



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Message from the Principal

We are fast approaching the end of another very busy year. The vast array of extra-curricular opportunities on offer to our students never ceases to amaze me, and information about just a few of them is included in this newsletter, along with some important updates about careers education, attendance and more.

We have very positive working relationship with many other services in our locality. You may have seen the piece in the previous newsletter about Soar Valley supporting the police with their training and having a knife arch in school. We are hoping to extend this link and to host a visit by a drugs dog in the next few weeks, again as part of the police training exercises and to help educate our young people about the dangers of drugs. (Any children/parents not comfortable with dogs can be reassured that the dog will not come into direct contact with students).

And finally, if there are any parents who would be interested in supporting the work of the school in a more formal capacity, we will be looking to recruit a Parent Governor at the start of next academic year. Effective governance is vital for a successful school, and governors work very hard behind the scenes. Parents who may be interested in this role are asked to contact us at the school for a discussion to find out more about the role and the skills required. Letters and nomination forms will be issued in due course to all parents.

Mrs Robinson - Principal

Attendance is the Key to Success

You need to be in it to win it! Congratulations to the students below on winning the Spring Half Term Two 100% Attendance Challenge. To be in with a chance of winning a Highcross voucher students need to be present in school for every day during the half term.



Languages Superstars

Modern Foreign Languages students are making strong progress, aided by independent learning and proactive use of online tools. All year groups are encouraged to use activities such as Memrise to revise key vocabulary. Accounts are set up and students are placed into groups according to their classes so that the leader board can be closely monitored. Having this competitive edge has inspired Hana Mohamed Faise, Aishah Vali and Asma Abdulrahman in particular, who have managed to clock up not just thousands, but MILLIONS of points! Huge congratulations for their impressive dedication and for going the extra mile, the results of which can be seen in their classwork.

Geographical Exploits

On the 1st and 2nd May the Geography Department took over 120 students to Bradgate Park to investigate how the river running through the park changes. The students carried out with geographical techniques, including working out the velocity of the river and recording the different shapes and sizes of sediment found in the upper and middle courses. This is one of two fieldtrips that Geography GCSE students will go on and is important for learning new skills and techniques which are part of the examination



Bringing History to Life!

Year 8 Trip to the Black Country Living Museum

On 10th May Year 8 students visited the Black Country Living Museum. The museum is an open air village perfectly preserving the Victorian way of life. We were guided around by a very knowledgeable tour guide and saw how people lived and worked in Victorian times. We went into 2 houses, seeing how many families lived in just 2 rooms. A family of 11 had lived in one of these houses - imagine sharing 2 rooms with your mum and dad and 10 brothers and sisters! We went in to several shops: a hardware store, pharmacy and general store. We saw chain being made using Victorian methods and even experienced a Victorian school room, learning about the three Rs; reading, writing and 'arithmetic'. We had to recite our times tables and the alphabet (backwards!). The teacher was very strict! We also went down a coal mine, which was very dark and everyone was scared. I am certainly glad we don't have to work 12 hour shifts in a coal mine like Victorian children did. Overall we had a great day out!

Krupa Khunti 8.7



Year 9 Trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum

The year 9 trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum was by far the best trip I have been on! There were a lot of planes that I had never seen before. My favourite part was when I tried the VR experience of the bombing of Berlin. It was fascinating to see just how fast the planes travelled, the pilots had to fire at other planes in the sky as well as flying their own plane. This was extremely challenging as their timing for releasing bombs and firing guns had to be impeccable, and at the same time there was a risk they could pass out due to the speed at which the plane was travelling. I loved how our teacher guided us during the visit, which enhanced our experience. I would like to thank the History Department for taking us on this trip, it enhanced my knowledge of history and helped me to appreciate what a difficult and important job the people who fought for us during the two World Wars did.

Vatshal Deru 9.12

Careers Updates

Budding Apprentices

Following our very well received assembly on apprenticeships delivered by Project Ask last term, we were very pleased to welcome the company back into Soar Valley to deliver a workshop to some of our budding Year 10 apprentices. Students left the workshop with a wealth of knowledge on apprenticeships as a Post 16 Option. We look forward to welcoming speakers for our NHS Careers talk next week.

WoW Week

Our Year 10 students are also busy preparing for our WoW (World of Work) Week, which takes place from Monday 8th – Thursday 11th July 2019. Keep your eyes on the college website for further updates on Careers events.

Dates for your Diary

Schools close	Friday 24 May 2019
Summer half term	Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2019
Schools open	Monday 3 June 2019
Schools close	Friday 12 July 2019
Summer holiday begins	Monday 15 July 2019

Autumn Term

Y11 GCSE Results	Thursday 22nd August
School Opens	Wednesday 28th August 2019

11th June	Full Governors' Meeting
WB 17th June	Reports home Years 7-10
19th June	Y7 History trip
21st June	Y11 Prom
WB 24th June	Year 9/10 Germany trip
25th June	Year 7 Celebration Evening
27th June	Years 8/9/10 Celebration Evening
2nd July	Year 6 Transition Day and Parents' Meeting
WB 8th July	Year 10 WoW Week
9th July	Sports Day
12th July	Term Ends

The Student Council

Homework Survey

Here at Soar Valley we believe that homework is valuable as it helps students retain knowledge from their lessons as well as preparing them for the organisation and independence required to be successful. For this reason, the school council decided to focus on the topic of homework for this half term.

Firstly Form Representatives conducted surveys within their forms which they then fed back to the School Councillors. The survey included questions such as:

- How much homework do you receive per week?
- What types of homework are you given?
- How long on average are you given to complete homework?
- What types of homework do you find the most useful?

The School Councillors then collated the information and fed back to the Head Boy (Om Kathrecha), Head Girl (Nada Mohamed), Assistant Head Boy (Kushal Parsh Mehta) and Assistant Head Girl (Devika Tailor), who have, in turn, fed back to the Senior Leadership Team.

Overall, in Key Stage 3, we found that students found revision and recall activities most useful, but they were often given finishing off classwork tasks. In Key Stage 4, students were set more revision, recall and exam question practice which they found the most useful. This is beneficial for them as they prepare for the exams.



Suggestion Box

The Senior Leadership Team has given the Student Leaders feedback on suggestions that were made to them in a meeting, including those from the Suggestion Box (which can be found outside the Welfare Office).



One approved idea, which has already been put into action, is having SAM Learning contribute to House points, as using SAM Learning has been proven to improve grades. We also have a few ideas in the pipeline, for example, to have Year 10 mentors for Key Stage 3 students to help with homework. More information will be coming your way on these soon. The Student Leaders will also be conveying messages about the issue of litter and water bottles in assemblies.

Nada Mohamed and Devika Tailor

Litter-less Campaign – Celebration Event

On Friday 22nd March 14 students attended a celebration event to mark the end of the Litter-less campaign. The members of the Eco Team were invited to the Abbey Park event as the culmination of a six week project involving both the Eco Team and all Year 7 pupils. During the Spring Term the team had arranged and overseen 15 litter picks across the school site. We were one of 33 schools to take part in this campaign, aimed at boosting awareness of litter issues and changing behaviour by active participation. It was an enjoyable event that also allowed students to see the collective change that young people can make, both in the local area and nationally. The students were particularly pleased to win a small prize for collecting the most litter of all the participating schools. This project is part of the ongoing work by the Eco Team to raise awareness of environmental issues.

Year 7 litter pickers



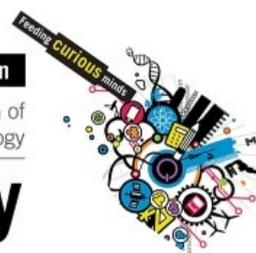
Diana Award Anti-Bullying Training

On Friday 5th April, 10 of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, along with Mr White, attended an anti-bullying training day provided by the Diana Award. The purpose of the day was to equip young people with the skills required to combat bullying in all its forms, in addition to helping them create campaigns to prevent bullying. Throughout the day the students learnt facts and statistics related to bullying, as well as sharing some of their own experiences. They also had open and frank discussions around the reasons why bullying takes place and the lasting effects it can have. By the end of the day our anti-bullying team felt prepared to come back to Soar Valley, share what they had learnt and make a difference by standing up to bullying wherever they may encounter it.



Year 8 IET Faraday Challenge

This month a group of students from Year 8 took part in a national competition, the Institution of Engineering and Technology's Faraday Challenge. Students were given a brief to develop a product that could be linked to the James Webb Space Telescope Project. Students worked in teams of six and developed skills linked with teamwork, planning, development and presentation. Members of the winning team, Team 5, received a £10 Amazon voucher each. Students reported that it was "Fun doing the engineering part because it was something new. Also, we learnt about engineering in our daily lives", and "I enjoyed the day because it improved my engineering knowledge and involved working in a team with different people that we don't normally work with."



Soar Valley Celebrates Ten Years in the 'New' Building

The beginning of June marks the ten year anniversary of our move to the current building. Parents and ex-students may remember the old building, a mish-mash of separate blocks and mobile classrooms, with leaking rooves and ceiling tiles which lifted up whenever the wind blew! We were all delighted to move into this brand new £22 million building, with its fantastic facilities and great spaces, both inside and out.

Ten years on and it is still looking good; indeed many visitors are surprised at its age. To celebrate the anniversary, ex members of staff and others associated with the building of the new school have been invited to join us for an evening of reminiscing. Mr Berry, the Principal who led the project at the time, will be on hand to say a few words about the highs and lows of the project, and to reflect on the great outcome, now left for the many thousands of students who will learn here over the years to come.



Sainsbury's 150 Hours in the Community

As Soar Valley marks an anniversary, so does our close neighbour Sainsbury's. The supermarket giant celebrates 150 years in the business in 2019 and, to commemorate the milestone, staff are giving back to their local communities.

A range of employees from all areas of the local store will be helping Ms Kenning and some of our Year 7 students to transform the allotment area over the next few months. The project starts on June 5th, with the aim of improving the raised planting areas, clearing weeds and debris, establishing some fruit and vegetable plants, creating a sensory area for students with learning difficulties, and much more.

We very much are looking forward to the link with Sainsbury's being developed through this and other projects.

