



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



KEY DATES

Stars of STEM!

By Mrs Rowe



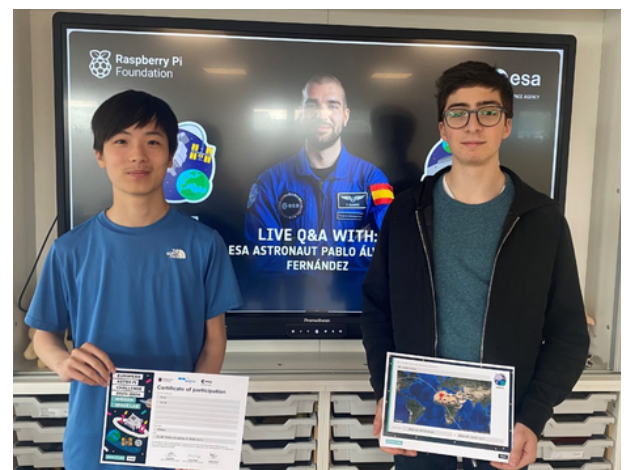
Congratulations to Bilal and Kenji in Year 12, who have successfully completed the Astro Pi Mission Space Lab, an inspiring European Space Agency (ESA) Education project delivered in partnership with the Raspberry Pi Foundation.

The international challenge gives students the unique opportunity to write computer programs that are run on Astro Pi computers aboard the

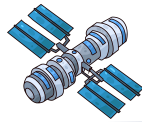
International Space Station (ISS). As part of the project, students design and code their own scientific investigations, allowing astronauts and the Astro Pi computers to collect real data from orbit.

In recognition of their achievement, Bilal and Kenji have been awarded official certificates celebrating the successful execution of their experiment in space.

- 1st Sept - INSET Day
- 2nd Sept - Years 7 & 12 timetable begins
- 2nd Sept - Years 8 to 11 Student Review Day
- 2nd to 4th Sept - Year 13 Geography Trip
- 3rd Sept - Timetables begin for whole of the school
- 9th & 10th Sept - Year 11 Geography Trip
- 17th Sept - Year 5/6 Open Evening
- 24th Sept - Year 11 Parents Information Evening
- 8th Oct - Post 16 Open Evening
- 13th & 14th Oct - Drama Club "Alice in Wonderland" performances
- 15th Oct - Years 7 & 12 Parents Evening (on site)
- 16th October - Last day of Autumn Term 1



Stars of STEM! (Continued)



By Mrs Rowe

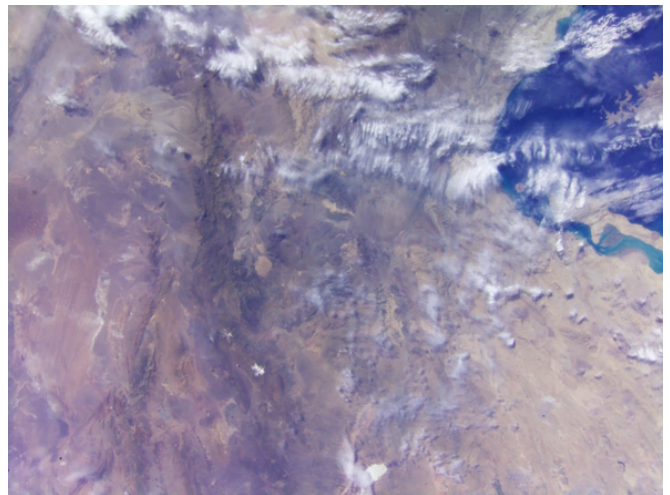
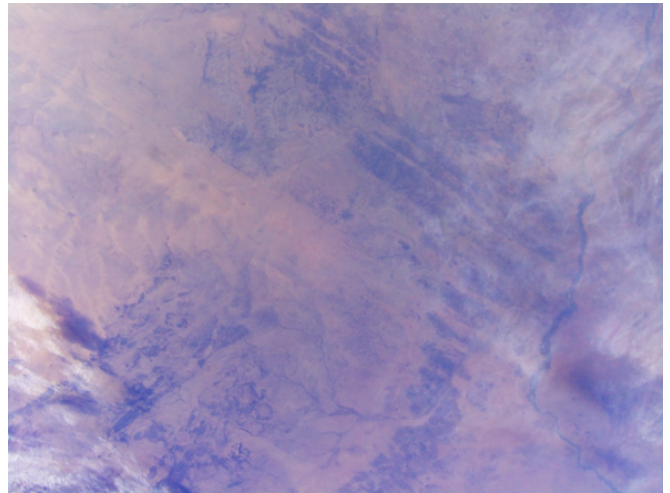
One of the most exciting aspects of the project is receiving images captured by the Astro Pi while their program was running on the ISS. These remarkable photographs provide a unique view of Earth from space and serve as a lasting reminder that their work became part of a real mission aboard the International Space Station.

This outstanding achievement highlights the students' creativity, programming skills and enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). We are incredibly proud of Bilal and Kenji for representing the school on an international stage and demonstrating that the journey from the classroom to space is closer than many imagine.

Congratulations to both students on this exceptional accomplishment!

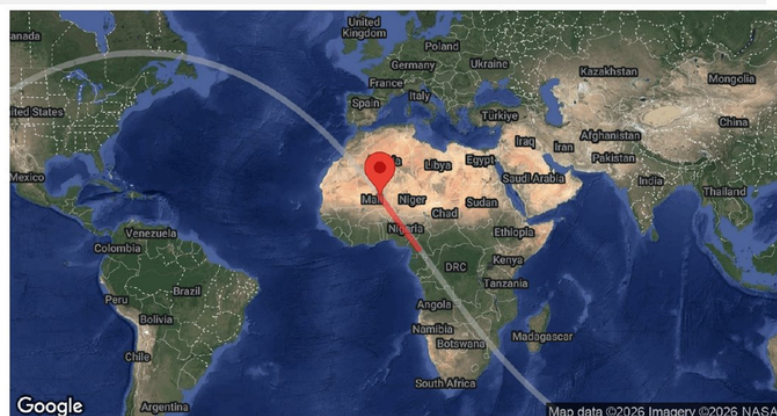
Click on the link below or scan the QR code to see the recorded live video from ESA Astronaut Pablo Alvarez Fernandez for a special Q&A with students from the Astro Pi Mission Space Lab and Moon Camp challenges:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/sL1ZykJrS0Q?si=4xiOBJLK8tvalZJK>



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South Notts Football Champions!

By Mr Partridge

South Notts Cup Semi-final: South Wolds 3 (4) – 3 (3) The National Academy

The Year 9 girls faced The National Academy in a thrilling South Notts Cup semi-final. It was a closely contested match throughout, with South Wolds showing great determination and quality. Molly scored twice, while Imogen added the third goal to leave the scores level at 3–3 after full time. The tie was decided by a penalty shootout, where the South Wolds players held their nerve brilliantly to secure a 4–3 victory and book their place in the South Notts Cup Final.

South Notts Cup Final – CHAMPIONS 2025–26: South Wolds 4 – 3 The Minster School



The South Notts Cup Final saw South Wolds face The Minster School in a repeat of the County Cup semi-final. Having narrowly lost that encounter, the team arrived determined to produce a different outcome.

Played on a hot, sunny afternoon at the neutral venue of West Bridgford Colts FC, both teams made a bright start, creating chances and defending resolutely in what proved to be a fantastic final. South Wolds started strong, with Molly and Imogen controlling the midfield through their composure, work rate and creativity. Their quality in possession helped create opportunities for Cienna, who used her strength and movement as striker to cause problems for The Minster's defence and come close on several occasions.

Eva and Isobel also provided a constant attacking threat with their pace and movement. Eva then opened the scoring with a composed finish after breaking clear down the left wing. Her pace and attacking movement caused problems throughout the match, and she soon doubled the lead with another excellent finish following a brilliant run and assist from Molly to make it 2–0, adding to Eva's impressive run of goals in this tournament.

The Minster responded through their talented winger, who had been well marshalled throughout by Eviee, to make it 2–1 at half time. Eviee, alongside Millie and Rose, produced an excellent defensive display, while Jess was outstanding in goal, making several important saves to keep South Wolds in the game.

South Notts Football Champions! (Continued)

By Mr Partridge

The Minster equalised early in the second half, but South Wolds continued to create chances. Darcey added pace and energy on the wing, helping to stretch The Minster's defence and create further attacking opportunities. Imogen continued to influence the game at both ends of the pitch, combining excellent defensive work with an attacking threat through her shots on goal and dangerous long throw-ins. Her efforts were rewarded with the goal of the match, a superb long-range strike into the top corner to restore the lead at 3-2.

The Minster fought back once again to make it 3-3 with just over five minutes remaining, and extra time looked inevitable. However, South Wolds continued to apply pressure in the closing stages. A powerful effort from Molly was well saved, but the goalkeeper could only push the ball into the path of Isobel, who reacted quickest to confidently score the winning goal!

A fantastic team performance secured a memorable 4-3 victory and crowned South Wolds the Year 9 South Notts Cup Champions 2025-26!



Final squad: Eva, Molly, Imogen, Eviee, Cienna, Millie, Isobel, Jess, Rose and Darcey. **Also representing the team in earlier rounds:** Bettsy, Sophie and Elizabeth.

Great British Summer Savings - A message from the DfE

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

Please visit this website for more information: https://summersavings.gov.uk/?es_c=99197AD7EDD82855EE7E7A7666D075A8&es_cl=FF53D07EC71B91ED81CC714825932C9C&es_id=ph7%c2%a322

The Big Future



The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, wants to make sure young people's voices are heard by the people who make decisions about their lives. She has launched The Big Future survey to hear what you think. What could the government do to make your future better?

Make sure your voice is heard by taking part in #TheBigFuture survey and telling the Children's Commissioner what it's like growing up in England and the changes you think need to happen.

A video to explain "The Big Future" has been made for you: <https://youtu.be/LxzqIU8l5Es>

Take part now: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture



Diversity Week Success

By Ms Drewett

During the week commencing 22nd June, we proudly celebrated Diversity Week, with a range of activities and events that encouraged everyone to learn about, appreciate, and celebrate the many cultures, backgrounds, and diversities that make our school community so special.

One of the highlights of the week was our Bake Sale that took place over two days. Thanks to the generous donations of delicious homemade treats and the fantastic support from pupils, staff, and families, we raised an amazing £102!

A huge thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and helped make the event such a success. Your support helped make Diversity Week a memorable celebration of inclusion, kindness, and community.



Eco Club Adventures

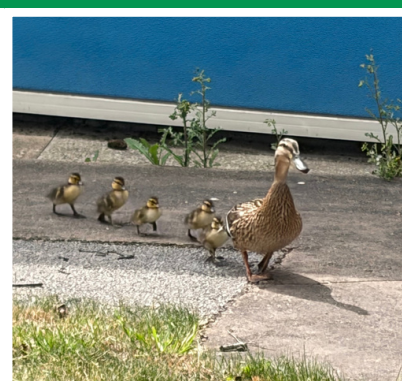
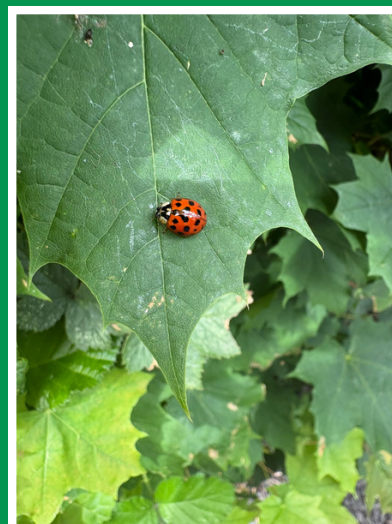
By Mrs Chambers

This term in Eco Club we have looked at challenging common animal phobias by making posters about common animal's people find scary, such as spiders, snakes and vampire deer. We have myth busted common perceptions towards them and looked at why these creatures are often mis-understood.

We have also got involved in the 30 Days Wild that is run every year by The Wildlife Trusts. It involved us planning 30 activities to do over each June day. They related to nature and encouraged us all to get out in the outdoors to explore the world around us.

Activities we chose ranged from making an insect house to litter picking, hugging a tree to going on a bare foot walk and from making a wildflower seed bomb to rock painting. It was a lot of fun and we all got involved. Our favourite things we did was laying on the grass and watching clouds, writing poems about nature and drawing/photographing flowers up close. We even used the Merlin bird app to identify birds we heard when we were out for a walk.

As the term comes to an end, we look forward to spending the summer continuing to be amongst nature and to help the plants and animals around us. We really notice the positive impact it has on our physical and emotional wellbeing.



<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/>



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

Kian B	Abbey B	Ben B	Dylan B	Chloe C	Thomas H
Chloe H	Daisie-Mae H	Jamila J	Amelia M-B	Etta M	Amelia P

Year 7 - Silver

Alfred A	Lily Grace A	Louie A-H	Dawud A	Elizabeth A	Jonty B	Summer B	Riley B
Jay B	Florence B	Henry B	Joseph C	Heidi C	Sonny C	Willow D	Alannah D
Lucio E-L	Joshua F	Dorothy G	Brooklynn G-C	Katelynn H	Faris H	Teddy H	Tilly H
Ella H	Abigail H	Henry J	Amani K	Jasmin K	Zoe K	Fergus L	Skye L
Noah M	Nathan M	Dimitri M	Alec M	Felix M	Daisee N	Alfie N	Toby P
Megan R	Hannah S	Aadhya S	Maisie S	Emilia S	Mia T	Marcus S	Elise T
	Henry B	Georgiana D	Daisie H	Ella-Mai M	Lucas Q	Toby T-A	Samuel T

Achievement Awards (part 2)

By Mr Addis

Year 7 - Gold

Frank C	Anders C	Lewis C
Allegra K	Harriet M	Clara S
Isaac T	Verity T	Lachlan T

Year 8 - Bronze

Riley D	Dylan F	Rosie K	Eden M	Ronnie W
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Year 8 - Silver

Samuel A	Darcey B	Bailie B	Bella B	Joy C-A	Sherlock C	Alfred C	Sophie C
Elizabeth D	Eliana D	Torin D	Cameron G-C	Rosie G	George G	Isabelle H	Kian H
Ruari H	Joseph H-S	Jessica L	Mara L	Niamh M	Ted M	Jacob M	Finley M
Hugo O	Luke P	Rebecca P	Harry P	Caleb P	Richard R	Edie R	Rosie R
Issy R	Mariam S	Rex S	Charlotte S	Harvey S	Abel S	Sunnie T	Ben T
	Natalia T	Aiden T	Imogen T	Freddie W	Lewis W		

Year 8 - Gold

Ivy B	Sophie B	Annie H	William S
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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

Naomi A	Isla A	Libby B	Milo B	Thomas B	Amiyah B-D	Vincy C	Daniel C
Grace E	Eviee F	Sebastian G	Ada H	Meagan M	Stephanie S	Etty S	Greta T
	Olivea T	Isla T	Elise V	Erin W	Poppy W-H	Kitra Y	

Year 9 - Silver

Aidan A	Maalang B-H	Evan B	Layla B	Emily B	Hazel C	Lauren C
Rebecca D	Blake D	Tia-Rose H	Maisie H-B	Scarlett H-H	Evellin H	Connor H
Brooke K	Isla K	Konstantinos K	Aayan K	Noah M	Isabelle M	James M
Georgia M	Eva M	Lily O-J	Nancy P	Charlie R	Joshua R	Wolf S
Nihal S	Selena S	Daisy S	Ashtone S	Tamzin T	Sara W	Freddie W
	Jack C	Dominic J	Mirana M	Hamish S	Louis W	

Achievement Awards (part 4)

By Mr Addis

Year 9 - Gold

Robert B	Millie B	Oscar C	Imogen G	Dre G
Tom H	William H	Jensen H	Arthur H	Brody K
Isla K	Mason R	Hugo S	Sadie W	Dylan W

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

Ila B	Tommy C	Daniel C	Hannah D-W	Benjamin H	Naomi H	Leke K	Samuel L
Oliver M	Daniel P	Scarlett-Faith P	Ana S-G	Sienna S	Elizabeth S	Archie S	Libby T
			Marcus T	Esme W			

Year 10 - Silver

Jaiden B	William B	Jerome B	Eunice C	Matthew C	Ellie D
Isabel D	Harry H	Charlie H	Menaal K	Alfie R	Chislon S
Isaac S	Spencer T	Caleb V	Benjamin W	Bethany W	Thomas W
		Shun Y			

Year 10 - Gold

Oliver M

Achievement Awards (part 5)

By Mr Addis

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 'Summer Champions' will be announced in our Autumn newsletter!

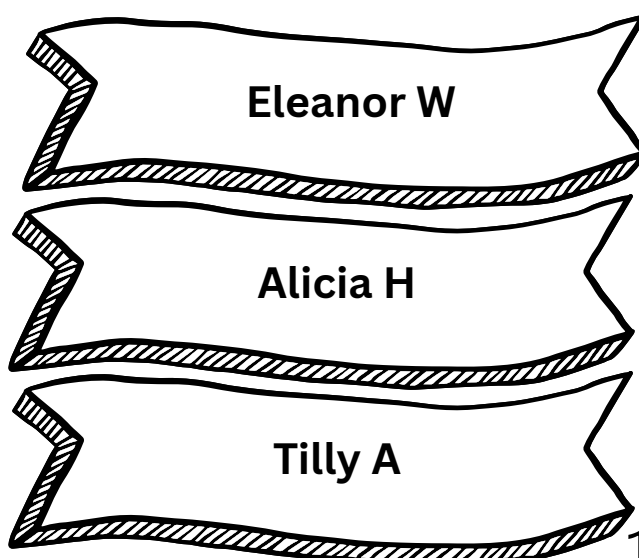
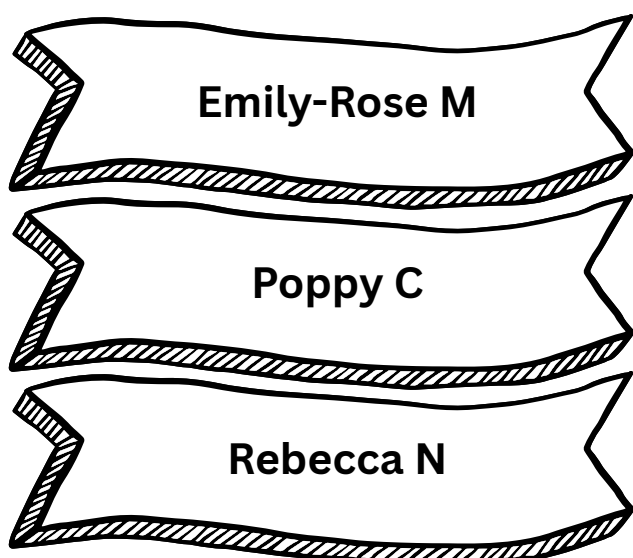
Right to Read

By Mrs Wightman

Please can I say a massive thank you to the following 6th form students and to Miss Wherry, who willingly gave up their time once a week, to coach students individually on our Right To Read program.

This amazing group of volunteers met with students once a fortnight during tutor time, to read with them and encourage them to read and learn new vocabulary. This has been an incredible success, helping 7 of our year 7 students to increase their reading ages by 1 or more years.

Thank you so much! Amazing work! Please join me in congratulating:



Sixth Form

All about Futures Week by Lucy F (Year 12)

Last week, Year 12 students took part in Futures Week. It consisted of three packed activity days and a mock interview. We explored different routes for when we depart and finish our A-Levels. We looked at a variety of different things to do with Universities, Apprenticeships, employability, interview skills and competitive courses for those who wanted to go to Oxbridge or study Medicine/Vets.



On the first day we concentrated heavily on universities. We looked at many useful tools and websites including the UCAS, the Government apprenticeship website and Unifrog. These platforms help us to navigate through the course of finding University courses and Universities which are achievable but also aspirational. We focused on how to write a great personal statement so as to stand out from the other students applying. For example, through engaging with super and extra-curricular activities like volunteering. In the evening parents/carers were then welcomed to a Post 18 Information evening via Teams to inform them on the different decisions now available too and find out the costs involved of going to university.

On Tuesday we all took a trip to the University of Nottingham for the day. They told us what they look out for in students and things to avoid saying in personal statements which was very helpful. We also got to hear from the student ambassadors on their current opinions and progress through university as well as a Q&A session. We also took a tour around the University to have a vision on what most Universities are like to study and live at.

On Wednesday we had a current apprentice from PepsiCo present to us a more personal insight on what an apprenticeship is, what it involves, and the benefits & drawbacks compared to other options available. In the afternoon Ms Aston designed a real-life example of an assessment centre task that is commonly used to recruit at Rolls Royce. The group task involved designing a paper aeroplane and was designed to show the employer what type of person you are in different scenarios and whether you demonstrated employability skills. For me, I found this extremely valuable and believe it will truly help with applying to jobs in the future especially with how increasingly difficult it is to get a job nowadays.

The final day was mock interview day where we all had a 20-minute interview with a professional person that we had never met. This was extremely helpful as you had to dress appropriately and get feedback on how you had answered the questions.

Overall, all teachers involved in Futures week did a very good job; they have helped me to make some important decisions about my future. Special thank you to Ms Aston and Mrs Capewell for the work they did on the school site as well as arranging the University trip to help us grow and hopefully be much more successful with any interviews and applying to the future route of our choice.

Reading Updates

By Miss Mitchell

Summer Reading Challenge

We have been inspired by a classic board game and have drawn up a reading version to encourage a variety of reading activities over the Summer.

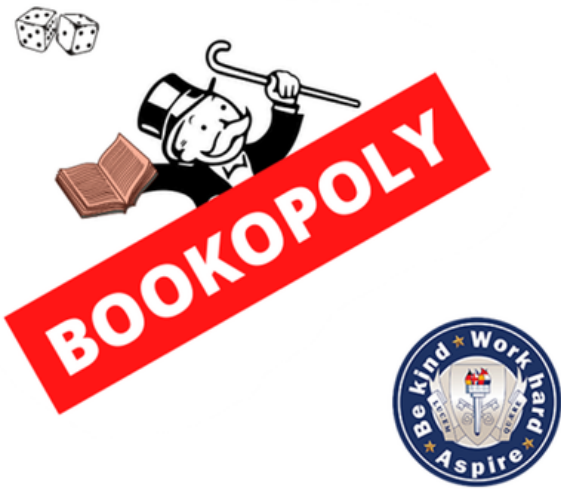
Players roll a dice and move around the board, landing on different squares. Each square contains a unique reading challenge, such as reading a mystery, a non-fiction book or a story set in another country.

Coins are earnt for every challenge completed; Make sure to record which challenges you complete and your total amount of coins earnt over the summer. There will be prizes available to win depending on how many coins you earn!

This challenge is for you if you want to explore different genres, discover new authors, and want to earn prizes from reading! It is a fantastic way to step outside your comfort zone and try books you might never have chosen before.

So, grab a book, roll the dice, and see where your next reading adventure takes you. Happy reading, and good luck to everyone taking part in Bookopoly this summer!



	Read a fantasy book 10 coins	Reread an old favourite 5 coins	Read a book set in the past 20 coins	Read a graphic novel 10 coins	 Go back 2 spaces!
Read a book suggested to you 5 coins					Read a book with a 1 word title 20 coins
Read a book you own but haven't read 10 coins					Read outside 5 coins
Read anything non-fiction 20 coins					Read a book about an adventure 10 coins
Read a funny /comedy book 10 coins					Read a short story 5 coins
 Go forward 10 spaces!	Listen to an audio book 20 coins	Read a news article 5 coins	Read a book that is set in a different country 10 coins	Read a book that is already on your shelf 5 coins	



Roll the dice, complete the challenges and add up your coins!

Reading Tracker:

List here the challenges you completed and the coins earnt! Coins = prizes!

Coins total:

Reading Updates

By Miss Mitchell

The Carnegies 2026

The Carnegie Book Club have been meeting every Friday since March to celebrate and discuss the 8 shortlisted books for the Carnegie Medal for Writing 2026!

Identity, belonging, relationships, and the meaning of home have emerged as themes throughout the Medal shortlists, with creative storytelling ranging from the deeply personal to the historic and mythical.



Each week, club members gathered in the library to discuss which book they are currently reading from the shortlist and which they had read so far. We also spent time getting to know the different authors of the shortlisted books, and learning about their writing process and inspirations behind their thoughtfully written stories.

On June 23rd, the club had their last session of 2026. They got to watch a livestream from The Cambridge Theatre, London – where this year's winning authors were announced. The club also took part in a quiz about all 8 shortlisted books – well done to Jess H, Briana M and Sadie S who were the top scorers in the quiz!

After the quiz, the winning book was announced... Wolf Siren – Beth O'Brien! This title proved to be very popular within the group. The story is led by the vividly portrayed Red, the story draws on the different tropes of Red Riding Hood as we know it and masterfully subverts them. Readers are offered a window into her world and lived experience, and are offered insightful comments on the impact of psychological power. There's a boldness to this reimagined tale that is fresh and exciting!

Carnegie Medal for Writing winner, Beth O' Brien, said:

"I am beyond stunned and delighted that Wolf Siren has won the Carnegie Medal for Writing. It is beyond the wildest hopes I ever had for this story! Wolf Siren speaks to so many things that I care about, from vision impairment representation and period stigma to the abuse of power and weaponised belief systems. And on a personal level it is about family, sisterhood, and friendship in the face of all this. It's an honour to know this resonated with the judges and I am so grateful that this whole Carnegie journey has allowed Wolf Siren to find its way into the hands (or ears!) of young readers."



Reading Updates

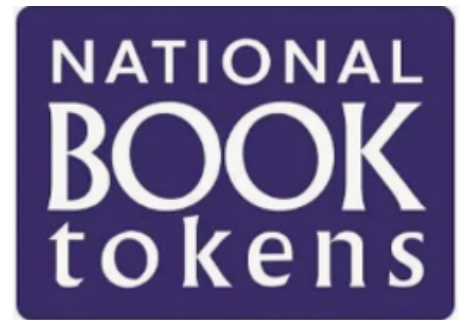
By Miss Mitchell

National Book Token Winners!

We're absolutely thrilled to have won a £100 National Book Tokens voucher through the #RebuildTheLibrary competition!

A huge thank you to National Book Tokens, Read for Good and everyone who nominated The South Wolds Academy & Sixth Form. We can't wait to fill our library with fantastic new books for our pupils to enjoy.

Thank you for helping us inspire a love of reading!



OVER 200 BOOKS TO CHOOSE FROM

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Your **NEXT FAVOURITE READ** is waiting

DATE: 11/11/26 - 17/11/26

TIME: Lunchtimes

LOCATION: The South Wolds Academy

GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026

Scholastic Book Fair - Save the Date

We are delighted to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to our school this November!

The Book Fair is always a highlight of the school calendar, giving students the opportunity to discover exciting new books, revisit favourite authors and develop a lifelong love of reading. There will be a fantastic selection of books available for all ages and interests, making it the perfect opportunity to inspire young readers.

Every purchase made at the Book Fair also benefits our school, helping us earn rewards that can be used to purchase new books and resources for our library and classrooms.

Further details, including the dates, opening times and how to pay will be shared closer to the event.

Summer Term 2 High Flyers

Violet M (Year 10) French

She works very hard in every French lesson and aspiring to do her best! Miss George

Queenie T (Year 8) Science

Continuously working hard in Science and producing excellent work. Mrs Baker

Kayelynn H (Year 7) English

Katelynn wrote a simply outstanding essay on Shakespeare's presentation of Prospero as a powerful character in 'The Tempest'. Mrs Harper-Williams

Florence B (Year 7) PE

Excellent Tennis lesson! She demonstrated technique and was supportive to other players! Miss Drewett

Tamzin T, Kitra Y, Marcus C, Emily B, Charlotte G, Lily O-J & Evelyn H (Year 10) Science

Thank you for helping with the Year 4 Science Primary School visit! Ms Metters

Eliana D, Finley M, Frankie F, Rebecca P, Rosie R, Ben S & Freddie W (Year 8) French

For an outstanding French assessment result - over 90%! Well done! Mrs Pabari

Will B, Harry H, Charlie T & Charlie H (Year 10) Spanish

Excellent work on Spanish speaking questions! Mr King

Annie H (Year 8) Science

You tackle Science like a seasoned researcher! You absorb new knowledge like a sponge and smash your exams with scores as bright as a shooting star. Keep up the amazing work! Miss Crawford

Gianna C (Year 8) English

Gianna's essay on tyranny in Animal Farm knocked my socks off with its brilliance. Well done! Mrs Arnold

Emma H, Charlotte G & Marcus C (Year 9) Spanish

Amazing effort in your extra Spanish session! Miss Dixon

Katie P, Bethany M, Aayan K, Hamza J, Alshanta H, Daniel C, Milo B, Eleanor B, Emma H, Riley B, Hazel C, Imogen G, Molly C, Robert B, Harris F, Evellin H, Brooke K, Joseph R, Ibrahim S, Will H, Daisy S, Layla B, Emily B, Blake D, Ada H, Evie H, Brianna M, Lily O-J, Samuel P, Selena S, Harry S, Tamzin T, Freddie W & Finn M (Year 10) English

A fantastic start in GCSE English Literature lessons! Well done! Mrs Hudson

Riley B (Year 7) English

For amazing poetry writing! Mrs Bell



Summer Term 2 High Flyers

Jacob P (Year 8) French

Always throwing himself enthusiastically into French lessons and getting stuck in, especially when it comes to trying cheese! **Miss George**

Daniel K & Thomas B (Year 9) English

For consistently high standards of work and excellent focus in English! **Mrs Bell**

Jay B (Year 7) PE

Superb standards set in all sports he has participated in this year. Well done! **Mr Polley**

Enzo H, Dylan W, Tamzin T & Hazel C (Year 10) Science

For great answers in Science! **Miss Martin**

Florence D-S (Year 10) English

Florence has met or exceeded her target grade in every single piece of English literature work that she has completed this year. Exceptional! **Mrs Arnold**

Noah M (Year 9) Spanish

Amazing work in Spanish - well done! **Miss Wherry**

Elizabeth D (Year 8) Food Technology

For consistently high standard of behaviour, work and focus. Well done! **Mrs Parker**

Carly C (Year 10) Biology

For always asking exquisite questions in Biology! **Mrs Baker**

Jessica H & Dylan W (Year 9) Spanish

For a new high score record on word challenge! **Mrs King**

Lucas B (Year 8) Biology

For achieving the top score in the class in his recent Biology test - well done! **Mrs Baker**

Emma F (Year 8) Spanish

For achieving 100% in her end of unit assessment - fantastic! **Mr King**

Greta T, Tamzin T, Charlotte G, Noah I, Joshua R, Harrison E, Jacob E, Rebecca D & Jack C (Year 10) Graphics

Excellent work in Graphics, a great start to the course. Well done! **Miss Aston**

Reuben C (Year 8) PE

For his excellent performance and attitude in PE this year. Well done! **Mr Polley**

Maalang B-H (Year 10) Science

Brilliant knowledge and excellent memory! **Dr Buczek**

Harriet M (Year 7) English

Excellent contributions to class discussions! **Mrs Hudson**



Summer Term 2 High Flyers

Florence B (Year 7) Languages

Has surpassed her suggested level by always doing extra work and paying attention! **Mr Reeves**

Imogen L (Year 8) Science

Working hard in Science comes second nature to you. You collect high test scores the way a magnet pulls iron. Keep shining bright! **Mrs Baker**

Freya F (Year 10) English

Being a reflective learner and writing a superb essay on Mrs Birling. **Mrs Bell**

Charlie H (Year 8) Science

Great answers in the first Science lesson- well done! **Dr Buczek**

Sonny C (Year 7) Languages

Has quietly grown in confidence and moved from 50% to 80% across three assessments. **Mr Reeves**

Esme W (Year 10) English

Very serious and dilligent approach to English Literature! **Mrs Bell**

Lucas Q (Year 8) Science

Brilliant practical work! Modelling electrostatic force to the rest of the class. **Dr Buczek**

Joy C-A (Year 8) Languages

Assiduous and focussed in all lessons and regularly asks for challenges to complete at home. A future languages star! **Mr Reeves**

Samuel L (Year 10) English

Incisive comments about texts delivered with a sense of humour. **Mrs Bell**

Etta M (Year 8) Science

Very diligent work in the first science lesson! **Dr Buczek**

Amelie P (Year 7) Languages

Amelie is an outstanding student in every way. In lessons she works really hard. She embraces the opportunities outside of the classroom and shows kindness to others. Well done! **Miss Crawford**



Reading Updates

By Miss Mitchell

Inclusive Voices - Short Story Competition

Celebrating the power of empathy

Calibre Audo's short story competition is back for the National Year of Reading, celebrating creativity, accessibility and diverse storytelling.



This year Calibre are looking for stories or poems that are empathy-led, exploring what it means to understand and share another person's feelings.

Entry Details:

- Open for entries from 4th June to 13th September 2026
- Entries accepted can be either written, in video or by audio format
- There is a 550 word limit
- With the theme based around empathy, you are asked to create an empathy-boosting story or poem that shows life from another person's perspective
- Winners will be announced at the end of October 2026

Who Can Enter?

Whether you love to write poetry, prose or you're trying creative writing for the first time, we'd love you to take part in this year's competition. Everyone is welcome and we encourage entries from:

- Budding writers of all ages and abilities
- Authors and creatives who want to help amplify underrepresented voices
- The competition is only open to residents in the UK, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Prizes

There will prizes for the top three places in each age category. To find out how to get involved and more visit: www.calibreaudio.org.uk/news/inclusive-voices



Reading Updates

By Miss Mitchell

Stay Curious. Stay Informed. Discover *The Day*!

Want to know what's happening in the world without scrolling through endless social media posts or confusing news websites? The Day is an online news platform created especially for young people and students, making it easier than ever to understand the stories shaping our world.

Every day, The Day publishes articles on topics ranging from science and technology to sport, politics, the environment and global events. The stories are written by professional journalists in a way that's clear, balanced and easy to understand, helping you build confidence as a reader while learning something new every day.

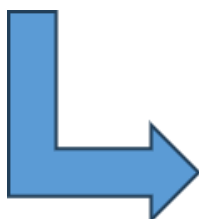
Why should you use The Day?

- Understand the news without complicated language.
- Boost your reading and vocabulary through engaging, real-life articles.
- Develop your critical thinking by exploring different viewpoints and deciding what you think.
- Find inspiration for classroom discussions, debates and creative writing.
- Stay informed about the issues that matter to your generation.

Whether you're researching for homework, preparing for a debate or simply curious about what's happening beyond the classroom, The Day is a brilliant place to start. Reading just one article each day can help improve your literacy, expand your knowledge and give you interesting topics to talk about with friends, teachers and family.

The world is full of fascinating stories so discover them with The Day. The Day can be accessed directly from our school website just look for The Day icon along the sidebar.

THE DAY
READ THE WORLD



Speakers Trust

By Mrs Wightman

On Tuesday 3rd June, 24 year 10 girls took part in a speaking and listening workshop, Speak Out Challenge, organised and run by The Speakers Trust.



This is a national initiative to equip young people with the confidence and skills necessary for speaking and presenting in-person and supported students with their GCSE speaking and listening presentations.

On the evening of 9th July, I accompanied our finalist, Evie M and her family to the East Midlands Final event at the Y Theatre in Leicester.

Our winner from last year, Kitty D, supported by her family, compered the event, introducing all 16 speakers to the stage.

Evie's speech, The Finish Formula for a Greener World, was fantastic and gave a real insight into a different way of living ecologically.

Please join me in celebrating Evie's fantastic achievement and to Kitty for her excellent presenter skills during the evening!



Star Readers Celebrations

By Mrs Wightman

On Tuesday 18th June, 30 of our top readers joined myself, Miss Mitchell and Mrs Angus in the library for a Star Reader afternoon tea. This was to celebrate their reading achievements over the course of this year.

Please join me in congratulation all of our amazing year 7 and 8 readers!



Our French Adventure

By Miss George

Our recent school trip to France was an exciting adventure filled with learning, culture, and fun. Students spent four amazing days exploring some of France's most famous landmarks while practising their French language skills. One of the attendees has written a day by day account of their travels!



Day 1

Everyone was really excited and everyone was ready to be at the school bus stop at exactly 1:50 in the morning. When everyone was finally there we set off at 2:10am. On the coach down to Dover. We stopped halfway down to Dover to get a quick drink. We then got on the ferry after being silent in passport control. We were on a ferry for nearly two hours and when we all went out on deck it was really fun. Before you knew, it we were in France. When we were all ready and in our groups we could then get back on the coach ready to go onto the snail farm.

After around an hour we then finally made it to the snail farm. There was someone there who taught us about snails and we learnt some fun facts about them. We then went inside to try four different types of snail! Most people hated them but some people tried eight! People were also putting snails on their faces because of the health benefits of snail mucus. Yuck!

Then we went to the hotel to sort our rooms, to get ready to go out for dinner and to have a fun time at the beach. All ready for the next couple of days ahead!

Day 2

Today is the day we went to the chocolaterie and the boulangerie. Today was going to be good, I felt it. First stop was getting breakfast: I had pancakes and apple juice. Then we got on the coach and we were off to bread-making. We got there and the boys went first while Mrs Brooks bought the girls lollies and I was so grateful. Then it was the girls' turn. When we got into the bakery, the man spoke to us in French about the equipment we were going to use and he let us make the bread ourselves. Afterwards we went to the chocolaterie which was nice and cool to keep the chocolate cold. We learnt how to make chocolate and they gave out free chocolates to people who answered questions about chocolate.

In the afternoon, we got back onto the coach and headed to Boulogne-sur-Mer centre where we played scavenger hunt games and did quizzes about France. In the evening, we went back to the restaurant from the first night and went to the beach again. After the beach we were lucky enough to watch the World Cup England game in a bar nearby to the restaurant. The teachers bought us all a glass of coke or fanta - it's a shame the game was not more interesting!

Bonjour from France

By Miss George

Day 3

On the third day we went to a theme park. The journey was about 45-60 minutes. After we reached there, there were lots of different rides that we went on. Some people went on the bigger rides with Miss George and some people went on the smaller water rides. Everyone had an amazing time even though it was so hot. Afterwards we went to a different restaurant to the previous nights, it was more like a buffet. At the end of the day we did a room inspection and did a competition seeing whose room was the cleanest. It was a tight competition!!

Day 4

On our final day, we headed down to Le Touquet where we visited the local market which is only there on Thursdays and Saturday. Lots of us bought fans (because it was so hot) and souvenirs for our family members to remember our time in France. Some students also completed activities at the market, such as interviewing a stall owner and trying interesting local pastries. When we all got back on the bus, the teachers then announced the awards for each student so that everyone received a certificate. There were also special prizes for the groups with the tidiest rooms and students who spoke lots of French at the market. Thanks to our driver, we were back at school by 20.30. Everyone was very tired but we had also had an amazing time!



Digital Discovery: Inside Computer Science

By Mrs Rowe

Digital Leaders

We are excited to have launched our Digital Leaders Programme, giving students the opportunity to develop valuable digital skills, support teachers and students, and plays an important role in shaping how technology is used in our school.

Well Done to Aadhyaa, Marcus, Tyler, Samson, Alfie, Katelynn, Owen, Joshua, Danny, Sherlock, Joy, Daisy, Alfie, Ethan, Noah, Jack, Evie, Isla, Ava, Evellin, Hazel, Isaac, Maegan, Philip, Chislon, Matthew, Jamie, Shun, Thomas, Mishti, Kenji and Bilal.

In one of our recent meetings we discussed the implications of the social media ban:

What the Social Media Ban Means to Me?

The Government's proposed social media ban for under-16s has prompted mixed reactions from our Digital Leaders. While some support the move to improve online safety, many are concerned about the impact it could have on education, friendships and personal freedom.

Students highlighted the educational benefits of platforms such as YouTube, commenting that the ban would restrict access to useful learning content and educational channels. Others worried that social media provides important communities and safe spaces, particularly for disabled and neurodivergent young people, helping them stay connected with friends and support networks.

Privacy was another major concern. Students questioned the use of ID and facial recognition checks for age verification, with some worried about how personal data could be stored or shared.

However, some students recognised the benefits of the proposal, believing it could help protect young people from online dangers and harmful content and noted that although the restrictions may be inconvenient, they understood the intention of keeping children safer online.

Overall, student opinions showed that the issue is far from straightforward. While many welcome greater online protection, there are concerns that the ban could also limit learning opportunities, reduce social connections and affect the online communities that many young people value.

Our autumn term plans include celebrating Ada Lovelace Day, writing some articles for the school newsletter and running some whole school competitions for cyber security month.

If you would like to be a digital leader – please do see Mrs Rowe in IT1

Digital Discovery: Inside Computer Science

By Mrs Rowe

Astro Pi Mission Zero

Students had the opportunity this year to take part in Mission Zero which offers young people the chance to have their code run in space!

They 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 use it to set the background colour in a personalised image for the astronauts to see as they go about their daily tasks.

Student who took part received a certificate with a picture of where the ISS was orbiting when their program ran!

Well Done to:

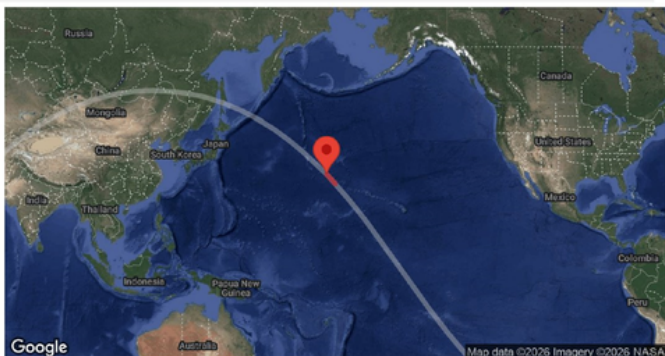
Year 10: Isaac, Mitchell, Philip, William, Jamie, Daniel, Will, Ben, Jerome, Mohammed, Chilson, Shun, Eunice, Matthew, Tom, Matthew, Oscar, Oliver, Ethan, Isabel, Eddie

Year 9: Harrison, Harry, Annabel, Rebecca, Nancy, Tamzin, Alshanta, Kitra, Hamza, Ashtone, Jonah, Maalang



Your program ran at the following coordinates:

30.7509,178.0757



It ran from 2026-05-16 13:05:52 to 2026-05-16 13:06:52

Piece by Piece: Recreating Guernica

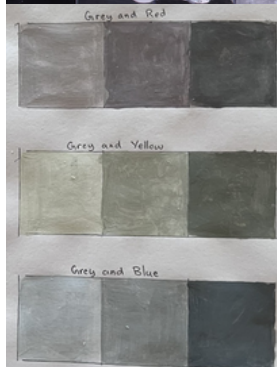
By Mrs Hunt

Last term, Year 8 students explored the artistic movement of Cubism through the work of Pablo Picasso, with a particular focus on his iconic painting, Guernica. As part of the project, students examined not only the distinctive visual style of Cubism but also the powerful historical context, narrative and symbolism behind one of Picasso's most significant works.

On 26 April 1937, the Basque town of Guernica was devastated when Nazi German and Fascist Italian aircraft, supporting General Francisco Franco's Nationalist forces during the Spanish Civil War, carried out a sustained aerial bombardment. Large areas of the town were destroyed, hundreds of civilians lost their lives, and the attack became one of the earliest examples of the deliberate bombing of a civilian population. The tragedy shocked the world and inspired Picasso to create Guernica, a powerful anti-war masterpiece that continues to stand as a symbol against the horrors of conflict.

Inspired by Picasso's work, students developed a range of creative, analytical and technical skills throughout the project. They investigated the historical significance of the painting while refining their tonal painting techniques, working in a monochromatic palette and experimenting with expressive mark making. Each student recreated an individual section of Guernica, before collaborating as a class to assemble a full-scale reproduction of the artwork. The project demanded precision, creativity and excellent teamwork, resulting in an outstanding final piece under the guidance of their teacher, Miss Giugno.

We were delighted to celebrate the winning class with a special prize-giving. Every student received a commemorative postcard featuring the finished artwork, a congratulatory email was sent home to parents and carers, and the class enjoyed a well-deserved sweet treat. Their impressive recreation of Guernica is now proudly displayed in the main hall, where it can be enjoyed by the whole school community. We are incredibly proud of the students' artistic talent, dedication and collaborative spirit, all of which contributed to the success of this exceptional project.



PE Updates

By Mr Partridge

athletics

Our athletics team, made up of 46 students from Years 7 to 10, travelled to Harvey Hadden Stadium to compete in a range of track and field events. It was a fantastic afternoon, with every student representing South Wolds brilliantly and giving their best effort in each event. There were many excellent performances throughout the competition, and every member of the team should be proud of their contribution. A special mention goes to Olivia H (Year 8),

who stepped up at the very last minute to compete in the 200m in the age category above due to an injury and secured an impressive 2nd place. Isla K (Year 8) achieved 1st place in the shot put. Ruari H (Year 8) finished 4th in the 1500m and 2nd in the 800m. Ethan T (Year 9) secured 1st place in the 100m. A fantastic afternoon of athletics, with all students showing great determination, teamwork and pride in representing South Wolds!



rugby

Our Year 7 team travelled to the Nottingham Outlaws ground to play some touch rugby matches. South Wolds entered two mixed teams. After another school withdrew, both teams played The Becket School's teams before we faced each other in a competitive, friendly and enjoyable South Wolds match. Our teams included several boys from our Year 7 County Cup winning rugby team, alongside a number of girls representing South Wolds at rugby for the first time. Both squads represented the school brilliantly, showing excellent teamwork, respect and enthusiasm throughout. The players thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, and it is hoped this will be the start of a girls' rugby team next year, as well as opportunities for our mixed teams to compete in touch rugby next summer.



Future Scientists at Work

By Ms Metters

On Wednesday 10th June, four aspiring Year 9 Triple Science GCSE students accompanied Ms Metters to Tollerton Primary School to deliver an exciting afternoon of science activities for the Year 4 pupils.

The session began with the ever-popular Mentos and cola experiment, where pupils investigated which variety of cola produced the biggest eruption while learning about scientific variables and how to conduct a fair test. They then explored the principles of flight and forces by designing and testing paper aeroplanes to discover which size flew the greatest distance. To finish the afternoon, the Year 4 pupils became forensic scientists, learning about genetics and forensic science as they lifted and analysed their own fingerprints.



The same programme was delivered on Friday 12th June at Keyworth Primary School, where three more aspiring Year 9 Triple Science students helped lead the activities.

The outreach sessions were a fantastic success, inspiring curiosity and enthusiasm for science among the Year 4 pupils while giving our Year 9 students the opportunity to develop their leadership, communication and teamwork skills. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved, and we are incredibly proud of our students for representing the school so well.

EMET Maths Challenge

By Willow, Jessica, Megan and Mia

On July 9th, we took two teams of four to participate in the EMET Maths Challenge. We were Megan C, Mia D, Willow D, Jessica W, Henry J, Isaac S, Lachlan T and Joey W.

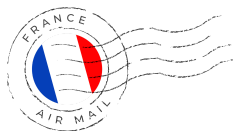
The first round was a 45 minute team challenge, where we answered questions on a range of Maths topics, from complicated calculations to perplexing problem solving. That was followed by a Crossnumber challenge, with different pairs taking the Across and Down clues, but not being able to communicate with the other pair.

After a fortifying lunch break, we were fully focussed on the relay challenge, thirty problem solving tasks over three-quarters of an hour.

When the results were announced at the end of the day, we were the third best school in the whole competition.

We would like to thank Miss Brown, Mr Gell and Miss Graham for supporting us during the day and Mr Askham and Mr Murphy for driving us there and back in the minibus.

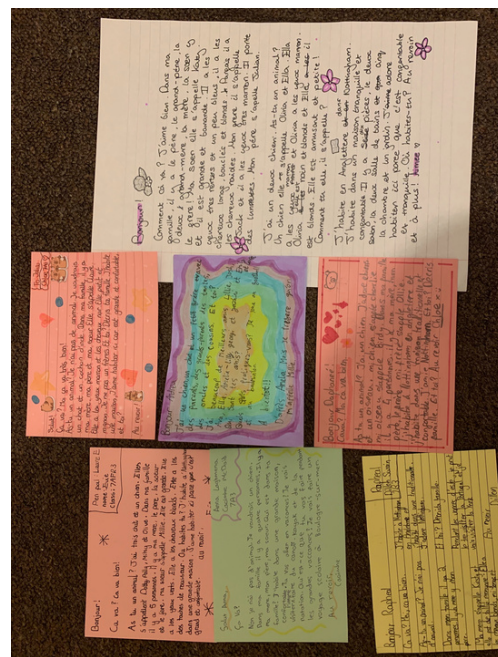
Bonjour, Pen Pals!



By Miss George

Our Year 7s are sending their final letters to their penpals in France this week. Year 7 have been sending letters back and forth all year, asking their French counterparts about their interests, what sports they play, whose in their family. However, as the French school year draws to a close at the end of June, our Year 7s have had to send their final letter already for the year. Students have been describing their family and pets to their penpals this time. Some have also included details about their summer plans and decorated their letters beautifully with pictures and glitter.

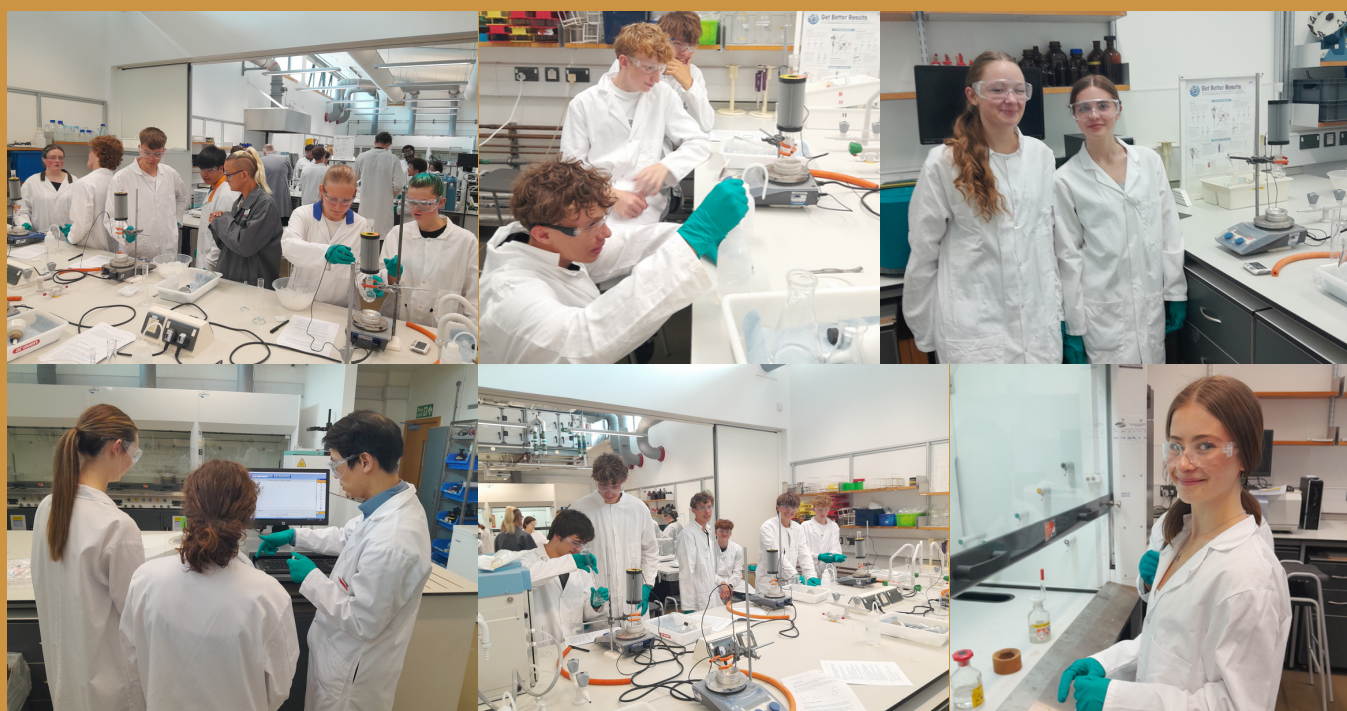
We look forward to receiving our final letters from France in the next couple of weeks!



Nottingham Trent University

By Ms Metters

On Friday 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.





COTGRAVE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

FREE FOOD HAMPER FOR FAMILIES

NO COST. JUST CONTACT AND RESERVE!



Please get in contact via our facebook page or number listed to reserve a food hamper to be picked up on the selected days at 11:30AM!

**COTGRAVE
FUTURES**

**CANDLEBY
LANE**

NG123JG

**Wednesday 29th July
Thursday 30th July
Saturday 1st August**

**Wednesday 19th August
Thursday 20th August
Saturday 22nd August**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US: 07779702035

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.parentsafe.lgfl.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

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

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

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 on 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.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HUB
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/family-hub-networks/families>
Facebook: Family Hub Network - Rushcliffe

