



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Newsletter

Autumn Term

October 2025

Message from the Principal

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year. We started the year with very strong GCSE results from last year's Year 11 students. Outcomes once again were very impressive across all subjects and we are working hard to ensure the same happens again with the current Year 11 who have started the year very positively.

We have had a busy and successful half term with lots of things going on. Our Year 7 students have made an impressive start to life at Soar Valley and are very much embedded in the culture of the school. They understand what it means to be a Soar Valley student and are representing themselves very well by gaining achievement points for engagement, enthusiasm and resilience in particular.

The range of extra curricular activities is growing and it is a really positive sign that students are taking part. Long may this continue.

It is important that this strong start to the year is maintained and one of the ways is to ensure high levels of attendance at school. Can I remind all parents and carers that we are unable to authorise any absences for holidays or non – educational reasons. Attendance is vital to success; if children are not here they cannot learn. With your support we will continue to be the successful school we are.

We will be having a particular focus on uniform next half term so your support in ensuring all aspects of your child's uniform meet the school's policy would be appreciated.

Best wishes,
Mr Pabari

Dates for Your Diary



Parents' Evenings	
Year 9	Thursday November 20 th
Year 11	Thursday January 15 th
Year 8	Thursday February 26 th
Year 10	Thursday March 26 th
Year 7	Thursday May 7 th
Term Dates	
Training Day [CLOSED]	Friday November 28 th
Autumn Term ends	Friday December 19 th
Training Day [CLOSED]	Monday January 5 th
Spring Term begins	Tuesday January 6 th
Spring Half Term Break	February 16 th – 20 th
Training Day [CLOSED]	Friday March 20 th
Spring Term ends	Friday March 27 th
Summer Term begins	Monday April 13 th
Bank Holiday [CLOSED]	Monday May 4 th
Summer Half Term Break	May 25 th – 29 th
Summer Term ends	Friday July 10 th
Other Events Next Half Term	
Children in Need	November 21 st
Y8/9/10 Reports Home	November 20 th
Y11 Mock Exams	Nov 24 th – Dec 5 th
Ex Y11 Celebration Evening	December 4 th
Y11 Languages Mock Speaking	Dec 8 th – 16 th
Winter Concert	December 16 th
Year 7 Wales Residential	December 17 th – 19 th

Library News

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

October is always a vibrant and meaningful month in the library, filled with opportunities to celebrate identity, freedom of expression, and a lifelong love of reading.

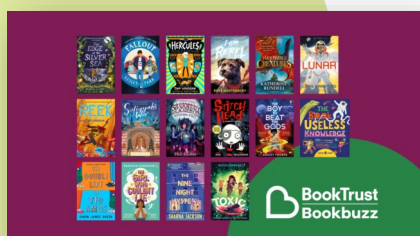
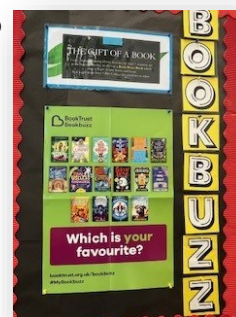


Black History Month

We begin by proudly marking **Black History Month**. This year's national theme "*Standing Firm: Power and Pride*" invites us to recognise and celebrate the strength, resilience, and achievements of Black communities across history and today. Our library display features powerful stories by Black authors from the UK and beyond—ranging from history and memoir to poetry and fiction. Students are encouraged to explore these voices, reflect on their impact, and contribute to our wall of pride, highlighting figures who have inspired them.

Bookbuzz

We are thrilled to be taking part once again in **BookTrust's Bookbuzz**. All Year 7 students will receive the gift of a book of their choice from this year's exciting selection, which range from fantasy adventures to graphic novels, crime, humour and real-life stories. There really is something for everyone. We love seeing students begin their Soar Valley reading journey with a book they have chosen themselves.



Banned Books Week

In the first week of the month, the library joined schools across the world in recognising **Banned Books Week**—a campaign that celebrates the freedom to read and highlights books that have been challenged or banned over time. Through displays and discussions, students reflected on why some stories are censored, and why it's vital to protect diverse voices and viewpoints in literature.



READING CHALLENGE



7 for 7 Reading Challenge

The **7 for 7 Reading Challenge** is now underway, in partnership with Creative Learning Services. The goal is to read the seven set books over the year and come together during Book Club to discuss the books, complete activities, and share further book recommendations with one another. It is a wonderful way to build confidence and reading stamina whilst discovering new genres and authors. Those who complete the challenge will earn a certificate, and achievement points, and will be entered into a prize draw!

Competition Time

And finally, a bit of magic as the library is running a **Harry Potter Competition** this term! Test your Hogwarts knowledge and earn lots of house points in the process. Whether you're a Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff, or Slytherin, come and join in the fun.

There's truly something for everyone in the library this October so step inside, explore, and find your next great read!

Harry Potter

CAREERS

Careers Highlights

Following the highly successful Key Stage 4 Transition Evening, we are excited for our Year 10 and Year 11 students who have now started the next stage of their Careers Education journey at Soar Valley College.



Our Year 10 cohort have been busy completing their work experience online application forms for their placements which will run in June 2026. Self-placement applications are being accepted until Monday 27th October.

Our Year 11 cohort have now started their college application process. Students are busy writing their personal statements and researching courses and providers for their Post 16 education or training.

As always, our annual Post 16 Options Evening was a huge success. A range of Post 16 providers from across the city and county came to Soar Valley College to speak with students and parents / carers to provide information about pathways available after Year 11. The ambitious and mature attitude of our students, as it always does, impressed the providers and we received really positive feedback from them all.

Universities, colleges, apprenticeship providers and training hubs were on hand for the evening to share information about courses and training possibilities. This event always proves to be invaluable in helping students make the relevant decisions needed to complete their application forms ahead of the deadline on Tuesday 18th November.

If you are the parent of a student in Year 11 then please encourage them to attend the college open events, which are now advertised on our website, as these may help them further in their decision making.

Should you have any questions regarding our careers programme, please email careers@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

DT Club - Countdown Calendar Project

This term, students attending the Design and Technology After-School Club have taken part in an exciting hands-on project: designing and creating their very own **countdown calendars** using industry-standard tools and techniques.

Over the course of several weeks, students were introduced to **CAD software** on which to design their calendar templates. They explored different festive and seasonal themes, with some creating Christmas countdowns, birthday trackers, or event-based calendars.

Once their designs were complete, students used the **laser cutter** to precisely cut their calendar components from thick card. They then used the **vacuum former** to mould plastic trays, creating compartments to hold small treats or tokens behind each countdown window.

The project gave students the opportunity to:

- Develop their digital design skills
- Learn about manufacturing processes
- Work with specialist equipment
- Solve design challenges creatively and independently



The final results were impressive and highly individual, showcasing the students' creativity, technical skill, and attention to detail. Each student took home a fully functional, reusable countdown calendar!

We're incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and dedication shown by everyone involved. The club continues to provide a valuable space for students to explore practical design and technology in a fun, supportive environment.

Exceptional English

'Exceptional English' Programme Launches

At Soar Valley we believe that high aspirations, coupled with an enjoyment of what you are learning, leads to high achievement. Our brand new *English Scholars Programme* is another of the many opportunities available for students to *Aspire, Enjoy, Achieve!*

In their own time, with no fixed deadlines or pressure, students can join a library beyond school, discover amazing books, take part in competitions, share their opinions in reviews, and unleash their creativity in writing clubs. There will also be opportunities for movie nights and even theatre trips, bringing stories to life in exciting new ways!

This programme is all about loving English and enjoying it, while building their skills and confidence. And the best part? All their effort will be recognised with a special badge and certificate, marking them out as a true Soar Valley English Scholar.



Exceptional English Programme

The Exceptional English Programme gives students:

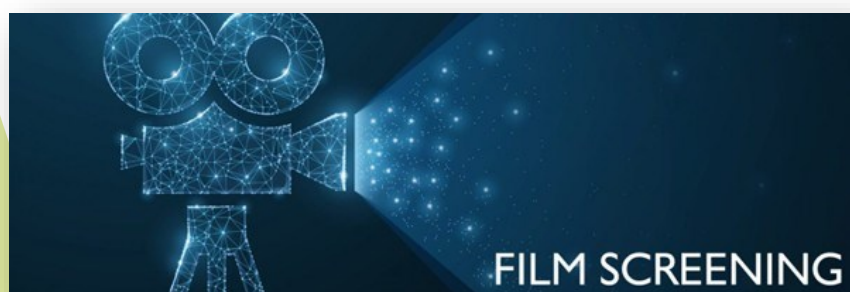
1. An opportunity to further develop knowledge and skills
2. Explore the world of creativity
3. Understand cultures
4. Prepare for higher education

It is aimed at students who want to widen their knowledge in English beyond the classroom.

To become an Exceptional English Student, you need to fill your knowledge vessel by completing the 6 tasks below.

 High participation and learning in all your English lessons.	 Attend at least two sessions of the Creative Writing Club.	 Watch and then review a film from the list. You can do this by attending a film screening.	 Complete the reading challenge.	 Complete ONE of the library / English Competitions. Additionally, write an article for the school newspaper.	 Read and recommend books to Mrs Richardson that we don't have in the school library.
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If successful you will be awarded an Exceptional English badge for your blazer and a certificate of achievement. Any questions? Speak to Mrs Hussain F31.





Six Houses, One Community, Thousands of Opportunities

The House System @SVC

Welcome to the House System

At Soar Valley, our House system is more than just a tradition – it is the **heartbeat of our school community**. Every student and every member of staff belongs to one of our six Houses, each named after a famous local park. Being part of a House is about belonging, pride, and opportunity. It's about cheering each other on, working as a team, and celebrating every achievement, no matter how small.

Through the House system, students have the chance to stretch themselves beyond the classroom, building confidence, developing leadership skills, and getting involved in an exciting programme of competitions and activities that span a range of academic, artistic, sporting, and charitable events. Together, we create memories, strengthen friendships, and showcase the incredible talent and spirit that make Soar Valley such a special place.

Kicking Off the Year with House Assemblies

This year started with a bang as each House came together for their first assemblies. These assemblies are not only a chance to unite as a House family, but also to set the tone for the year ahead.

Students met their House Captains and House Representatives, the student leaders who will be their voice and who will drive forward events and initiatives throughout the year. To get the ball rolling (quite literally) our Captains were set an energetic and slightly nerve-wracking challenge: in front of the whole House, they had to compete against one another to see who could get the most balls into a bucket. Laughter, cheers, and encouragement filled the hall, as the challenge highlighted one of the key messages of the House system: it's not just about winning, it's about giving things a go and getting involved. The bravery of our House Captains in stepping up in front of their House has already inspired others - showing that leadership is about participation, effort, and setting a positive example.

Tug of War Takes Centre Stage

If there's one way to unleash House pride, it's with a Tug of War competition! Over the past few weeks, year groups have battled it out in front of enthusiastic crowds, testing their strength, strategy, and teamwork.

The results:

Year 10 – A hard-fought battle saw Watermead claim victory, with Victoria proving strong contenders in second place. Year 7 & Year 8 – Watermead once again pulled their way to the top, with Bradgate pushing them close all the way. Year 9 & Year 11 – Abbey stormed into first place, much to the delight of their House, while Victoria showed determination and grit to secure second. These competitions were about more than just physical strength; they showcased resilience, encouragement, and the importance of working together. The atmosphere was electric, with students cheering on their teammates and Houses



Basketball Battles and More to Come

The inter-House competitions didn't stop at Tug of War. On the courts, our Year 8 and Year 9 students have already taken part in thrilling basketball showdowns. Fast paced, energetic, and fiercely competitive, the matches had spectators on the edge of their seats as students demonstrated incredible teamwork and skill.

And this is only the beginning! With a calendar full of activities – from sports tournaments to artistic showcases and academic challenges – every student will have a chance to get involved and to shine. Whether your strength is in sport, creativity, problem solving, or leadership, there will be an opportunity for you to earn points for your House and contribute to the overall competition.



EVEN MORE...



Six Houses, One Community, Thousands of Opportunities

The House System @SVC



Listening to Your Voice

One of the things that makes our House system so special is that it's shaped by **you – our students**. Last year, we listened carefully to your feedback, and we've already made some exciting changes:

- **Charity Support:** Students voted, and with a landslide result, this year's chosen charity is **Make-A-Wish**. Together, we'll raise funds to support vulnerable children and make a real difference to their lives.
- **Table Tennis Lunchtime Leagues:** You asked for more structured lunchtime competitions, and we delivered. Our Sports Leaders have already started organising and umpiring table tennis matches, with House competitions just around the corner.



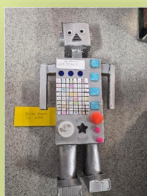
A final message: Get Involved – This Is Your House!

The House system is only as strong as the people within it - and that means *you*. Whether you love sport, drama, music, debate, quizzes, fundraising, or leadership, there is a place for everyone to get involved. This year is already off to a flying start, but there's so much more to come. So, step up, get involved, show your House spirit, and together let's make this year one to remember!



Year 6 STEM Challenge Inspires Creativity

During the summer holiday students in Year 6 were set a STEM Transition Challenge designed to encourage creativity, problem solving and independent learning. Each student was invited to design and construct a model at home, with the aim of showcasing their skills in, and enthusiasm for, science, technology, engineering and mathematics [more commonly called the STEM subjects].



On their return to school, now as Year 7 students, participants brought in their completed entries. These were shared in a celebration assembly, where prizes were awarded in recognition of the students' efforts and achievements.

Following the assembly the models were displayed at breaktime for all year groups to view. The showcase generated a great deal of interest across the school community, with many students taking inspiration from the innovative designs and thoughtful ideas on display.

The students who took part in the challenge rose to the high standards expected at Soar Valley College. Their creativity, perseverance and enthusiasm will no doubt encourage future participation in similar projects.

Mr Pabari, Principal, who presented the prizes during the assembly, commented: *"It was inspiring to see the level of imagination and effort that went into these projects. The students have not only demonstrated impressive STEM skills but have also shown the commitment and ambition that we value so highly at this school."*

Mrs Yadav, Director of Science, who designed and launched the challenge, added: *"The quality of the entries exceeded expectations. It was wonderful to see so many students engage with the task and take real pride in their work. They have set a fantastic benchmark for future cohorts."*



Extended Transition Programme



Year 7 Extended Transition Programme

Throughout this half term, Year 7 students have been participating in an extended transition programme designed to support their successful integration into life at Soar Valley. As part of their induction, students have explored our core values and engaged in sessions focused on the *Soar Valley Way* – emphasising **Effort**, **Participation**, and **Respect**.

During these sessions, students collaborated to develop a clear understanding of what outstanding effort looks like, and how they can actively contribute to our school community, including through the wide range of extracurricular opportunities available to them.

We have also reinforced our approach to promoting a safe and respectful environment by revisiting our definition of bullying: **STOP** – *Several Times On Purpose*, and emphasised the importance of reporting concerns using the principle **STOP** – *Start Telling Other People*.

Additionally, students reflected on the impact of small, everyday actions that demonstrate respect, such as wearing full school uniform and arriving to lessons punctually.

Year 8 and Year 9 Extended Transition

Year 8 and Year 9 students have focused on evaluating their effort and participation, thoughtfully reflecting on their experiences over the past year and setting ambitious, well-considered targets for this year. Their commitment and positive attitude have been outstanding, and in recognition of their excellent contributions, they were rewarded with some well-deserved sweet treats.

Year 8 Outdoor Pursuit Centre Trip

As part of our ongoing work to support students to develop the skills required for success, in September Year 8 students had an incredible opportunity to visit the Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre, where the focus was on teamwork, resilience, and pushing personal boundaries.

From the moment they arrived the students were encouraged to step out of their comfort zones and take on a range of exciting and challenging activities. Whether it was climbing, abseiling, canoeing, or navigating obstacle courses, every experience required courage and determination.

For some, the biggest challenge was trying something completely new, while for others it was about overcoming fear and building self-confidence. What made the day so special was the way students supported each other throughout the activities. Encouraging words, cheers, and teamwork helped everyone feel included and motivated, even when the tasks seemed daunting.

The sense of camaraderie grew stronger as the day went on, and students discovered how important it was to rely on and trust one another. Facing these challenges together not only helped develop problem-solving and leadership skills but also strengthened friendships and built resilience.

By the end of the trip, the students involved were left with a sense of pride, a feeling of achievement, and a greater belief in their own abilities thus proving that stepping outside their comfort zones can be both rewarding and empowering.

