



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Newsletter

Summer Term

June 2024

SPECIAL EDITION

*This half term we present a **Special Edition** of the newsletter, produced in conjunction with the Year 10 Active Citizenship Group. We want to say thank you to the students — who interviewed staff and wrote the articles— but we must also acknowledge the hard work of Mrs Rastall in ensuring that our budding newshounds all hit their editorial deadline!*

Message from the Principal

It's exam season! It's the time of the school year when we hope two of our core values of effort and excellence combine to ensure great performance by our Year 11 students in their GCSEs. We have our traditional Leavers' Assembly on Monday June 10th, a celebration of the year group which traditionally culminates in the students leaving the hall following some dohl drummers, signing spare school shirts and notebooks, and generally making memories. This will be closely followed by the Prom, always a very impressive event and another which we know will be a fantastic memory for the students.

At the other end of our school, we very much look forward to welcoming our new cohort of students for their Transition Day in July. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to start getting used to their new school, easing that move from primary to secondary. They will be guided during the day by some of our super Year 8 Peer Buddies, specially trained to support those joining us in August. We will also meet parents in the evening, and will be able to share the great feedback which I know will come from the soon-to-be Soar Valley students.

Every year group has important events and milestones this half term, for example, Year 10 with World of Work Week and Year 9 receiving their option choices in preparation for the move to Key Stage 4. There is never a quiet time in schools! This newsletter has articles about just a few of the many other activities and events, which we hope you will find of interest.

Spring Term Scholars Graduate

On the 1st May the Spring Term cohort of Soar Valley students taking part in the Scholars Programme graduated at the University of Sheffield.

As well as the graduation ceremony, where students were rightly applauded for their endeavours, the day also included a chance to find out about life at university. Events included an Information, Advice and Guidance session where students learned about how to apply to university and the vast array of courses available.

There was also a chance to tour the campus and to get a sense of what university life would feel like.

The work produced by the students was exceptional, working with their PhD tutor on a project entitled **The Whistleblowers: Engaging Patients and the Public for Patient Safety**.

5 students [Tejal, Zainab, Morley, Sumayyah and Dene] achieved a 1st in their final assignment. Every other student produced an assignment that scored a 2.1. This makes them the first cohort where every student performed at the standard expected of an A Level student. Not bad considering that they are only in Year 9!





The House System @SVC

House News:

Reported by Fatima Yussuf Hersi

The Soar Valley House system is run by a highly energetic, and very competitive, group of staff and we wanted to find out more about their feelings about the House system at Soar Valley.

I asked Head of Bradgate House, Mr West, what he likes about the House activities. He replied, "I really like the activities as they involve meeting a range of students in friendly competition."

He went on to say that there's a sense of community when students are together and that it's really nice, which is definitely true! In addition, I asked him what if he finds it stressful if his House ends up losing. He responded with, "I'm not too worried about winning, but I do think participating is key. We have won Sports day **three times in a row** though, which is great!"

Mr West then explained that Bradgate House also won the Principal's Cup which is quite an accomplishment as a House needs to have an excellent average effort score on their progress checks across all year groups to achieve this trophy. He is proud to say that Bradgate House won with a hugely impressive average of 4.5!

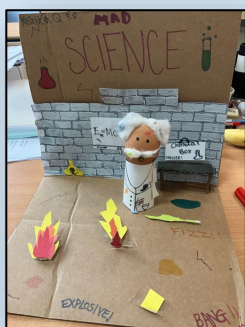
HOUSE	PLACE	HOUSE POINTS
ABBEY	2 nd	120
BEACON	1 st	150
BRADGATE	3 rd	100
CASTLE	5 th	85
VICTORIA	6 th	80
WATERMEAD	4 th	90

The Great Soar Valley Bake Off is just one of the many House events that take place each year.

History Egg Competition

Reported by Bhavika Nath

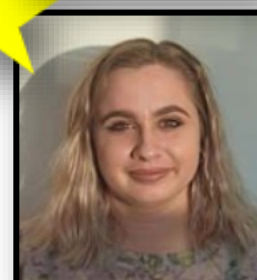
The egg competition is held every year just before Easter, challenging students from all years to create a historical character in an unusual way. All students had to do to enter the competition was to pick someone and represent them with an egg! They could pick any subject, from any period of time, from last year up to 1000 years ago! This year, we even had an entry for Donald Trump.



It's a fantastic way for students to demonstrate their knowledge of history, with a group of judges picking who they think has done this the best! This year's winner was awarded an Easter egg, and entries with honourable mentions also won a packet of mini eggs. All students who entered received participation and House points.

Mr Kelly originally proposed this idea, and all history teachers promote the competition. Anyone can participate in this from Year 7 to Year 11 as long as they have creative skills!

This is a great project to help students to have fun with their work, and it is a way for students to present their knowledge in a creative way. It showcases the creativity of our students and it also enables them to educate themselves in certain historical subjects as it also requires students to research important historical figures.



Eco Club Updates

Reported by Dhruvi Ajay

Students from Year 7 through to Year 10 are involved in the Eco Club, working on all things environmental. This term they have completed an activism project (*left*) which shows the damage that plastic can do to the marine environment and its wildlife.

This project is now ready to be on display in school for all to see and there will be an assembly to promote this work and share the information with our students.

Students in the Eco Club have also been planting tomatoes, sunflower seeds, mint, chives, and parsley. They have dug a patch in the school allotment and planted other vegetables like carrots, cabbage, and parsnips.

Students are also in the process of clearing away a planting bed in the allotment in which to place tubs of strawberries and raspberries (*below*).

Planting more plants will help with the environment and CO2 gases. The produce will be sold and will help raise money for charity. The plants will be sold at the end of June to raise money for WWF charity.



Cultivating Minds and Plants: Gardening with the NTE EAL Group

Reported by Krittika Mukes

We are lucky at SVC to have a diverse school community with a rich variety of languages and cultures. Our NTE [New to English] group refers to a group of learners whose exposure to English before joining the school was limited and who are working hard to acquire English as an Additional Language.

At Soar Valley, our group of NTE learners have been working on a long term gardening project. In this project, the learners have been growing fruits and vegetables like potatoes, garlic, leeks, and tomatoes.

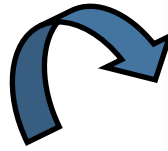
As they tend to the fruits and vegetables they not only learn the names of various produce but also have the opportunity to make new friends and form connections. Gardening becomes a fruitful experience, both literally and metaphorically, as they explore the world of nature and language side by side!

The bountiful harvest of fruits and vegetables grown by the NTE learners is not only a source of pride but also a means of sustaining their garden for the future. By selling their fresh produce in staff rooms, they cleverly raise funds to support the next year's crop, ensuring a continuous cycle of growth and learning. It's a delightful way for them to not only share the fruits of their labour but also cultivate a sense of self-sufficiency and resourcefulness.



Language Leaders

Reported by Suchina Thamel



Embarking on a journey to become a language leader at the tender age of thirteen might seem daunting to some, but for those with a passion for languages and a drive to inspire others it's an exhilarating opportunity. You get the chance to work alongside and learn from others and grow your own confidence in your ability to learn a modern foreign language.

In the dynamic landscape of modern education fostering leadership skills among students is paramount. One innovative initiative that has emerged to nurture leadership qualities while promoting language learning is the Year 9 Language Leaders programme. This programme empowers young linguists to become mentors, teachers, and ambassadors for language learning within their school community.

At its core, the Year 9 Language Leaders program aims to harness the passion and proficiency of students in the study of foreign languages. It recognises that language acquisition goes beyond mere classroom instruction and thrives in an environment enriched by peer-to-peer interaction, mentoring, and collaboration.

So, what exactly do language leaders do? Put simply, they serve as role models and facilitators, guiding younger students on their language learning journey. Equipped with their own language skills, cultural knowledge, and enthusiasm for learning, Year 9 students step into the role of mentors, sharing their expertise and passion with their peers.

The responsibilities of language leaders are multifaceted and varied, encompassing both formal teaching and informal mentoring. They may assist language teachers in the classroom, leading small group activities, facilitating discussions, and engaging with other students.

Crucially, the Year 9 Language Leaders programme offers students a platform to develop essential leadership skills such as communication, collaboration, empathy, and problem-solving. By taking on the role of mentors and teachers students learn to communicate effectively, adapt their teaching style to suit different learning needs, and foster a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

Moreover, the programme fosters a sense of responsibility and ownership among students, empowering them to take an active role in shaping their school community. Language leaders not only inspire their peers to excel in language learning but also contribute to the vibrant cultural tapestry of the school, promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

The skills, experiences, and relationships forged through the programme lay the foundation for lifelong learning, leadership, and global citizenship. As young linguists take on the role of mentors and teachers, they not only enhance their own language skills but also inspire and empower their peers to embark on their own linguistic adventure.

If interested talk with Mrs Cobourne in MFL room F43



Year 7 French Spelling Bee

Reported by Disha Cangi

This year Soar Valley College once again participated in the national French Spelling Bee competition for Year 7 students. This involved a four-stage process that resulted in one student, Yashee, making it through to the national finals which will take place at Cambridge University.

The first stage of the competition took place in French classes, from which three students were picked to compete at the regional final: Mehak [7.11], Yashee [7.5] and Adam [7.4]. Well done to all three for making it this far.

However, as a result of her performance at regionals Yashee is moving on to the final stage which is to compete at Cambridge University.

This competition shows the importance of learning a new language and that it is both possible and very rewarding.

Thanks to the two members of staff who ran the competition, Miss Pemberton and Miss Matharu.



Plus Group Afternoon Tea Party

Reported by Kareena Mulji Lacmane De Almeida

On Tuesday March 19th the Plus Group gathered with their families and their teachers for a delightful tea party. With the assistance of Mrs Dharna, Mrs Kashahu, Mrs Cragg and Mrs Loasby the afternoon transformed into a memorable occasion filled with joy and wonder.

The tea party served a dual purpose: fostering good social communication and celebrating the students' achievements.

In the morning, under the guidance of the dedicated team, the students enthusiastically baked cupcakes, prepared sandwiches, and contributed to the charming decorations including crafting paper tulips and designing jam jars.

The staff report that the pride and joy on the face of parents, grandparents and guardians witnessing their children's hard work was obvious.

Moreover, the event proved beneficial for both the students and the staff. Mrs Dharna's first-time attempt at baking scones added an extra layer of warmth to the occasion, while each child from the Plus Group courageously delivered a speech, showcasing their newfound confidence.

Beyond the tangible outcomes, the tea party served as a chance to bring together people from diverse backgrounds and cultures. It was a beautiful display of unity and inclusivity, as attendees embraced each other's differences with open arms.

Reflecting on the afternoon, Mrs Dharna described it as, 'A lovely gathering filled with positivity.' Indeed, the Plus Group tea party was not just a delightful event but also a wonderful afternoon spent together.

Speak Up

Speak Up is a national organisation which is aimed at Year 8 and 9 students, giving them a platform to talk about things that matter to them. Students at Soar valley have been involved with this project since September, and recently spent the day at the Curve Theatre filming a video for the song and script that they have written.

Students have had the chance to work with a range of media and theatre professionals, including award-winning filmmaker Kieran Vyas [who appeared on the BBC programme *Bring the Drama*] and their Speak Up representative Ben Johnson.

Later this term we will be holding a showcase event to share the outcome of all their hard work this year.



Year 8: Active Citizenship Project

Reported by Leeza Chumber

Over the last term **every** student in **every** form in Year 8 has been engaged in a Dragons' Den style project. Students worked in groups to identify and plan a fundraising opportunity that they could then pitch to a group of Dragons.

Working in groups within their forms, students were asked to think about the cost of their project, how it would be managed, how they would promote it, and how to pitch it to the Dragons. The Dragons were Miss Newbery, Mr MacDougall and Mr Oxspring [a scary bunch I'm sure we would all agree!]

The rest of the form were able to watch the pitch via Teams and see how well it went. The winning forms were 8.3 with their idea to soak a teacher, 8.6 who will hold a bake sale, and 8.10 who intend to make paper flowers for Fathers' Day.

These forms will be moving forward with their fundraising ideas in June. They are now putting together the final presentations to show that the events can run smoothly and successfully.

The best thing about this citizenship activity is that it is forging links between Soar Valley College and local charities so that we can play a role in providing support to local citizens.



Year 10 Immigration Presentations

Reported by Ruth Samuel

Mrs Underwood's GCSE citizenship students have been learning about immigration in lessons. The aim of the Year 10 immigration presentations was to educate students on how life in the UK is changing and the impact of multiculturalism in day-to-day life.

The population in the UK is rapidly changing because of the increase of immigration and this has led to a large change in what society looks like today. By getting students to research a country and their contributions to the UK, it allowed them to understand how this country has benefited from the cultures of migrant communities and created a deeper understanding of multiculturalism. As well as this, these presentations helped to combat any harmful stereotypes around immigration in the media which often has a negative impact on people's view.

The immigration presentations were influenced by wider issues in the community, especially the lack of awareness in society. To combat this one of the aims of the presentations was to promote awareness of integration issues in the UK and by doing this reduce the amount of negativity around multiculturalism and negate the harmful media stereotypes. Additionally, as the presentations were a part of citizenship, one of the main themes was 'freedom of expression' which celebrates self-expression and promotes individual cultural identity.

Cricketing Success!



Year 7 Boys: Won their season opener against The City of Leicester College by 8 wickets (chasing a total of 66 runs off 10 overs posted by TCOLC) despite having to adjust to the match taking place on the All Weather Pitch due to an extremely wet outfield.

Year 10 Boys: Won their season opener against Moat Community College by 9 wickets with 10 overs to spare.

Moat posted a total of 63 runs off 15 overs, which we chased down in just 6 overs with the loss of only 1 wicket.

A terrific performance boys!



KS4 Girls: Won their season opener against Rushey Mead Academy by 5 runs!

Having won the toss RMA opted to bowl first, clearly fancying a run chase.

However our team managed to score a magnificent 79 runs from 12 overs, which Rushey found too difficult to follow. Outstanding!

Library News

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

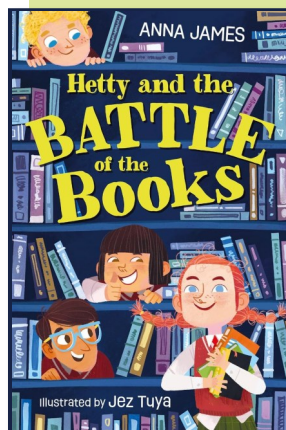
Reading Rampage, our Year 7 and 8 reading challenge is drawing to a close after half-term.

Well done to all of the students that have taken part over the last couple of months.

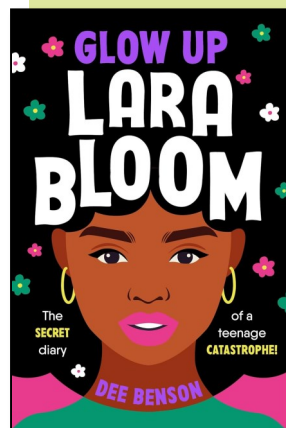
In terms of the results, early indications suggest Watermead is the house that has read and reviewed the most Reading Rampage titles.

There is still a little time for students to get their reviews in and help their house climb to the top of the leaderboard.

Below are two sample reviews.



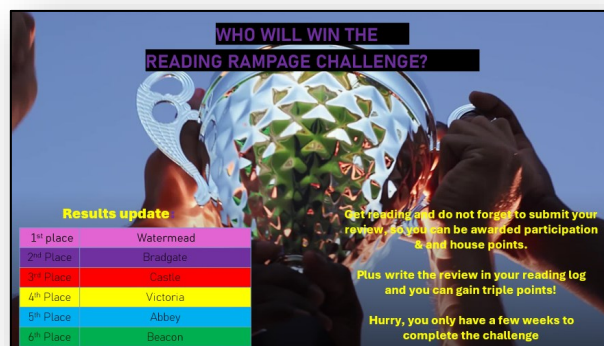
I loved this book because it has loads of illustrations, the vocabulary is easy to understand, and most importantly it was really funny and amusing. This book is about a girl named Hetty, who recently had a fallout with her friends. All of them use the library for different clubs and when they find out the Headteacher wants to close it they come together to save their library.



This was a really good book! In this book it teaches people to love themselves for who they are and to not care what other people think.

I really liked this book as it talks about self-love but also how you can love yourself and seek improvement to become a better person.

READING RAMPAGE



Comic Book Competition

Reading for pleasure is immensely important as it aids learning and development and is a wonderful form of relaxation.

In addition to a catalogue of over 10,000 fiction and non-fiction books, covering a wide range of genres and reading levels, Soar Valley College library includes a selection of graphic novel, manga and comic books which are enjoyed by students from all year groups.

To celebrate World Comic Day, Soar Valley College Library introduced a Comic Book Story Competition.

Closing date: **12th June 2024**

Templates are available in the library.

Calling all Manga, Graphic Novel & Comic Book lovers

- Submit an A4 snippet of an original comic book story for your chance to win a selection of comic books, plus house points & participation points.
- Templates available from the library.
- Entries to Mrs. Richardson in the library By Wednesday 12th June.
- Free magazine for everyone who enters.

MORE

Library News

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

Haiku Competition

Our Haiku competition had students looking to the seasons for inspiration, with spring being the most popular season to write about.

First prize went to Sumayyah [9.8] for this beautiful poem about winter. Honourable mention go to Anas [8.11] Naseema [7.3] and Tanish [8.6]



Mission Possible

At the start of the academic year students across all year groups were encouraged to take up the 'Read a Different Genre Challenge'

Last term crime and suspense were highlighted. This half-term students had the opportunity to take part in **Mission Possible** which highlighted the adventure genre.

Results are being finalised, but early indications suggest our top **Mission Possible** agent—the person who has read and reviewed the most adventure books—is a student in Year 7.

'HAPPY HEAD' Competition: What does happiness mean to you?



Following on from our visit from award winning author Josh Silver, students in Years 9, 10 and 11 were invited to create a mood board, displaying what happiness meant to them.

Joint first place went to Tejal [9.8] (*top right*) and Sumaiya [10.12]. Both students received a signed copy of Happy Head by Josh Silver as their prize.





Dates for Your Diary

WOW Week

Reported by Richa Deepak

WOW week in July, aimed at Year 10 students and organised by Mrs Houlton the Careers Lead at Soar Valley College, will provide students with an opportunity to learn about several careers and gain an overview of their characteristics. WOW Week provides Year 10 students with an incredible opportunity to develop essential skills that will help them in Year 11

and beyond. For example, in order to help students with their employability skills they will be meeting employers and participating in mock interviews.

During WOW Week a number of organisations support the event and help to make it really effective: the army run team building and communication workshops and industry visits are made to the NHS, as well as events showcasing employment areas such as construction, hair and beauty, public services, law, retail and engineering.

The intention of these visits is that students will gain an understanding of what working in the field they wish to pursue in the future is like, as well as identifying a clear route into the industry they have chosen, before they take any steps towards it.

Soar Valley's News Day

Reported by Prakruti Dalpat

Soar Valley's News Day will be taking place on Monday 10th June 2024, from 12:20PM-3:00PM.

This exciting event will be led by 12 student leaders in Year 10 and involve media students, history/geography students and members of the International Citizenship Group. John Coster and Tina Burton from the Documentary Media Centre will be there to support.

Furthermore, this event will allow students to speak up about themes which are important to them such as News Through the Ages, War and Conflict, Geography and Women. It's an incredible opportunity for them to volunteer, learn, build an interest in international politics, which may be useful in the future, and most importantly to have fun!

Other students that come along to this event will be able to take part in engaging activities, read the work of their classmates and gain an understanding of some key themes.

Mrs Rastall hopes that this event will help build students' skills and help their voices to be heard. Journalism will allow students to get creative and showcase their talents for others to see. She is thrilled to see what the students come up with and for everyone else to see it too!

Term Dates	
Summer Term Ends	12 th July
Autumn Term Begins	27 th August

Other Events Next Half Term	
Year 8/9/10 Reports Home	7 th June
Year 7/8 Celebration Evening	18 th June
Year 9/10 Celebration Evening	20 th June
World of Work Week	8 th July—11 th July
Sports Day	10 th July