



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Newsletter

Spring Term

February 2022

Message from the Principal

I write this as COVID-19 guidance changes across the country, which will have an impact on how we operate as a school. The key changes are as follows:

- Masks will no longer be compulsory in communal areas. The vast majority of students will probably choose to still wear a mask each day, and we would encourage this, but will no longer be supplying masks for those who do not have them.
- There is no longer a requirement for twice weekly Covid tests, and schools will no longer be receiving test kits to give out.
- There is also no requirement to self-isolate following a positive test result. However the advice is still to stay at home for at least 5 days and until there are two negative test results on consecutive days.
- Close contacts who are not vaccinated no longer need to self-isolate.
- Close contacts will no longer be expected to test for 7 days.

To keep us all healthy and safe, the main thing is that if students feel unwell, they should stay at home until they feel better, stay away from others and are advised to wear a mask.

As a school, we have sailed through the COVID storm successfully, and this is in part due to the fantastic attitudes of students, who have adhered so well to the measures we have put in place, and also to parents, who have supported us, for example, by providing face coverings. We will keep several measures in place for some time to come, in order to keep as many students and staff in school as we can, including separate areas for year groups, the one-way system, hand sanitiser in each classroom.

Thank you to all for your support.

Mrs J. Robinson
Principal

Social Media Parents' Guides Available Via Website

At the end of last half term we posted on the school website a number of really useful guides to the various social media platforms that we hope you will find useful. The guides, found here <https://www.soarvalley.leicester.sch.uk/parents/e-safety/>, explain the potential dangers of the sites and what to look out for, as well as offering practical advice about how to protect your child while they are online. Above all, these guides make sure that you know what your children might see and hear when they are online and that is the first step to protecting them from harm.



National Citizenship Service — Don't Miss Out Year 11

We are delighted to see that so many students in Year 11 have signed up to participate in the National Citizenship Service programme after they have completed their GCSEs. At the last count over 100 students have already signed up!

The NCS programme is a great way to gain new experiences after the exams. It isn't too late to sign up, but it is first come first served across all of the schools in the city so if you haven't yet we would advise booking a space very soon.

In Week One of the programme students take part in a residential week with teambuilding challenges, a business enterprise challenge and lots of other activities.

After a well-deserved weekend back at home they will, with the support of the NCS staff, choose a social action project to get involved with in the local community. In previous years this has included everything from charity fundraising to revamping spaces with a more practical project.

If you have any questions about the NCS programme, including costs and bursaries, then please contact Miss Wayne or check out the NCS website at <https://wearencs.com/>



The House System @SVC

Last half term ended with a bang with lots of Christmas activities being judged on the final day of term and therefore not in the last newsletter. Competitions included a staff quiz in which Watermead retained their title as reigning champions, a form door decoration competition where 11.6 from Watermead won with this excellent display. Finally, the whole school tutor period quiz was won by Beacon house!

We have had an amazing start to 2022 with lots of interhouse sports competitions. The PE Department has done a fantastic job in organising the weekly competitions for all year groups. Currently they are hosting girls' netball and then will move onto mixed badminton. Well done to all students who have taken part in interhouse sport this half term. House points have been awarded to every house! Well done!



HOUSE COMPETITION

2nd WATERMEAD

1st ABBEY

Amna Mohamed-Faise (7.7)

3rd VICTORIA

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Our latest house competition challenged students to design a poster or piece of artwork focused on anti-bullying, and being an upstander rather than a bystander. Students rose to the challenge and we had some great entries; it was very difficult for the Senior Leadership team to decide on a winner. Congratulations to Amna, Tvisha and Niam who have been selected as the overall winners.

And finally, Soar Valley's librarian called for all Harry Potter fans to battle it out for the house wizard cup on Friday 11th February. The team with the best knowledge of the books and films will be announced on the school's Twitter feed. They will need to have given an "incendio" performance to claim the title!



Harry Potter Quiz Night

Think you're a Harry Potter expert?
 Our magical quiz will take place at 3pm, Friday 11th February
 Sign up your team of 2-6 people in the library in advance
 (Team members must all be in the same year group)

Christmas Concert 2021

We were really pleased in December, with some adjustments for Covid, to be able to once again hold our annual Christmas Concert on the final Wednesday of term.

Seventy students from across Key Stage 3 and 4 took part and their hard work in preparing for the event made sure that it was a great evening full of magical moments.

All of the staff loved watching fantastic student performances back on the stage again. Well done everyone!



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LIBRARY NEWS

If you would like support with encouraging your child to read for pleasure then please contact our librarian, Ms Codling

Bookbuzz Books a Hit with Year 7

This term our Year 7 students received a special delivery: a free book, chosen by them earlier this year, to keep! The 17 amazing Bookbuzz books are all great titles, and Year 7 have been given a set of fun challenges to complete relating to these books. We've already had some amazing reviews, artwork and even videos about the books – we can't wait to receive some more!

Students have also been asked to share their book with someone outside of school. Reading aloud with someone at home – be it a parent, grandparent, sibling or family friend – will help them grow as readers. It is also a great opportunity for family or friends to hear about a fantastic new book.

Reading Rampage

Bookbuzz

Year 7 and 8 students are participating this year in the Reading Rampage, a reading challenge and book award that's taking place across the county. Students are encouraged to read any of the 12 shortlisted books, chosen by librarians and book experts, and to rate them. The winning book will receive a prize, and students who participate can also expect lots of rewards. **The question is how many of the Reading Rampage books will you read?**

Can you trust what you read online?

This term, Year 9 students have been learning about misinformation, fake news, and finding reliable sources on the internet. Faced with the challenge of spotting the mistakes in misleading articles, students soon found that many examples of fake news include contradictions, poor spelling and grammar, and emotive language which is designed to get a strong reaction.

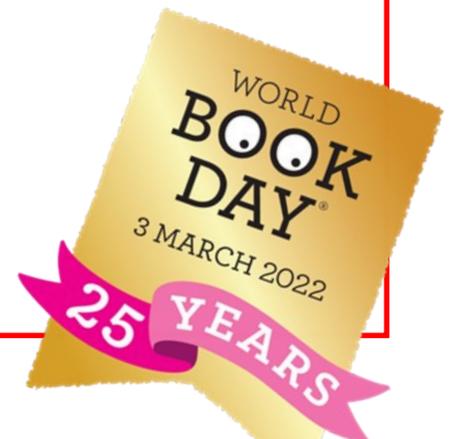
If you're interested in fake news, take a look at our online library system and play the Go Viral game!

GO VIRAL!

Book Clubs Launch Next Term As we're celebrating books, what better time to sign up to a book club? Our brand new Junior and Senior Book Clubs will start up after the half term break, and give students the chance to meet and discuss books with other keen readers. Students can find out more and sign up in the library.

COMING SOON

There's a lot to look forward to after half term. Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day, when we celebrate everything about reading! There will be lots of competitions and challenges taking place. Every student will also receive a World Book Day voucher, which you can take to a book shop or other participating shop to buy a special free book – or use it to get £1 off any book of your choice.



Review by Asiya (8.9)

I think that this book was extremely exciting to read. This is because it was action packed and thrilling. It felt like I was living the scenes that Genna (the main character) was living, as the vocabulary gave me vivid imagery of the scene. I would definitely read one of Chris Bradford's books again!



Review by Mohammad (8.4)

This book is extraordinary, amazing and exciting. When I read this book it made me happy in some bits and sad in some others. I honestly really enjoyed this book, and it was "out of this world."

MFL Language Leaders

The MFL department currently has 25 very talented, and highly committed, students in Year 9 working towards gaining a nationally recognised award from *Routes into Languages* by taking on the role of Language Leaders.

We are very pleased to announce that, after several weeks of hard work after school, they have successfully completed the first stage of this programme by teaching their peers and volunteer staff a lesson in French or German that they planned themselves.

It was a baptism of fire being put in charge of a class, but they really put their “students” through their paces and have done a fantastic job in showcasing all of the new skills they have gained. Huge congratulations from us all for rising to this challenge so brilliantly!



MFL Culture Club

After Christmas two students from each French and German class in Year 7 were selected to be Languages Ambassadors.

The students will contribute to MFL lessons by sharing the cultures and traditions of France and Germany.

In the first Culture Club session students learned all about the Alps and winter sports.

The students were fantastic and showed real enthusiasm for the subject.



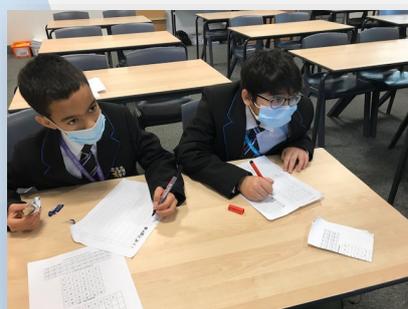
Japanese Club

This term students in our Japanese Club have been completing letters to Japanese pen-pals in both Tokyo and Kagoshima, a city in Southern Japan.

Students have written letters in Japanese including the three alphabets of hiragana, katakana and kanji.

Star pupil of the term, for his unrelenting effort, goes to **Harit Pritesh in 7.9**.

Omedetou gozaimasu, Harit!



Spelling Bee!

This term our French Spelling Bee students have been very busy!

They have been putting in many hours of work to learn the next set of 100 words for the second stage of their competition. Students have dedicated both Wednesday lunch times and Thursday after school to becoming the best Spelling Bee competitors that they can be.

Their dedication and hard work is definitely paying off so far.

The next competition is due to take place after school on Tuesday 22nd February.

Students will have 1 minute to translate and spell as many words as possible. Only 3 of the 24 students competing will be able to proceed onto the next stage so the competition will be fierce. The prize is the chance to represent Soar Valley and to compete against other schools in the East Midlands.

Who will be victorious and be crowned one of these lucky winners?

Eco-Thought for the Term:

“Imagine if trees gave off Wi-Fi signals, we would be planting so many trees and we’d probably save the planet too. Too bad they only produce the oxygen we breathe.”

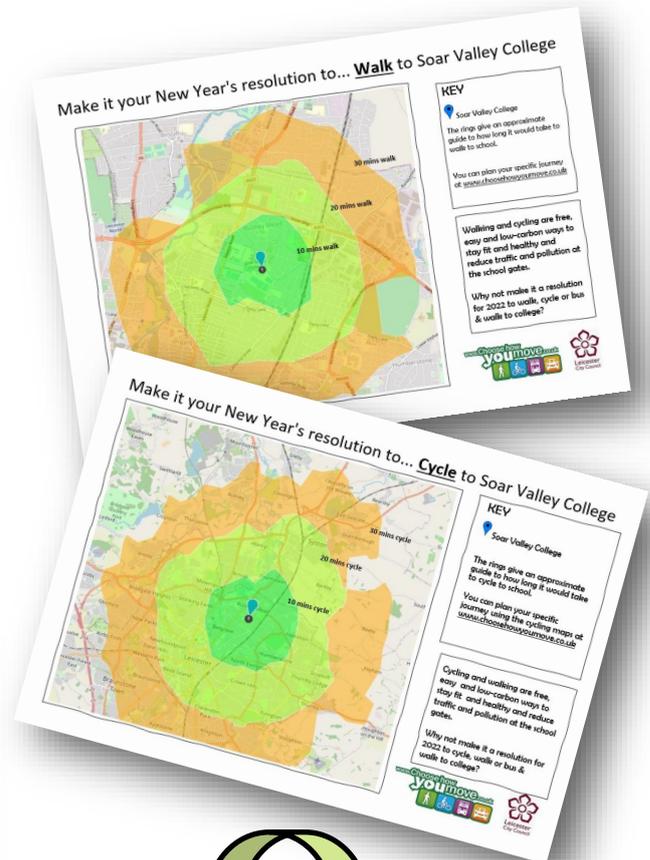
The Eco-Team have continued their hard work into 2022. The students are putting into action various strategies to help to make our school even more environmentally friendly.

This term we have been working with Sustrans, the charity promoting sustainable methods of transport, on encouraging students to find more environmentally friendly ways to get to school.

Sustrans have created maps of cycling and walking routes to Soar Valley showing the time it will take to get to school.

Walking and cycling are free, easy and low-carbon ways to stay fit and healthy and every one of our students who chooses to walk or cycle helps to reduce traffic and pollution at the school gates.

If you can, why not make it a resolution for 2022 to walk, cycle or bus and walk to college?



The Eco-Team has worked hard in preparation for Fairtrade Fortnight, which runs from 21st February until 6th March. The team have planned an assembly and various activities over the two weeks. Please keep an eye out and get involved after half term.



Members of the Eco-Team have created resources to encourage students to participate in ‘Veganuary’, following a vegan diet throughout January.

It has been suggested that cooking plant-based meals creates up to 90% fewer greenhouse gases than using meat.



A sub-group of the Eco-Team have been working very hard sorting and itemising the second hand uniform and PE kit that has been donated by previous and current students.

We are working hard at creating a **Pop-Up Uniform Shop** for parents to be able to select any items that their children need. Further information will be shared with you next half term about this.

Active Citizens

A number of students have volunteered to join the Active Citizens team working with Citizens UK to provide young people with a voice and the power to make a difference.

The team includes budding Marcus Rashfords and Greta Thunbergs from Year 7 right up to Year 11. Through the method of community organising we are enabling the students to become local leaders, using their voice and coming together to make real change.

All of the members have participated in training provided by Citizens UK, and two students, Aisha Adan 10.9 and Driпти Hemant 11.6, are currently doing a fantastic job participating in in-depth training virtually on the Citizens UK East Midlands Academy to become the team leaders.

The team have planned a full listening campaign in order to discover what Soar Valley students are passionate about and what issues we can work on for social justice.

Watch this space for further information!



Careers @SVC

It has been a busy half term for Careers Education at Soar Valley College. Year 11 students have now submitted their Post 16 applications and tutors' references are complete. They will now begin to hear about college interviews and welcome events.

Following our apprenticeship webinar in September, we were pleased to welcome back Project Ask last month to deliver a short workshop to students who wanted further support with how to apply for an apprenticeship. Nav from Project Ask was able to get students logged on to The National Apprenticeship Service website, help students to search for vacancies and talk them through the application process and what to expect as an apprentice.

Kicking off our latest round of careers talks in January was Andrew Bernard from Innovative Enterprise. "Bernie" spoke with students about his journey, his failures at school and how he got his life back on track. He gave his top tips to our KS4 students on self-motivation and resilience.

Grace Moronfolou from The Crown Prosecution Service joined us at the end of January and worked with students from Year 9 to Year 11. Grace got our budding lawyers to look at case studies and gather evidence. It was a great session with brilliant, insightful questions asked by our students.

This month, we are looking forward to welcoming back some ex students to further build our alumni network. They will be coming to talk to students about their journey since leaving Soar Valley. We will have talks in finance, music, hair and make-up and the NHS to name but a few.

And finally, we look forward to National Careers Week which we will be celebrating from Monday 14th – Friday 18th March. Please look at the careers section of our school website to keep updated on information about upcoming events.



Dates for Your Diary

Parents Evenings	
Year 8	Thursday March 3 rd
Year 10	Thursday March 24 th
Year 7	Thursday May 5 th
Term Dates	
Spring Term ends	Friday 8 th April
Summer Term begins	Monday 25 th April
Summer Half Term Break	May 30 th – June 3 rd
Summer Term ends	Friday 8 th July
Other Events Next Term	
Year 9 Options Interviews	W/B Monday 21st February
National Careers Week	W/B Monday 7th March
Year 9 Options Deadline	Friday 11th March
Year 11 Reports Home	Friday 25th March
Drama Club Showcase	Thursday 31st March