



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



KEY DATES

Young Poets Celebrate National Competition Success!

By Mrs Hudson



- 2nd Nov - INSET Day
- 3rd Nov - Start of Autumn Term 2
- 24th & 25th Nov - Year 9 Languages Career Morning
- 26th Nov - Year 9 Parents' Evening (online)
- 9th Dec - Years 7 - 11 Cross Country
- 11th Dec - Christmas Community Concert
- 15th Dec - Christmas Fair at Lunchtime
- 18th Dec - End of Autumn Term 2. School finishes at 12:30pm

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievements of 11 of our pupils who entered the national Young Writers poetry competition, 'I Have a Dream', at the end of the last academic year.

Their creative and inspiring poems were selected for publication in a special poetry anthology – a wonderful achievement and a lasting recognition of their talent and imagination.

We were thrilled to receive the further announcement that The South Wolds Academy had won the competition's first prize of £1,000, along with a fantastic trophy!

This is a brilliant achievement for our school and a testament to the creativity, ambition and hard work of our pupils. The £1,000 prize money will be used to fund further enrichment opportunities and rewards for pupils throughout this academic year.

A huge congratulations to all 11 young writers, we are incredibly proud of you!



NCCE Computing Quality Mark Awarded

By Mrs Rowe

The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form have been recognised for delivering high-quality computing education to young people, developing their digital skills and preparing them for the future.

We have achieved the National Computing Quality Mark after evaluating our computing education and demonstrating high-quality provision. The Computing Quality Mark is awarded by the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) and recognises excellence of computing education offered by a school as part of their curriculum development through the Computing Quality Framework (CQF).

We have completed all seven aspects of the CQF in order to receive the Computing Quality Mark, which recognises achievement in: Leadership and Vision, Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Workforce Development, Addressing the needs of each pupil, Enrichment, Destinations and Careers, and Impact and Outcomes.

Claire Garside, senior lead facilitator at the NCCE, said: "Congratulations to The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form on becoming an NCCE 'Computing Quality Mark' school! They're among the schools leading the way to deliver high standards in computing education. The Computing Quality Mark recognises the quality of their provision to ensure all students receive the computing skills and knowledge so valuable for today and in their future careers."



Primary School Maths Challenge

By Miss Brown

On Monday 14th September, The South Wolds Academy & Sixth Form were thrilled to host its second Primary School Maths Challenge. We welcomed teams of four talented Year 6 mathematicians from local primary schools to compete in a series of exciting and challenging mathematical activities. This year, we had eight teams from seven different primary schools taking part.

The teams tackled four rounds throughout the day. The first round was the Group Round, where each team had 45 minutes to work together to solve a variety of maths problems. Teams had to decide whether to collaborate on each problem or split into smaller groups and compare solutions to get the best result.

Next came the Logic Puzzle Round, where teams were tasked with using clues to figure out which person should sit in which seat on a train. The third round, Make a Number, required teams to use a set of numbers to create a target number—a tricky round that really tested their mathematical creativity!

Finally, the teams faced the Relay Round. In this round, teams split into two pairs, with each pair answering a question before the next pair could begin. Though this round added a sense of urgency, all teams stayed calm and focused, pushing through to the end with impressive results.

While every team showed exceptional skill, the top performers were:

1 st Place	Bunny C of E Primary
2 nd Place	Crossdale Primary (Team A)
3 rd Place	Crossdale Primary (Team B)

The atmosphere was electric, with all teams showing incredible enthusiasm and determination throughout the day. It was truly inspiring to see such talent, and we can't wait to welcome even more budding mathematicians next year!



Army Work Experience

By Freya F (Year 11)

On the 21st of September, myself and seven other people from South Wolds went to the Chilwell army base for four days of work experience.

The work experience was not just the eight of us, but 31 people including other schools and individual people who are taken upon themselves to participate. I speak on behalf of most of us when I say this was probably one of the best experiences we've had and I've never felt so secure and now more than ever, I don't feel scared for future decisions or where my future is going.

While there, we took part in a variety of different tasks which included orienteering around the campus, research and presentations, obstacles, teamwork and camping out for one night. Using camouflage cream while camping, eating real ration packs for one of the days and being able to try new activities such as archery and different challenges of that sort was a wonderful experience for us all.

Every member of staff was amazing to us, and we were fully supported the entire time. we were given down time to rest so at no point did we feel exhausted or burnt out. I speak on behalf of all of us when I say we would all consider joining the army in some respect after that experience, if the next few years get offered the same opportunity I would without hesitation, tell them to take it as even if they have no interest in joining the military whatsoever, it was a fantastic experience that built work ethic and where we all made friends.

We're all so grateful for the opportunity we were given, and I know we all miss it, I for one would go back in a heartbeat.



October Time Baking

By Mrs Parker

There are so many seasonal treats to try, from spooky Halloween cupcakes and crunchy gingerbread biscuits to delicious chocolate brownies and freshly baked cookies. You could even decorate your bakes with autumn colours, pumpkins, ghosts and spiderwebs to give them a fun Halloween twist! Recipe credit to Food A Fact of Life.

Ingredients

350g/12oz plain flour, plus extra for rolling out
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp ground ginger
125g/4 ½oz butter
175g/6oz light soft brown sugar
1 egg
4 tbsp golden syrup

Topping

Water Icing
Food colourings

Equipment

Baking Tray
Cling Film
Baking Paper
Food Processor
2x Mixing Bowls
Sieve
Spatula
Cooling Rack
Measuring spoons
2 x Knives
Cookie Cutters
Chopping board



Method

- 1) Sift together the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and cinnamon and pour into the bowl of a food processor. Add the butter and process until the mixture looks like fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar. (You can rub the butter in by hand, if you don't have a food processor.)
- 2) Lightly beat the egg and golden syrup together, add to the food processor and pulse until the mixture clumps together.
- 3) Tip the dough out and knead briefly until smooth. Wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge for 15 minutes.
- 4) Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Line two baking trays with baking paper.
- 5) Roll the dough out to a 5mm/¼in thickness on a lightly floured surface. Using cutters, cut out the gingerbread men shapes and place on the baking tray, leaving a gap between them.
- 6) Bake for 12–15 minutes, or until lightly golden-brown. Leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling.
- 7) When cooled completely, decorate with the writing icing and cake decorations, if using.

Join our Musical Community

By Mr Manning

Instrumental and vocal lessons are a valued activity at South Wolds, providing students with the opportunity to develop not only their musical talents but also important life skills such as confidence, creativity, resilience, discipline, and teamwork.

Research consistently shows that participation in music can enhance concentration, support emotional wellbeing, and help students build skills that benefit them throughout their education and beyond.

Learning an instrument or developing singing skills also opens the door to a wide range of exciting performance opportunities within our school community. Students receiving tuition are encouraged to take part in our concerts, including our much-loved Christmas Community Concert and Summer Music Concert. These experiences help students grow in confidence, showcase their achievements, and become active members of our vibrant musical community.

We offer a wide range of lessons delivered by experienced peripatetic music teachers, including Brass, Drums, Guitar (acoustic, electric and bass), Keyboard, Piano, Strings, Voice, and Woodwind. Lessons last 20 minutes and take place during the school day. Every effort is made to rotate lesson times so that students do not miss the same curriculum lesson each week. Students are expected to catch up on any work missed during their music lesson.

If your child is interested, you can print a Contract for Instrumental Lessons form from our website and return your completed form to school:

<https://www.southwolds.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=462&type=pdf>

We look forward to welcoming you into our musical community!

Geography Trip to Perlethorpe

By Mrs Chambers

Our Year 11 Geographers swapped the classroom for the great outdoors as they headed to the River Meden in North Nottinghamshire to carry out an exciting day of GCSE Geography fieldwork. The trip provided students with a fantastic opportunity to put their classroom learning into practice, investigating how a river changes as it flows downstream. As part of their GCSE studies, students explored the characteristics of the river channel and collected valuable data to help them understand the processes shaping our rivers.



Armed with their equipment, clipboards and plenty of enthusiasm, students got hands-on with a range of fieldwork techniques. They carefully measured the width and depth of the river, taking multiple readings to build up a clearer picture of the river channel. Using these measurements, they were able to construct cross-sectional profiles of the river, helping them visualise its shape and investigate how the channel varies between different locations.

The students also investigated the speed of the river's flow at two different sections. Using tennis balls and stopwatches, they timed how long it took the balls to travel a measured distance downstream, allowing them to calculate the average surface speed of the water. Comparing their results from the two sites encouraged students to think about why river velocity might vary and how factors such as channel shape, depth, friction and the presence of obstacles can influence the movement of water.

A key part of the investigation involved comparing their findings with the Bradshaw Model. This geographical model predicts how a river's characteristics typically change as it travels downstream, including changes in width, depth, velocity and discharge. By analysing their own results against these predictions, students could consider whether their findings supported the model and begin to understand that real-world river environments do not always behave exactly as theory suggests.

Of course, no river fieldwork trip would be complete without a little adventure! With the sun shining, everyone enjoyed getting into the water, measuring rocks and investigating the riverbed first-hand. There were plenty of opportunities for teamwork, problem-solving and practical learning. One particularly highlight was spotting a pike in the river!

Beyond the data collection, the trip allowed students to develop essential geographical skills, including accurate measurement, recording results, working collaboratively and evaluating evidence. These are all important elements of their GCSE course and will help them prepare for questions about fieldwork methods, data analysis and the conclusions they can draw from their investigations.

A fantastic day was had by all!

Reading Updates

By Miss Wightman

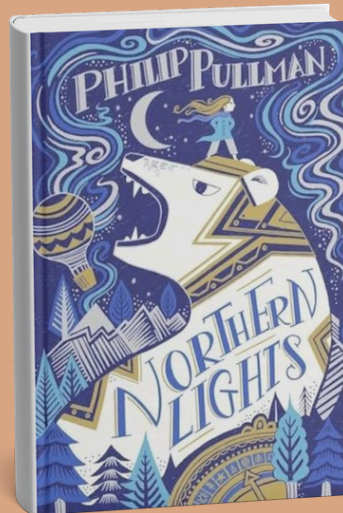
Books of the half term

Every half term, the English department will be running a “Book of the Half Term” for our students in years 7 to 9.

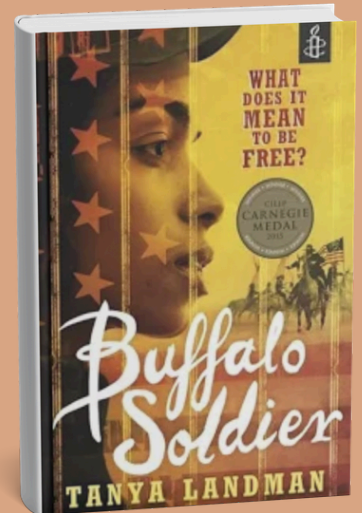
Our books of for this half term are:



Year 7: The Goldfish Boy
by Lisa Thompson



Year 8: Northern Lights
by Philip Pullman



Year 9: Buffalo Soldier
by Tanya Landman

Non-Fiction November

National Non-Fiction November is the Federation of Children’s Book Groups’ annual celebration of all things factual. The month celebrates all those readers that have a passion for information and facts and aims to bring non-fiction celebration in line with those of fiction.

The theme for Non-Fiction November 2026 is ‘Reading is an Adventure’, which is to encourage children and young people to use non-fiction books in the outside world. This is to use the information they have gathered from their read and put it into practice.

This could be reading about space and then later observing the sky at night, or reading a book about a skill and then doing the skill.

The topics will be Bugs, Animals, People, Places, Nature and Adventures at Home.

Here is a link and QR Code to the National Non-Fiction November 2026 booklist to provide inspiration on where you could start your book reading journey!

<https://fcbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/NNFN-2026-Booklist.pdf>



Reading Updates

By Miss Wightman

As our school continues to undergo building works, our library has temporarily relocated to IT4. Although our usual library space may look a little different for now, one thing remains the same: our love of reading and the importance of having access to great books!

Students are still encouraged to visit IT4 to browse the available books, borrow something new and discover their next favourite read.

Why is reading so important?

Reading is about much more than just studying for lessons or preparing for exams. It offers a chance to escape into another world, experience different perspectives and learn about things you might never have encountered before. Even spending just 10–15 minutes reading each day can make a difference.

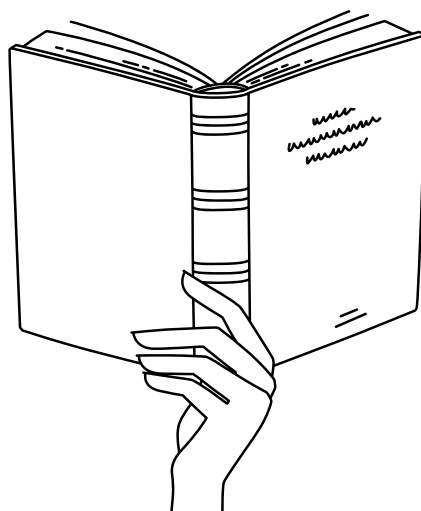
Reading regularly can help you to:

- Improve your vocabulary – discover new words and develop your understanding of language.
- Boost your concentration – develop the ability to focus for longer periods of time.
- Support your learning – strengthen your comprehension, writing skills and ability to understand information across all subjects.
- Reduce stress – take a break from screens, schoolwork and everyday pressures by getting lost in a good book.
- Develop your imagination and empathy – explore different worlds, meet fascinating characters and see life from different points of view.

Most importantly, reading should be something you enjoy. You don't have to read a huge novel or choose a book that everyone else is talking about. Find something that interests you, whether that's a gripping thriller, a fascinating biography, a collection of short stories or a graphic novel. Come and discover your next favourite book!

Although our library is temporarily in a different location, it remains an important part of our school community. We encourage all students to make the most of the books available in IT4 and to keep reading throughout the building works.

Happy reading!



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.

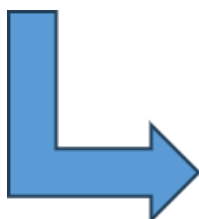
Why should you use The Day?

- 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



Autumn Term 1 High Flyers

Ryu S, Will B & Ellie Y (Year 11) English

Excellent result in English Literature exam paper 2! Mrs Bell

Jaya B (Year 7) Spanish

You have made a fantastic start to Spanish - well done. Miss Wightman

Eadie O, Megan D, Charlotte M & Zoha J (Year 9) Maths

A factastic start to year 9 Maths! Giving great contributions in class! Miss Turnbull

Eliana D, Joy C-A, Chloe C, Gianna C, Lily S, Rose R & Rebecca P (Year 9) Art

Outstanding quality and skill demonstrated in art - wow! Mrs Hunt

Emma H, Izzy M, Tom H & Dylan W (Year 10) Spanish

Amazing extra Spanish grammar work! Miss Dixon

Flynn B, Dolly E, Oliver H, Darcie M, Sana B, Hurley H, Freddie LB, Evelyn B, Zaccheus SJ, Imogen S, Ted W, Isla W, Arwen D-D, Max C, Benny S & Teddy L (Year 7) English

An excellent start in English - Well done! Mrs Hudson

Ana S-G, Eunice C, Matthew C, Louis S, Loui M, Louis T & Mya F (Year 11) English

Working so hard and offering great ideas in our study of "Macbeth" - you are doing brilliantly! Mrs Harper-Williams

Rebecca N & Lachlan T (Years 13 & 8)

You delivered an amazing speech to a hall full of parents at the Y6 Open Evening - Thank you! Mrs Brooks

Evelyn J, Lily-Jean M, Finn M, Sebastian H & Finlay H (Year 7) Maths

A great start to year 7 maths sharing answers and reasons in lessons - Well done! Miss Turnbull

Verity T (Year 8) PE

Excellent in all areas in PE - Well Done! Mr Polley

Hazel M, Alanah I, Maleek B-H & Thomas W (Year 7) Spanish

A fantastic start to Spanish - Well done! Miss Wherry

Abigail W (Year 8) Maths

For consistent hard work and attention to detail in maths. Just an all-round superstar! Mrs Woodcock



Autumn Term 1 High Flyers

Sophie C, Leanne L, Sophie B & Joy C-A P (Year 9) English

Excellent start to Year 9 English with some very witty and beautifully written opinion writing - well done! **Mrs Harper-Williams**

Agnes M, Libby T, Isaac S, Phillip J & Richard J (Year 11) Maths

For great work in Maths! **Mrs Farrington**

Esme W (Year 11) Art

Consistently highly sensitive and detailed work in art - fantastic! **Mrs Hunt**

Louis W (Year 10) English

Perceptive ideas in English Language that really elevated his work. Well done! **Mrs Harper-Williams**

Joshua F (Year 8) English

Working hard in English lessons - well done! **Mrs Hudson**

Noah M (Year 9) Spanish

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

Sophie C (Year 9)

For helping a Y6 student and her family on the Open Evening. It made such a positive impression that school received an email thanking her the next day! **Mrs Brooks**

Alexander G-N & Annabelle W (Year 11) Maths

For a great start to Year 11. Excellent effort with the past paper homeworks. **Mrs Cleator**

Maleek B-H, Cyrus P & Jaya B (Year 7) Maths

For a brilliant start to Year 7 maths - well done! **Mrs Barr-Smith**

Oliver H (Year 7) Spanish

You have made fantastic contributions in Spanish - well done! **Miss Wherry**

Ellie Y (Year 11) Art

Amazing painting skills and thoughtful ideas in your artwork which is always good quality - well done! **Mrs Hunt**

Brooklyn G-C (Year 8) Maths

A brilliant start to Year 8 maths - Well done! **Mrs Woodcock**

Aidan A (Year 10) Maths

For working really hard in maths - keep up the good work! **Mrs Cleator**

Ollie B (Year 7) Maths

A fantastic start to Maths - well done! **Mrs Barr-Smith**



Digital Discovery: Inside Computer Science

By Mrs Rowe

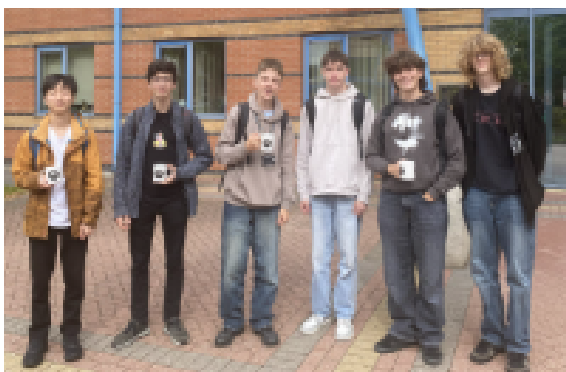
Applied Certificate in Computing

We have recently launched the Raspberry Pi Certificate in Applied Computing as an enrichment activity.

The Raspberry Pi Certificate in Applied Computing offers a practical pathway for students aged 14 to 19 to develop essential digital skills that prepare them for further study or the modern workforce. It focuses on accessibility and real-world relevance and has a staged, project-based approach.

Through self-paced modules, students build both foundational and advanced digital skills while creating a portfolio they can showcase to future employers. There are drop in session on a Tuesday lunchtime for students who would like to take up the opportunity.

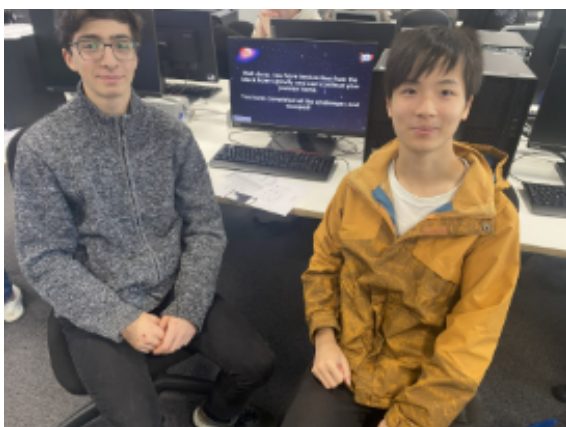
Well done to Isla, Liam and Michael for completing their Stage 1 certificate!



NTU Experience Computer Science Day

On Tuesday 9th September our Sixth Form Computer Science travelled to Nottingham Trent University for an "Experience Computer Science" day. The first activity was a team virtual escape room against the clock; shout out to Bilal and Kenji who came first and smashed the time record!

The next activity was a programming challenge where students had to improve a quiz program - Billy and Bilal won a NTU mug for their brilliant programs! Students also had a tour of the Computer Science building, met degree students and were able to ask them questions about university life. The university staff also praised our "absolutely fantastic" students, well done everyone!



Digital Discovery: Inside Computer Science

By Mrs Rowe

Girl Meets Code Summer Programme

Students had the opportunity to sign up for a summer coding programme called Girl Meets Code. Workshops ran over 5 days where the girls learnt how to build their own website. The girls reported improvements in their coding skills, motivation, confidence, awareness of opportunities, problem-solving skills, and creative thinking.

Aadhya S (Year 8) writes about her experience:

"#GirlMeetsCode was one of the best things I did in the summer holidays! Everyone there was so friendly. The work was easy to understand, although there were times where I had to go back, and since the video with all the instructions was live, I would get behind. Other than this, I loved my ice cream website, and all the other people loved their own as well. There was a variety of different themed websites. There was one about Hamilton, another about spider-man, and even one on Katseye!

If you needed any additional guidance, there was a support hub you could log on to with your given username and password, and you could ask questions on it which other students, or the volunteers and scholars could answer.

Overall, it was such a fun experience, and I would always do it if I ever got the chance to again! Even if you aren't really particularly interested in coding, or want to pursue it, I would definitely still recommend doing it!"

Cyber Explorers Certification

Well done to Owen and Tyler in Year 8 for completing all the missions on the Cyber Explorers platform and achieving their Cyber Champions certificates!

Tyler Standcombe
Owen Lui



PE Updates

By Mr Partridge

A huge congratulations to Lily W (Year 10), who has been selected for the Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire (NLD) Rugby squad and the England Rugby pathway.

This is a fantastic achievement and recognition of Lily's talent, hard work and dedication to rugby. Everyone at South Wolds wishes her the very best as she continues to develop and progress in the sport!



Year 11 Boys Rugby Festival Tournament at Newark Rugby Club

Our Year 11 rugby team travelled to Newark Rugby Club for their first outing of the year, taking part in three shortened matches against schools from Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

The first game was against a powerful St George's Academy (Sleaford) side. South Wolds defended brilliantly throughout and scored the opening try before St George's responded to secure a 1-1 draw.

For the second game, South Wolds reduced to 10 players to match Magnus Academy's numbers. Our team produced a dominant display, combining excellent attacking rugby with strong defence to win 5-0.

The final match against a well-drilled Spalding Grammar School was a competitive and physical contest. South Wolds again showed quality in attack and determination in defence, narrowly losing 2-1.

A fantastic first outing for our Year 11 team, with some excellent rugby played across all three matches. Try scorers throughout the afternoon were Archie, Freddie, George and Harry (3).

County Cup

Alderman White 12 – 57 South Wolds

Our Year 11 team travelled to Alderman White School with a squad of 15 for their County Cup fixture and produced a dominant performance. Alderman White continued to compete throughout, but South Wolds strong defence and power and speed in attack proved decisive.

Tries came from Bobby, Corey, Freddie, Harry, Oscar (2), Ryu, Tom and Will, with Freddie successfully converting five tries and Tommy adding the conversion for the final try. Every member of the squad contributed to an excellent team performance.

This team has been going from strength to strength, and the victory sees them progress to the County Finals at Mansfield Rugby Club after half term.

PE Updates

By Mr Partridge

Year 8 Girls Football County - Round 1 South Wolds 10 - 0 Hall Park Academy

Our Year 8 Team welcomed Hall Park Academy to Platt Lane for their first fixture of the year in the County Cup. South Wolds produced a dominant display, moving the ball well and creating numerous attacking opportunities. Credit must go to Hall Park's first-half goalkeeper, who stepped in from her usual outfield position and made some fantastic saves under constant pressure. South Wolds went into half time with a 6-0 lead.



With Hall Park Academy arriving with only eight players for the nine-a-side fixture, our team kindly offered to lend them a player in the second half, with Ella-Mai, Emily E and Emily T all volunteering to help. Our team continued to play some excellent football, adding four more goals to secure a 10-0 victory.

A special mention goes to Emily T, who celebrated her birthday with a fantastic hat-trick! Goals were scored by Amelia (2), Emily E (2), Emily T (3), Lilly and Megan (2).

A great start to the season for our Year 8 team, who now progress to the second round of the County Cup, where they will face Toot Hill School.

Year 9 Girls Football County Cup - Round 1 Arnold Hill Academy 2 (3) – 2 (4) South Wolds

Our Year 9 team travelled to Arnold Hill for their first fixture of the year. The game started evenly, with both teams looking dangerous in attack. Arnold Hill opened the scoring with a well-worked goal before adding a second with an excellent finish from outside the box, giving them a 2-0 lead at half time.

Our Year 9 team came out for the second half with real determination. Player of the Match Emily E, whose work rate was exceptional throughout, won the ball deep in midfield before combining brilliantly with Emily T as they worked their way up the pitch. Emily E then played a perfectly weighted pass for Emily T to run onto and finish superbly to make it 2-1. South Wolds continued to apply pressure and created several good chances before Emily T received the ball with her back to goal, turned and fired into the bottom corner to level the match at 2-2.

With the scores still level after extra time, following some excellent defending from the whole team and important saves from goalkeeper Jess, the match went to penalties. South Wolds held their nerve to win the shootout 3-2. A fantastic comeback and team performance sees our Year 9 team progress to the second round of the County Cup where we will make the journey to Outwood Valley.

Sixth Form

University Destinations By Mrs Capewell

We were very proud of all of our Year 13 students who collected their A levels over the Summer.

Our top three performing students were:

- Wayne Y who achieved 4 grades at A* in Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Grade B in EPQ.
- Albert R who achieved 3 grades at A* in Maths, Further Maths and Physics
- Jakob L who achieved A*, A*, A and A in Maths, RE, Graphics, AS Further Maths and a grade C in EPQ.

About 80% of the cohort applied to go to University and of those 65 students, 55 were accepted at their First choice and 7 at their Insurance choice.

Students will be studying courses such as Astrophysics, Pharmaceutical Science, Creative Writing, Fashion Design and Artificial intelligence.

We are particularly proud of Furkan B who secured 4 offers to study Medicine; he finally decided upon the University of Birmingham. There are only 9500 medicine places available in the UK, with an acceptance rate of 16% it makes Medicine one of the most difficult courses to receive an offer for.

More students than in previous years are studying at local Universities and more have opted to have a gap year. This perhaps tells us a little about the costs associated with University, with students getting jobs for a year to finance their degree programme.

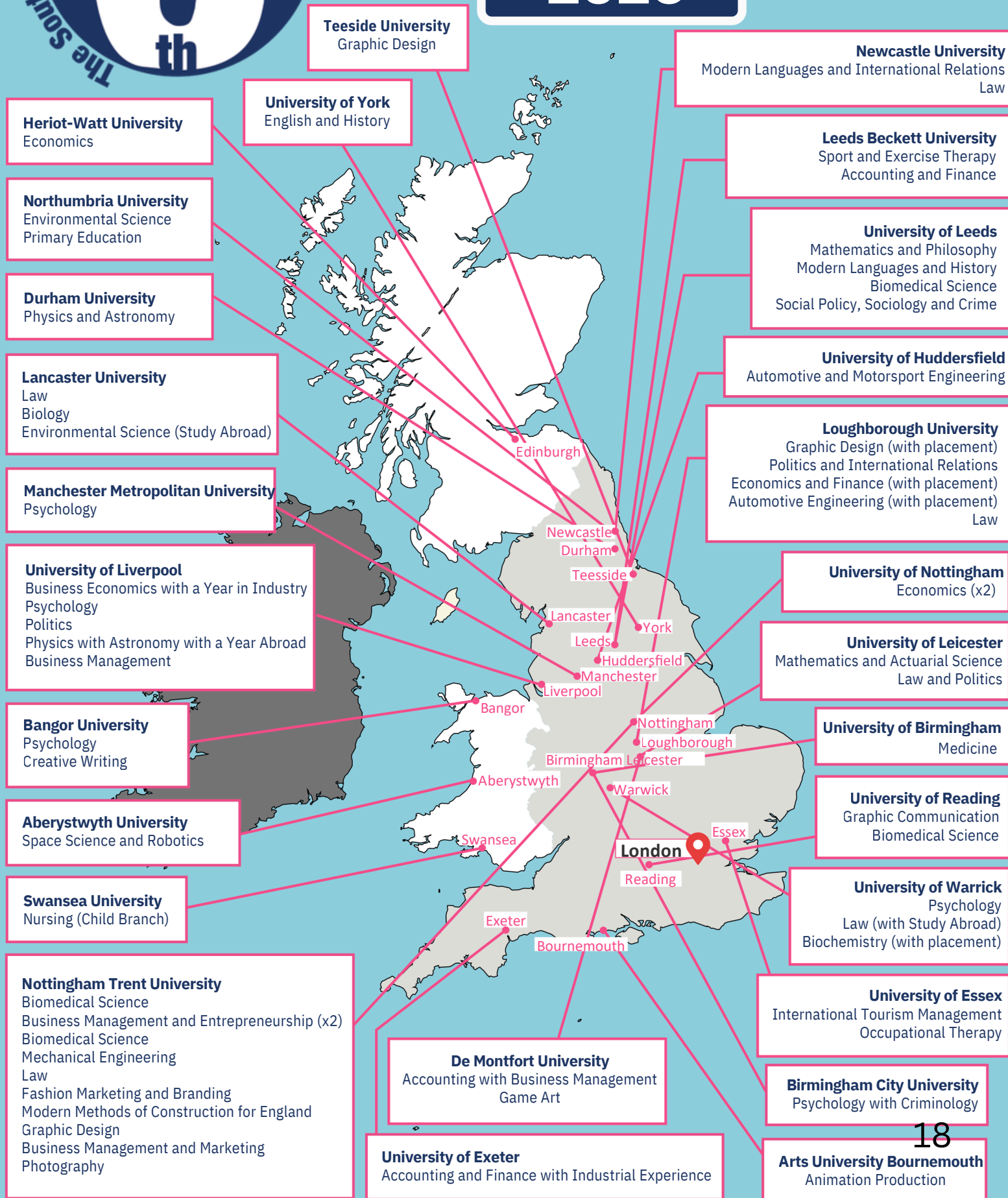
University remains the number one choice for our students. Despite lots of negative press coverage, a degree is still worth the investment resulting in higher earnings, higher social mobility and social capital plus research shows that it correlates with better self-reported health and wellbeing.

We wish all of the students well for the start of their courses and hope that they behave themselves at Freshers Week!



University Destinations

2026





An interview with **Holly Winter**

oooooooooooooooooooo

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

I studied English Language, English Literature, French and German

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

I left in 2025

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

Christ's College, Cambridge University to study Modern and Medieval Languages

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

I needed A*AA with the A* in French, the language I would be studying at degree level. I also needed to do an interview for each language, as well as an admissions test.

Please briefly describe your typical week.

I normally have a mixture of language classes (small group seminars and supervisions with 2 students per teacher) and lectures for essay papers, which amounts to 14 contact hours. In a day, I will go to a class or two in the morning at the faculty, spend a few hours in the library between contact hours, and then go to a lecture in the afternoon. Working both in the library and in college (in my room or in the college library), I usually do between 5 and 8 additional hours per day, depending how many classes I have that day. This time includes both mandatory homework (essays, translations, grammar exercises, etc.) and consolidation / revision. In the evenings I have extra curricular activities: steel pans practice on Mondays, choir on Wednesdays and board game society on Thursdays. I also spend time with friends at the weekend when we are all less busy. I almost always cook for myself but sometimes (once every couple of weeks) I go to the canteen to eat dinner and socialise.

What did you do today?

Since it is summer, I have not had classes or much work to do. I have started on my preparatory reading for next year and will need to fill out some end-of-year forms and meet with my Director of Studies to discuss the past academic year.

What work/assignments/ tasks need completing this week?

My exeats form (letting the college know when I will be out of my college accommodation); meeting with my Tutor (someone who advises on the non-academic and wellbeing side of uni life); meeting with my Director of Studies (who advises about academic things); grocery shopping, laundry and dishes also need doing.

What are the challenges in your course/job role?

The workload is very heavy, especially as I am picking up a second language from scratch alongside my post-A-level language. It was also challenging to get out of the ingrained essay structures I learned in secondary school and sixth form, and learn to write in a more free and complex way without being confined to a three paragraph PEEL structure. Finally I found it difficult at the start to grapple with the amount of secondary reading I needed, because the reading lists seemed endless: I learned through the year to find within the recommended sources the most important parts of a book or article (skim reading is very important) and also to formulate my own opinions on this so that I could use it to strengthen my essays without relying on it.

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

Start early! Where I went wrong in my applications process, and more generally in my time at Sixth Form, which caused me a lot of additional unnecessary stress, was leaving things to the last minute. I have definitely learned from this and now when I have deadlines I make sure to complete homework and start revision in a good amount of time. Forward planning is a really good habit to get into while you're in school and will help a lot in the rest of your life, as well as alleviating stress in an already stressful time of your academic career.



What is the SEND Local Offer?

A guide to services and support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25 in Nottinghamshire.

How can it help me?

The SEND Local Offer contains lots of useful information and can help you to find services that are available across Nottinghamshire. This includes:

- Education
- Short Breaks
- Preparing for adulthood
- Health and social care
- Things to do
- Getting around

The Nottinghamshire SEND Local Offer is a free and impartial service. The information contained within the website does not represent a recommendation or an endorsement of a Service or Provider. The full disclaimer can be read on the SEND Local Offer website.

How can I access it?

Online: simply search for Nottinghamshire Send Local Offer.

Over the phone: call the council's Customer Service Centre
Monday to Thursday: 8.30am - 5pm
Friday: 8.30am - 4.30pm
on 0300 500 80 80.

If you have hearing or speech difficulties, try our text relay service: 18001 0115 977 4050



Further information

Contact us via the County Council's Customer Service Centre.

Telephone: **0300 500 80 80**

Email: **local.offer@nottscc.gov.uk**

yournottsdirectory.org.uk/nottinghamshiresendlocaloffer

in partnership with



COTGRAVE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

HALF-TERM

FREE FOOD HAMPERS FOR FAMILIES

FUTURES BUILDING, CANDLEBY LANE, COTGRAVE
NG123JG

NO COST. JUST CONTACT TO RESETVE!

PLEASE GET IN CONTACT VIA OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE OR NUMBER LISTED
TO RESERVE A FOOD HAMPER ON ONE
OF THE LISTED DAYS AT 11:30AM!

WEDNESDAY 28TH
OCTOBER

THURSDAY 29TH
OCTOBER

SATURDAY 31ST
OCTOBER



0777 97 020 35

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

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.

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

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