



# Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**

Newsletter  
Summer Term  
July 2022

## Message from the Principal

I write this whilst looking out on a fantastic Sports Day! Today sees students in Years 7, 8 and 9 thoroughly enjoying themselves in a series of fun sports and activities, whilst Year 10 students are all out and about on their Industry Day, gaining an insight into the workplace in various career sectors. Both of these are fantastic events for our students, and a superb way to come towards the end of another very busy term.

Year 11 students approached their exams with the confidence and composure which comes from being well prepared, and we look forward to seeing them all in August for results, I am sure with many smiling faces. They had a wonderful send off at the Prom, and we wish each and every one of Year 11 all the very best for the next step in their education/training.

There are also some members of staff leaving us at the end of this academic year. It is always sad to see people go, but we wish them all the very best as they move on to promoted posts, teacher training, or other adventures. We offer thanks for all their hard work and wish a fond farewell to all, but must make a special mention of those who have been with us for ten years or more – Ms Kali is off to foreign climes to live, Mr Miskelly leaves us to become Assistant Headteacher at another city school, and Mrs Moore and Miss Wayne are retiring from teaching, Miss Wayne having devoted 34 years of teaching to Soar Valley, which is an incredible achievement.

A reminder to parents and carers that school finishes early on Friday, with lessons ending at 1.15pm for an extended staff meeting. Students return to school on Tuesday August 30<sup>th</sup>, Years 7 and 11 to arrive for the normal time of 8:45am and Years 8, 9 and 10 to arrive for an 11.00am start. We obviously expect all students to be smartly presented in full uniform (including shoes not trainers, and lanyards for Years 8-11).

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the school in any way for all their contributions over this past year, including our governors who work tirelessly behind the scenes, and to wish all parents and students a very happy, safe and healthy summer.

Mrs Robinson

## A Budding Soar Valley Star



Earlier this year Taiden in Year 7 took the opportunity to appear at the Nottingham Playhouse, alongside established professional actors, in a brand new play called *First Touch*. The play was written by Nathaniel Price, a screenwriter on BBC's *Noughts and Crosses* and Sky's *Tin Star*. He tells us he really enjoyed the experience, and we suspect it won't be the last time Taiden treads the boards!

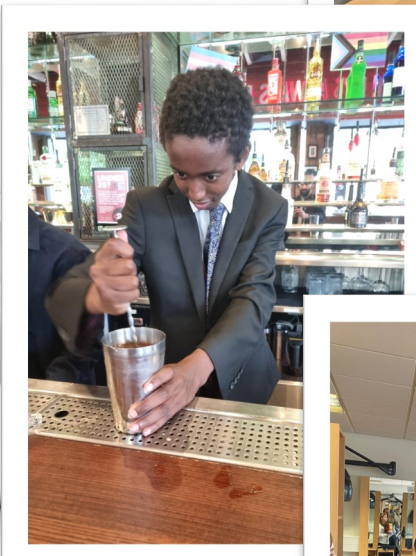


Photographs courtesy of Manuel Harlan



As Year 11 leave us we wish them well for their National Citizen Service weeks in the summer. The high number of Year 11 students that have chosen to take part in this opportunity, way higher than the average national uptake, is a reflection of what an engaged and enthusiastic year group they were. Their willingness to throw themselves into a new experience really embodies the Soar Valley Way.

# Industry Day 2022



Industry Day, which is part of our Year 10 World Of Work Week, is a chance for students to meet employers and learn about employment and employability in the areas that they might consider for future careers. With visits covering such diverse areas as hospitality and catering, hair and beauty, public/uniformed services and law, students had a unique chance to get out into the workplace and to speak to professionals about their personal journey. The workplaces who hosted us were full of praise for the mature and considered engagement our students demonstrated throughout. Well done Year 10!

## Gold Medal Performance!

We are delighted to announce that Soar Valley College has achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2021/22 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a government led award scheme launched in 2012 and facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust. The aim is to recognise and reward a school's engagement in school games, looking at what is provided and the strength of the uptake compared to national benchmarks.

The purpose of the scheme is to celebrate keeping young people active, by providing positive experiences of daily activity or competition. As you can imagine, we are very proud to have been recognised for our successful programme of sporting activity.

As a community we are extremely proud of our students for their dedication to all aspects of physical activity and school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who have made our events possible during the year.

We are committed to using the School Games programme to engage young people to be physically active, to create opportunities to represent the school, and to try to ensure that all of our students have a positive experience and want to try out new activities beyond school in the community.

A special thank you, and a massive well done, to the whole of the PE department for their commitment and dedication to making sport for an experience to be enjoyed by all!

## Extra Curricular Sport

Extra-curricular PE has continued to flourish this term. Students have been able to choose from **13 different sports over 29 different sessions**. Eleven of these sessions have been breakfast clubs, giving students plenty of choice over when they attend.

Students who have attended sessions have continued to make excellent progress. The standard of performance, effort and behaviour is always high, as is the level of fun. Well done to all who have attended sessions this year.

As ever, cricket has been an extremely popular extra-curricular sport during the summer term. There have been a good number of students out playing before school and after school on most days.

## Team Success

The college cricket teams have had great success over the summer term, winning more than 50% of their fixtures. Well done to those representing the school for their hard work and enthusiasm, and for their exemplary behaviour whether on the verge of victory or defeat.

## Results

- Year 7 Boys vs Crown Hills - WON by 6 wickets
- Year 9 Boys vs Avanti Fields - LOST by 9 runs
- Year 7/8 Girls vs Rushey Mead - WON by 2 runs
- Year 7/8 Girls vs Crown Hills - LOST by 2 wickets
- Year 7/8 Girls vs Oakham - LOST by 6 wickets
- Year 10 Boys vs Avanti Fields - WON by 6 wickets
- Year 10 Boys vs Rushey Mead - WON by 42 runs





## Sports Leaders

Throughout this academic year, our Primary School Festivals have been supported by a small group of Year 9 and 10 Sports Leaders. They have been absolutely fantastic at each event and have received much praise and positive feedback from the primary school staff.

These students gave up a lot of their own time after school at the start of this year to work on their leadership skills, and they have seen these skills flourish at each event they have been involved in.

A huge well done to all from the PE Department who tell us that you have been “a real pleasure to work with this year”.



## Primary Sports Festivals

**Our Primary School festivals have continued this term.**

Since Easter, we have held events in athletics, cricket and rounders.

Throughout the year our festivals have been well supported by 5 of our great primary schools - Mellor, Rushey Mead, Sandfield Close, Taylor Road and Wyvern - and it has been great to see the effort and commitment their pupils put into each event. Many thanks to all those that have been involved at any point this year.



## Commonwealth Games Legacy Roadshow—Birmingham 2022

**On the 14<sup>th</sup> June we were lucky enough to host and take part in an inclusive sport event to promote and celebrate para sports.**

38 of our Year 7 students took part in the sports event which included wheelchair basketball, seated volleyball, boccia and New Age Kurling. 16 of our Year 9 sports leaders spent the morning being trained by the specialist coaches and then assisted them with the delivery of the event. We then played host to 4 of our local primary schools on the 15<sup>th</sup> June who also had the opportunity to take part in the inclusive sports.

The students had a wonderful time and the experience really helped to develop their confidence, awareness of para sports and self esteem. We owe a huge thanks to John Duggan, the Disability PE and Sport Manager for Leicester City Council, and to British Wheelchair Basketball for their support and encouragement.

# Sports Day 2022



In 2022, after a two year absence, Sports Day came back with a bang! The college grounds were transformed into a carnival of sport with Key Stage 3 students participating in a wide variety of inclusive events such as seated volleyball, relay rowing, fairground games and dodgeball. Rotating through 4 zones, completing 25 different events, and dressed in their house colours, students and staff all contributed to a lively and fiercely competitive atmosphere for our festival of sport.

Winners  
Bradgate



Well done to all of Key Stage 3 for participating with fantastic team spirit and being gracious in both victory and defeat. You were a credit to the school. Thank you to all staff who enthusiastically supported on the day, without you the event would not be possible.



# Your PASSPORT to SUCCESS

At Soar Valley we are clear that **EFFORT IS EVERYTHING**. Participation in extra-curricular opportunities is a great way to stretch yourself and make the extra effort needed to push beyond what you thought was possible.



Miss Pemberton with our three spelling champs!

## Spelling Bee Final

Way back in the first newsletter of the year we reported on the MFL department's Spelling Bee competition.



The Routes into Languages Spelling Bee competition came to a conclusion on June 27<sup>th</sup> with three SVC students competing in the national final at Cambridge University. After finishing in the top three for the East Midlands Mathusha, Sumayyah and Uzma worked extremely hard to prepare for a very competitive final. Although we were not able to secure a win, for all three students to make the top 100 out of 19,672 competitors shows how brilliant they are. Well done girls, vous êtes magnifiques!

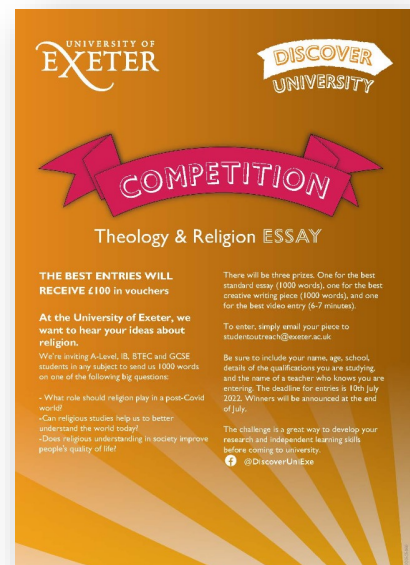
## University Essay Competition

Although the academic year is drawing to a close, a number of our students are still looking for opportunities to excel.

At present several of our Year 10 students are working on an essay for a competition run by Exeter University. This requires them to use their research skills before writing a 1000 word essay on the subject of religion.

There is a choice of three titles, and these all relate to the role that religion plays within society, particularly in a post-Covid world. The students taking part are having to think hard about difficult ideas, and are relishing the opportunity to develop careful arguments across a longer piece of writing than they would normally produce for their GCSE course.

Fingers crossed that we can bring home the prize for the winning essay, but in this case it really is the taking part that counts.



## Anti Bullying Ambassadors Training

The Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme is provided free of charge by a national charity called The Diana Award.

It equips students and staff with the tools needed to tackle bullying behaviour and to help to create an even safer, kinder school community.

The programme is youth-led, with the students leading their anti bullying campaign as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

A huge congratulation to Zahra, Harit, Anaiah, Lila, Vaibhavi, Adam, Ayushi and Eray who have completed the Anti-Bullying Ambassador training. The students attended a virtual training session from the charity, representing the school wonderfully well by articulating their thoughts and ideas in front of students and teachers from a number of other schools. Very brave, and not something we could all do with such confidence. Well done!



## Duke of Edinburgh

After COVID we have managed to hit the ground running (or should that be hiking?) this year with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, doubling our intake over previous years by opening the scheme up to Year 9 students alongside our Year 10s.

The students have been brilliant at keeping their online profiles up to date by coming to catch up sessions after school. We have also had a great turnout for the camp craft sessions that have been running. To top it off, we have nearly completed the expedition process that means this cohort are very close to the finish line and will hopefully have completed their Bronze DofE Award very soon.

Well done to the students, and thank you for all of the amazing support received from staff and parents alike.



First Place—Dhyani



## Place of Worship RE Competition

Students in RE were tasked with designing and building a miniature place of worship in RE for an inter-house competition.

The winning entries were submitted by Dhyani Vaja, the overall winner who bagged the house points for Victoria, and Janvi Patel whose runner up effort gave precious house points to Bradgate. Both winners created a Hindu Mandir for their entry.

Runner Up—Janvi



## Trinity Success

Congratulations to the following students in Year 11 who have achieved success in Trinity College London graded music examinations in singing this summer.

Asha Vara: Grade 8

Asma Abdulrahman: Grade 6

Shelby Fox: Grade 6

Ekaterina Serafimovic: Grade 5

Sabreen Khalifa: Grade 5

The dedication of these students, and the hours of deliberate practice they have put into learning their pieces, is inspirational and should be a lesson to us all.

Well done, and best of luck for your future endeavours be they musical or academic.

## Language Leaders Come to the End of their Journey

At the start of the year we reported that the MFL department had been inundated with applications for Language Leaders. The students involved are now approaching the end of their year long engagement with the programme.

A total of 23 students completed the programme this year, more than in any previous year. They demonstrated a great deal of hard work, commitment and resilience to complete the programme, which included teaching teachers, teaching their peers and teaching younger students in a foreign language. Well done to all involved, and certificates are on their way to mark this great achievement.





## Art Club Card Shop

Year 7 and 8 students involved in the Art Club have turned their art work into charity work!

Students set up a stall in the main reception area at break and lunch over the last two weeks of term to sell the cards they had made, raising money for research into Batten Disease, a fatal genetic disorder. Well done to all involved, whether you made, sold or bought a card.

## D&T Bug House X The Really Wild Club

A lovely collaborative project this year has seen unclaimed bug houses being repurposed and freshened up by The Really Wild Club.

As part of Design & Technology in Year 9, students are tasked with developing their practical skills in woodwork to manufacture a bug house that will attract your everyday garden visitors.

Any which have gone unclaimed have been snapped up by Soar Valley's Really Wild Club, painted and repaired, and set up in the allotment to the side of the main building.

As the project is based around sustainability, being able to re-use the bug houses has been great to see.



## Writing Competition Winner Announced



The Windermere Children © BBC Productions

Students in schools across the city have been watching the BBC drama *The Windermere Children* and thinking about the effect of the Holocaust on children and young people.

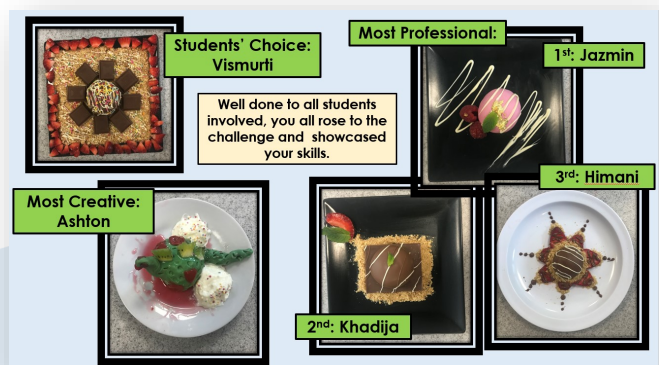
We are very proud to announce that the winning entry for the subsequent writing competition was produced by Soar Valley student Amani Amjad in Year 8.

The judges were "incredibly impressed by the connections made between the Windermere children's experiences and the world today" describing Amani's work as perceptive, mature and courageous. A fantastic achievement, well done Amani!

## Teacake Competition

Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition students were this term challenged to present a teacake in a fun, creative and professional way.

The results were spectacular and the winning entries are shown on the right. Well done to all of the students who took part, and to the winners in particular.





# LIBRARY NEWS

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

We have had a lot of excitement this term in the library. Students in our senior book group have been 'shadowing' the famous Carnegie Medal book award, including submitting their votes for their favourite book on the shortlist. By the time this goes out, the winner will have been announced. This marks the end of our librarian, Ms Codling's, first year of being a judge at the awards, representing the East Midlands on the panel of judges who select the winner. It has been a very exciting process and at the time of writing the students are keen to find out if their favourite has won.



In other news, students in Key Stage 3 have had various visits and workshops from special visitors. Some year 9 students have been introduced to a whole range of new and exciting fiction by librarians from across the area, while year 8s have had some 'spoken word' workshops. They have been encouraged to find their voice and try performing their very own poetry. Well done to all the students who have taken part in these events – we hope you're feeling inspired!

*Year 9 students hearing about new fiction books from a Leicestershire librarian*

## Round up of the Year

During the year, Soar Valley students have taken part in numerous library events with great enthusiasm, from competitions and book clubs to reading challenges like Reading Rampage. A particular highlight was a visit from author Savita Kalhan in February, which gave year 7 students to ask lots of questions about life as a writer.

The library has increased its opening times over the course of the year, and has also started a Manga and Comic Club as well as two new book clubs, all of which we're looking forward to continuing next year. We have also been growing our fantastic team of Student Library Assistants, and have recently interviewed and selected our new members. Congratulations to all our new assistants, and we wish you luck for your new roles.



Read a book by an author you've not read before Title: Date:	Read or follow a blog Title: Date:	Read a graphic novel Title: Date:	Try a new genre Title: Date:
Read a short story Title: Date:	Read at the same time for 5 days in a row Title: Date:	Listen to an audiobook Title: Date:	Read three different articles from a newspaper Title: Date:
Read an (auto)biography Title: Date:	Read two books by the same author Title: Date:	Read a poem Title: Date:	Read a book that's been turned into a film. Then watch the film! Title: Date:

## Summer Challenge

Finally, once again we are running a challenge over the summer holidays for students to take part in. This is an opportunity to push yourself to read lots of new things – and to win a prize when we return to school!

You can find the list of activities to complete here – how many will you complete?



## Dates for Your Diary

This year Soar Valley College became a member of the Leicester and Leicestershire branch of Citizens UK. This is a broad-based alliance of 25 local civil society groups, including schools, a university, faith institutions, community groups and charities from across our wonderful city and county. They use the Community Organising method to listen to the communities, identify the issues that affect the residents, build campaigns and take action to win long-lasting, systemic change.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the student volunteer members of Active Citizens planned a full listening campaign for the school to discover what Soar Valley students are passionate about and what issues we can work on for social justice. This listening campaign gave the opportunity for every single student to voice their opinions. Overwhelmingly, the most frequent response was a concern about the lack of cleanliness in the areas surrounding the school and the common routes to school that students take. After extensive campaigning to the council, local councillor and our local MP, we finally managed to secure action on this issue. This half term the council's cleansing team have already begun work on the surrounding areas and walking routes near to school and hopefully there will be more litter bins installed close to school.

The major project we have worked on this year in the Active Citizens group is becoming an accredited Refugee Welcome School. Over the year our students have been busy working to make a Refugee Welcome, Refugee Awareness and Refugee Action Plan for our school. They have had multiple meetings as part of this, including a very meaningful one with representatives from a local synagogue. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, all the groups in the alliance gathered together to hear our students' journeys and celebrate their massive Refugee Welcome Schools accreditation achievement. The students who attended were absolutely fantastic when presenting Soar Valley's work and represented the school superbly; we are all so proud of them.

We have also worked with other members of our alliance on an anti-racism campaign. We have had meetings with other schools and organisations and students have voiced their opinions on this topical issue. There will be lots of work happening on this social justice campaign next year by Active Citizens group. We hope to be able to share some successful actions next year with you.

Parents Evenings	
Year 9	Thursday November 17th
Year 11	Thursday January 19th
Year 8	Thursday March 2nd
Year 10	Thursday March 23rd
Year 7	Thursday May 4th
Term Dates	
Autumn Term begins	Tuesday August 30th
Autumn Half Term Break	October 17th-21st
Autumn Term ends	Friday December 16th
Spring Term begins	Tuesday January 3rd
Spring Half Term Break	February 13th-17th
Spring Term ends	Friday March 31st
Summer Term begins	Monday April 17th
Summer Half Term Break	May 29th—June 2nd
Summer Term ends	Friday July 14th
Other Events Next Term	
Y11 Parents' Info Evening	Tuesday September 6th
Open Evening	Wednesday September 21st
Y10 Parents' Info Evening	Tuesday September 27th
Post-16 Evening	Wednesday October 5th
Governors' Meeting	Tuesday October 11th
<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	Monday October 24th
Staff Training	Tuesday October 25th
Ex Y11 Celebration Evening	Thursday November 24th

