for the golden sun shall soon return to thee'

Sonny C



Spring Term 2 High Flyers

Liam G, Michael W, Poppy W, Millie G, & Toby J (Year 11) Chemistry

For working incredibly hard to achieve a Grade 9 on their Chemistry Mock - well done! [Ms Metters](#)

Naomi A (Year 8) French

Always aspiring and doing her best in French lessons! [Miss George](#)

Blake Downs (Year 9) English

Blake has produced some lovely pieces of dystopian creative writing in English. [Mrs Arnold](#)

Rebecca P (Year 8) Maths

Excellent results in her recent exams and consistently brilliant work - well done! [Miss Turnbull](#)

Wayne Y (Year 13) Mechanics

For achieving 100% in his mechanics mock exam - wow! [Miss Williams and Miss Gale](#)

Joe G, Dillon S & Laurel B (Year 7) French

Outstanding effort in French in classroom work - putting 100% into every activity! [Miss Crawford](#)

Rosie R, Millie R, Chloe C, Freddie W & Ruari H (Year 8) English

Fantastic independent reading progress! [Mrs Hudson](#)

Alshanta H, Thea F & Eva M (Year 9) Maths

Great work in maths - well done! [Miss Turnbull](#)

Anders C, Florence C, Lachlan T, Imogen L & Riley B (Year 7) French

For great contributions in French lessons! [Mrs Pabari](#)

Emilia S, Aimee P, Harriet M & Fred S (Year 7) Maths

Fantastic work in Maths - well done! [Mrs Barr-Smith](#)

Isla C (Year 11) Chemistry

Most improved pupil in 11S1 for Chemistry! [Ms Sutton](#)

Evie D (Year 8) French

Outstanding effort in French in the classroom and for homework. [Miss George](#)

Oliver M (Year 10) Maths

Excellent contribution in Maths lessons and always giving 100% effort - well done! [Mrs Sprake](#)

Ellie C (Year 10) French

Always aspiring and doing her best in French lessons! [Miss George and Miss Smith](#)

Lucas Q & Toska K (Year 7) Maths

Great work in maths - well done! [Miss Turnbull & Mrs Barr-Smith](#)



Sophie A, Ell J & Jess G (Year 11) Maths

Fantastic work in Maths! Mrs Barr-Smith

Bhadra S (Year 11) French

For SMASHING her French speaking mock. Bravo! Miss George

Ben S (Year 8) Maths

For always making wonderful contributions in lessons and working hard in maths! Mrs Sprake

Corey B (Year 10) Spanish

For consistent hard work in Spanish leading to an excellent score in his Mock! Mr Reeves

Daniel F (Year 10) Maths

Great work in Maths - well done! Miss Turnbull

Charlie H (Year 10) Maths

Charlie is always giving 100% effort every lesson and has shown her excellent maths skills this year - well done, Charlie! Mrs Sprake

Isaac T (Year 7) Spanish

Amazing contributions in Spanish - well done! Miss Dixon

Corey B (Year 10) Maths

Corey works away quietly every lesson always giving his best work. I am proud of the work you have achieved so far this year. Mrs Sprake

George S (Year 7) Maths

For helping his friend learn how to simplify fractions. You did a great job and it was really kind of you - thank you, George! Miss Gale

Sienna S (Year 10) Spanish

Great effort on your Spanish mick - well done! Miss Dixon

Clara S (Year 7) Maths

You always try your best and work really hard whenever I teach you - really well done, and keep it up! Miss Gale



Exploring London's Urban Landscape

By Mrs Chambers

Our Year 11 Geography students had a great time visiting Stratford in London for their GCSE urban field trip. During the trip, students collected a range of primary data, including environmental quality surveys, pedestrian counts, and interviews with members of the public. Their aim was to investigate whether the regeneration of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has been a success.



The group showed great enthusiasm throughout the day and gained a valuable first-hand understanding of the area. This real-world experience will be extremely beneficial as they prepare for questions in their final GCSE exams.

We all had a great day in the sunshine and the students showed real maturity and politeness when interviewing the public and their behaviour was a credit to the school.

Overall, it was a highly successful and rewarding trip for everyone involved.

Global Explorers

By Miss George

We have been once again this half term in Global Explorers Club. We celebrated Chinese New Year by trying some traditional Chinese sweets and learning our zodiac signs and the zodiac sign for 2026 (The Year of the Horse). Mr Wall also kindly taught us some Tai Chi which is a traditional martial art of China. In the last two weeks, we have celebrated St Patricks Day by learning some Irish dancing and some Irish greetings.

These photos are taken from volcano-making back in December, when we made our own Vesuvius!

Global Explorers Club is open to Year 8 students on Mondays after school in L5. Please come along and join us.



PE Updates

By Mr Partridge

athletics



On Thursday 12th February, our Year 8 team of 10 took part in the Sportshall Athletics event at The West Bridgford School. The team showed fantastic effort and a positive attitude throughout the competition, representing South Wolds Academy brilliantly in every event!

On Thursday 26th February, in cold, wet and windy conditions at Mellish Rugby Club, the Year 7 rugby team took part in the county finals after qualifying as one of the top two sides in South Notts.

The semi-final was against the top team from North Notts, Quarrydale Academy from Sutton-in-Ashfield. By half time, South Wolds were 2-0 down. A huge team effort in the second half, with some heroic defence and determined attacking play, saw tries scored by Freddie (2 tries) and Teddy. South Wolds came back to win the match 3-2 and progress to the cup final.

In the final, South Wolds faced Chilwell School, who had also qualified as the top team in South Notts and had just beaten The Minster School in their semi-final. The game was a hard-fought contest in worsening weather conditions, with both teams defending extremely well and putting in some excellent tackles. Chilwell broke the deadlock with the first try, but South Wolds responded with a try from Freddie. Chilwell then scored again before South Wolds fought back to level the score once more.

With heroic defending on their own try line in the dying minutes, the final whistle blew with the score level. With the referee unsure of the procedure in the event of a tie, including how long extra time should be played, the captains and players from both South Wolds and Chilwell agreed that the County Champion honour should be shared. Both teams truly embodied rugby's core values of teamwork, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship.

This is a fantastic achievement for the team and they have done South Wolds proud. The future certainly looks very bright for this group of players!

rugby



PE Updates

By Mr Partridge

On 12th March, the Year 8 rugby team competed in the County Finals at Mellish Rugby Club on another windy day! Having qualified as the top team in South Nottinghamshire, reaching this stage was a fantastic achievement, with Teddy, Noah and Lucas (all Year 7) appearing in their second County Final for South Wolds.



In the semi-final against a strong Outwood Academy, South Wolds faced powerful opposition and went into half time four tries down.

Despite this, the team showed great resilience, with the forwards pressing in the scrum despite being the lighter pack. In difficult conditions, Jacob scored an excellent try out wide, though the match finished 7-1 to Outwood.

South Wolds then faced Alderman White in the Plate Final. After falling 2-0 behind, despite some heroic defence, the team responded well, with Jacob scoring twice thanks to his pace and footwork, and Aleks adding another following sustained pressure. There were also moments of excellent attacking play, including a cross-field kick from Reuben that nearly resulted in a try. Despite a strong comeback, the match finished 4-3 to Alderman White.

On 25th February, the Year 10 rugby team travelled to Newark Rugby Club to compete in a round-robin tournament against Newark Academy and Belvoir Academy. South Wolds produced some fantastic rugby throughout, impressing in both attacking and defence.

Our Year 9 rugby team travelled to Newark Rugby Club to face Belvoir Academy and Newark Academy on 4th March. South Wolds secured a win against Newark Academy but were narrowly defeated by Belvoir Academy.

South Wolds secured two excellent victories, beating Newark Academy 8-1 and Belvoir Academy 4-1. Tries on the day were scored by Archie (3), Freddie (2), Harry (2), Finley, George, Louis, Riley and Will.

The matches were played in great spirit, with several South Wolds players showing excellent sportsmanship by offering to play for Newark Academy, who were short of players, allowing both teams to field full sides. Tries on the day were scored by Harry, Noah, Sam, Riley and Jensen.



PE Updates

By Mr Partridge

On 4th February, our Year 9 girls football team travelled to West Bridgford School for their County Cup quarter-finals fixture. South Wolds made an excellent start, taking a 3-0 lead into half time.



In the second half, West Bridgford responded well, but South Wolds continued to show their determination and quality and secured a 4-3 victory in a closely contested match. Both teams demonstrated great skill and resilience throughout. Goals were scored by Eva (2), Molly and Imogen. The team now progresses on to the semi finals!

The same team also travelled to Fernwood School on 9th March, for their second round fixture in the South Notts Cup. A controlled and confident performance saw the team maintain their lead throughout scoring six well worked goals! Goals on the day came from Cienna (2), Eva, Molly, Jess and Darcey. The team is now through to the quarter finals where they will face Redhill Academy.

Our Year 8 girls team had a fantastic and competitive contest against George Spencer Academy in round 2 of the South Notts Cup. South Wolds led 3-2 at half time following an excellent first half, including an outstanding goal from Elizabeth which was scored from the halfway line! George Spencer responded strongly in the second half and, despite two further goals from South Wolds, they went on to secure a 8-5 victory. This means an exit from the competition for us, but the team can be very proud of their performances in both rounds! Goals were scored by Darcey (3), Elizabeth and Year 7 player, Emily.

Following weeks of showing commitment and effort in training, our Year 7 girls team had a fantastic first fixture against George Spencer Academy in the South Notts Cup. The team played with great spirit and respect, demonstrating excellent skills and teamwork throughout. South Wolds led 3-0 at half time.

In the second half, George Spencer pulled two goals back, but South Wolds responded with a further goal from Megan to secure a 4-2 victory! There were also excellent contributions from both goalkeepers, Elise and Emily E, who volunteered to step in despite usually playing outfield. Goals were scored by Emily T (2), Lily and Megan. The team now progress to the quarter finals, where they will also face Rushcliffe School.



Macbeth Performance

By Miss Wightman



Yes, This is a Dagger! On 6th March, the Nottingham Shakespeare Company performed Macbeth to our Year 11 students. The performance was engaging and exciting. Students were asked beforehand what they expected from the performance and then again at the end - their answers ranged from “Funny and interesting” to “It helped me to understand the play better”.

There were some great fight scenes, a (pretend) severed head in a bag and some soul searching soliloquies. The question and answer session at the end was also very informative. Especially regarding the interpretation of the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.

All in all a fantastic opportunity, which was incredibly well received!

Willkommen to Berlin!

By Mr Addis



Just before the half term in February, 35 Year 11 students and 4 staff went to Berlin in Germany. The focus of this trip was the History GCSE topics of Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939 and Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991. We left Keyworth in the early hours of Tuesday to travel to Heathrow to fly to Berlin before catching a train to our accommodation.

Over the next few days, we visited a range of sites and museums connected to the two courses such as the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp at Oranienburg, The 1936 Olympic stadium, Checkpoint Charlie and the Jewish Memorial. We also visited the German Bundestag (parliament building) and went up the Berlin TV tower. In between our visits we also found time to go and eat some classic German food, such as Currywurst and pretzels and do some shopping around Berlin city centre.

The students were fantastic throughout the trip, and I would like to give a big thank you to them for how they approached the trip and to Mrs Shirra, Mrs Smith and Ms Morris for their hard work while we are away. I will be looking to launch this trip for 2027 to current Year 10 in the coming weeks so watch this space!

Geography STEM Day

By Mrs Chambers

Students from Years 9 and 10 have spent a really enjoyable day with an outside provider from the National Grid looking at renewable energy. They worked in teams to design and build a working wind turbine as well as a solar powered house. The day began with understanding the workings of a generator and went on to students designing and building a wind turbine of their very own. Once they had designed and costed their turbine, pupils began the construction using wood, cardboard and dowels. Cutting materials to size and using glue guns their models began to take shape before measuring how much voltage their wind turbines produced. All teams were a real success.

The next step was to use marketing to design a product name and logo. They produced a company poster which highlighted their team's product features and benefits which they pitched to the rest of the room with a short but fabulous presentation.

All teams worked brilliantly to produce some really exceptional products and presentations and had a great time doing it. They learnt vital employability skills too, including teamwork, problem solving, organisation, resilience, motivation and working to a timeframe. A really successful day which the students will remember for a very long time. Well done all!!



Easter Baking

By Miss Parker

As the Easter holidays arrive, there's something comforting about filling your home with the warm scent of freshly baked treats. Whether you're carrying on family traditions or starting new ones, baking at Easter is more than just making desserts, it's about slowing down, sharing moments, and creating memories.

Baking can also be a wonderful activity to share with loved ones. Invite children to help mix, roll, and decorate—it might get a little messy, but that's part of the fun. These simple moments often become the most treasured.

If you're short on time, don't worry. Even quick recipes like no-bake chocolate nests or simple traybakes can bring that festive touch to your table without the stress.

Happy baking, and happy Easter!

Easter traybake

150ml sunflower oil plus extra for the tin

165g golden caster sugar

2 eggs

150ml milk

165g self-raising flour

3 tbsp cocoa powder

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

For the chocolate fudge icing

100g milk or dark chocolate chopped (either a chocolate bar or Easter egg, broken up)

100g butter softened

100g icing sugar

100g Easter treats (chocolate eggs, sweets, chocolate bar pieces)

Step 1: Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Oil and line a traybake tin, about 20 x 30cm, and 5cm deep. Put the oil, sugar, eggs and milk in a bowl and whisk until well combined. Sieve over the flour, cocoa and bicarb, and stir briefly until combined. Pour the mixture into the tin, and bake for 20-25 mins until the cake is well risen and springs back when pressed. Transfer to a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

Step 2: Melt the chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, ensuring the bowl doesn't touch the water, or in short blasts in the microwave until melted. Leave to cool for a few minutes.

Step 3: Beat the butter and icing sugar together until pale and fluffy, then drizzle in the chocolate and beat again until smooth and uniform in colour. Swirl the icing over the top of the cake, with a few peaks and swirls to decorate. Scatter with the Easter treats to serve.

Chocolate Easter egg nest cakes

225g/8oz dark chocolate or a mix of dark and milk chocolate, broken into small pieces (see Recipe Tip)

2 tbsp golden syrup

50g/2oz butter

75g/2¾oz cornflakes or puffed rice cereal

36 mini chocolate eggs

Step 1: Line a 12-hole fairy cake tin with paper cases.

Step 2: Melt the chocolate, golden syrup and butter in a bowl set over a saucepan of gently simmering water (do not let the base of the bowl touch the water). Stir the mixture occasionally until smooth.

Step 3: Remove the bowl from the heat and gently stir in the cornflakes until all of the cereal is coated in the chocolate.

Step 4: Divide the mixture between the paper cases and press 3 chocolate eggs into the centre of each nest. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour, or until completely set.





**COTGRAVE
COMMUNITY
KITCHEN**

Food Hampers

Available
For Collection
From,
Cotgrave Community
Kitchen, Candleby Lane
Cotgrave.
NG123JG

Wednesday 8th April
Thursday 9th April
Saturday 11th April

please contact us for more details and to reserve your food
hamper

JILL. 07779702035

At cotgrave Community kitchen we are committed to
promoting sustainability, reducing food waste and
supporting our community in any way we can.

We're here to help, if a food hamper would
support your family during the spring break
please let us know -

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

Cotgrave Community Kitchen
Facebook: Cotgrave Community Kitchen

Edwalton Food Hub
Facebook: Edwalton Food Hub CIC

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

