



# Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**

Newsletter

Spring Term

March 2026

## Message from the Principal

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support in helping make this a successful period for our SVC community. It has been a term full of hard work, achievement and opportunity and we are all incredibly proud of what our students and staff have accomplished together.

We are delighted to share that a place at Soar Valley College continues to be highly sought after. We received 812 applications for 312 places in next year's Year 7 cohort. This level of interest is a testament to the strength of our community, the dedication of our staff, and the positive experiences of our students. The March visits by Year 6 students were met with enthusiasm and excitement as they now become a part of the Soar Valley extended family!

At the other end of their Soar valley journey, our Year 11 students are now very much in the throes of their exam preparation. This is a crucial time for them and we are rightly impressed by their focus, determination and effort. We look forward to seeing many of them at our three-day Easter revision programme, which will provide valuable support and guidance as they approach their final examinations.

Beyond the classroom, our enrichment programme continues to thrive. Students have engaged enthusiastically in a wide range of opportunities, including the Speak Up project, outdoor pursuits activities and notable success in regional badminton competitions. Our Identity Day was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the vibrant range of cultures that form our school community. These are just a few of the experiences in which students have the opportunity to take part and that play a vital role in developing their confidence, teamwork, resilience and the sense of belonging that binds us together.

Walking around the school each day, I am struck by the calm, purposeful working atmosphere that exists in our classrooms. Students are enthusiastic, engaged and committed to doing their best. This culture, supported so strongly by you as parents and carers, is what will ultimately lead to their continued success.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

I would like to wish you and your families a peaceful and restful Easter break.

Mr Pabari  
Principal

## Dates for Your Diary



| Parents' Evenings              |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Year 10                        | Thursday March 26 <sup>th</sup>                |
| Year 7                         | Thursday May 7 <sup>th</sup>                   |
| Term Dates                     |  |
| Spring Term ends               | Friday March 27 <sup>th</sup>                  |
| Summer Term begins             | Monday April 13 <sup>th</sup>                  |
| <b>Bank Holiday [CLOSED]</b>   | Monday May 4 <sup>th</sup>                     |
| Summer Half Term Break         | May 25 <sup>th</sup> — 29 <sup>th</sup>        |
| Summer Term ends               | Friday July 10 <sup>th</sup>                   |
| Other Events Next Half Term    |  |
| Yr 11 Easter Revision Sessions | March 30 <sup>th</sup> — April 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Yr 11 Photography Exams        | April 14 <sup>th</sup> — 17 <sup>th</sup>      |
| Author Visit                   | April 14 <sup>th</sup> — 16 <sup>th</sup>      |
| Yr 11 Graphics Exams           | April 20 <sup>th</sup> — 21 <sup>st</sup>      |
| Yr 11 Art/Graphics Exams       | April 22 <sup>nd</sup> — 23 <sup>rd</sup>      |
| Yr 11 Language Oral Exams      | April 27 <sup>th</sup> — May 1 <sup>st</sup>   |
| Year 10 English Visit          | Tuesday April 28 <sup>th</sup>                 |
| Yr 7 Reports Home              | Wednesday April 29 <sup>th</sup>               |
| Jr Maths Challenge             | Wednesday April 29 <sup>th</sup>               |
| Booster Vaccinations           | Tuesday May 5 <sup>th</sup>                    |
| Yr 10 Citizenship Mock Trial   | Wednesday May 6 <sup>th</sup>                  |
| Yr 11 GCSE Exams Start         | Thursday May 7 <sup>th</sup>                   |
| Yr 10 KS5 English Visit        | Tuesday May 12 <sup>th</sup>                   |

# Library News

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

Welcome to the latest update from your school library! There has been lots happening this term to celebrate reading, the discover of new books, and plenty of opportunity to get involved in competitions and World Book Day events.



## Bookbuzz 2025/2026 Celebrating

### Student Creativity

This term, our Year 7 students took part in the **Bookbuzz Challenge**, and the results have been fantastic! After reading their chosen Bookbuzz titles, students were set a creative task: to design a **film poster inspired by their book**. From dramatic taglines to eye-catching visuals, we were incredibly impressed by the effort, the imagination, and the understanding of the stories shown in their work. The posters demonstrated: A strong grasp of plot and character, Creative interpretation of themes, Excellent design skills. All participants received a certificate and participation points, and a selection of the best entries are on display within the English Department. Well done to all who took part, your work highlighted the creativity of our Year 7 readers!

### SVC Book Spark Reading Challenge

With 40 titles in the challenge – this is SVC’s BIGGEST reading challenge to date! The aim is simple: read **5 books across 4 different categories** before the end of the year. A fiction book, A non-fiction book, A graphic novel, A quick read, A free choice. The challenge incorporates collections curated by Book Trust, including titles with ‘fascinating facts for curious minds,’ books that ‘let your mind wander into new worlds,’ books that ‘spark your love of reading.’ and lots more titles that our Library Manager – Mrs Richardson felt were simply too good to leave out. With 40 books to choose from and opportunities galore to earn participation points and prizes along the way, what’s not to love? Visit the library to find out more.

### World Book Day Fun

This year’s World Book Day theme, **“Go All In,”** encourages secondary school students to fully immerse themselves in reading by exploring a wide range of genres, authors, and formats with enthusiasm and curiosity. The theme promotes the idea of committing to reading not just as a school activity, but as a meaningful and enjoyable part of everyday life.

For older students, it highlights the value of deep engagement, whether that is analysing complex texts, discovering new perspectives, or connecting stories to real-world issues. It also reminds students that reading isn’t limited to novels; it can be linked to their personal interests, whether that’s exploring a biography of a favourite sports person, reading gaming blogs, or diving into content connected to their hobbies, whatever they love, there is always a way to go all in and read about it.

Soar Valley College students went all in during the week of World Book Day with activities including **National Book Token Design Competition**, **World Cup Stars**, **Doomsday Club Shapeshifters**, **Book Recommendation Fortune Tellers**, and an SVC special edition – **Escape Room** filled with challenges that really got students thinking! Sadly, none of our teams were able to complete the Escape Room Challenge and students have set SVC staff the challenge. Will they fare better? Only time will tell!

### 7 for 7 Reading Challenge

Our **“7 for 7” Reading Challenge** is in full swing! The aim is simple: read **7 books across 7 different categories** before the end of the year. The **Creative Learning Services ‘7 for 7 Challenge’ (2025–2026)** is a reading initiative designed to encourage students to broaden their reading habits and discover new types of books.

Students are challenged to read **seven books across seven different categories**, which include genres like mystery, non-fiction, diverse authors, classics, and books set in other countries. The aim is to promote reading for pleasure while helping students explore a wider range of authors, themes, and perspectives.

The challenge supports literacy development, builds reading confidence, and encourages students to step outside their usual choices. Those who complete the challenge are recognised for their achievement, celebrating both commitment and a love of reading.

Those taking part are invited to our monthly book club meeting for an animated discussion related to the book of the month and to share recommendations with one another.



EVEN MORE...

# Library News

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## Stranger Things Inspired 100-Word Story Competition

Stranger Saga's 100-word story competition proved to be an incredible showcase creativity and imagination. The entries truly blew the judges' minds, with students demonstrating an impressive ability to craft compelling narratives in such a limited word count.

There was a remarkable range of themes, from suspense and mystery to humour and heartfelt moments, often packed with unexpected plot twists that left a lasting impact.

The competition highlighted not only students' storytelling skills, but also their confidence in experimenting with ideas and pushing the boundaries of concise writing. Our judges have whittled things down to the top six entries. Results will be released very soon!

## Book Review House Competition Results

|                 |              |      |           |
|-----------------|--------------|------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Anastasios P | 7.9  | Bradgate  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Japnoor Kaur | 7.7  | Abbey     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Eashwa F     | 8.12 | Watermead |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Maryam M     | 8.11 | Victoria  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Anandi A     | 7.10 | Castle    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Jasleen K    | 7.8  | Beacon    |



## Book Review Competition

Students took part in SVC's annual book review competition. With so many fabulous reviews it was difficult to pick the top six from across our six houses. The reviews not only highlighted SVC students love of reading but functioned as recommendations to one another and helped highlight the diverse range of titles, genres, and formats, available at Soar Valley College Library.

Fiction, non-fiction, quick reads, choose your own adventure, graphic novels, and ma+naga. Voxblock and Yoto audio books. From classics to crime, humour to real-life issues, sport, fantasy, and magazines... There is something for everyone here at Soar Valley College library. Students can log into our online catalogue **Accessit** by visiting:

<https://uk.accessit.online/srv01/#ldashboard> and logging in with their school email address and password.



## Carnegie Book Awards 2026

The **Carnegie Book Awards** are one of the UK's most prestigious awards for children's and young adult literature. Each year, a panel of librarians selects a longlist of outstanding books, which is then narrowed down to a shortlist and overall winner.

**Good news!** We have several of this year's **longlisted titles available in the library now**. If you are looking for your next great read, why not try one of these award-nominated books? Come and speak to library staff to find out which titles are available.

## Exciting News: Upcoming Author Visit

We are excited to welcome local author Steve Skidmore, co-author of the *Choose Your Own Adventure* series, to Soar Valley College this April. As part of our library lesson curriculum, he will be leading interactive workshops with Year 7 students, introducing them to the unique and engaging world of *Choose Your Own Adventure* stories.

During these sessions, students will explore the key elements needed to create branching narratives, including plot structure, decision points, and multiple endings. Over a series of lessons, they will work collaboratively in teams to plan and write their own original stories, developing both their creativity and teamwork skills.

## Get Involved!

The library is here for everyone—whether you are an avid reader or just looking for something new to try. Borrow books. Join reading challenges. Ask for recommendations. Take part in events. We are always happy to help you find your next favourite book.

If you are ready to take your involvement even further and feel like stepping into a school leadership role, then look no further—Student Library Assistant volunteering applications will be opening very soon!

This year, our student librarian role has been expanded into a range of exciting positions, offering even more ways to get involved in the running of your library. It is a fantastic opportunity to have fun while developing valuable leadership skills.

Roles include:

**Student Librarian: IT Support**, helping peers with basic tech tasks like saving and printing work;

**Student Librarian: Marketing**, using your creativity to promote reading for pleasure, helping with newsletters and displays;

**Student Librarian: Reading Champion**, supporting others with book choices and helping lead small reading groups;

**Student Librarian: Customer Service Team**, assisting with a variety of day-to-day library tasks that keep the library an inviting space for all to enjoy.

All roles will include basic library training before students learn more in relation to their selected pathway. More information about each role and how to apply will be shared after the Easter break.

# CAREERS

## This Term in Careers

The Spring term has been really busy for the careers team at Soar Valley College.

Year 11 students, having completed their Post 16 applications, began to receive invitations to college welcome events and interviews. On one day we had over 200 students out at WQE to begin their Level 3 journey. In February, we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week 2026. We were thrilled to be able to welcome back ex-student, Nikhil Mistry who spoke to Year 7 and Year 8 about his journey as an apprentice since leaving Soar Valley College. We also welcomed Motiv8 apprenticeships back to school to talk to Year 9, 10 and 11 about apprenticeships as a possible Post 16 option.

During this week also, a small number of Year 10s had the chance to attend an apprenticeship fair at Mattioli Woods. Students took part in a short workshop and had the chance to talk to apprenticeship providers. A small group of Year 11 students attended a similar event this term at City Hall.

National Careers Week took place during the first week of March. All teachers encouraged students to think about careers related to their subject area and to highlight the employability skills which we develop in school every day. We were really pleased to welcome speakers into assembly, including ex-Soar Valley students Dhara Patel, from The Space Centre and Akshay (Mr Shay) Sharma from The Underground Creatives.



Should you have any questions regarding our careers programme, please email [careers@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk](mailto:careers@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk)

## Local MP Visits to Talk Citizenship with Students

In January, Year 11 GCSE Citizenship students had a question-and-answer session with their local MP, Shivani Raja, an ex-Soar Valley College student.

This was a highly valuable opportunity for students to understand the role of an MP and the workings of parliament. Students had the opportunity to ask meaningful questions which they planned for prior to their visit within GCSE Citizenship lessons.

Shivani also shared with students her journey through school and college and how she embarked on her political career. Students thoroughly enjoyed this experience and we would like to thank Ms Raja for taking the time to visit and to broaden our students understanding of a key element of their course.

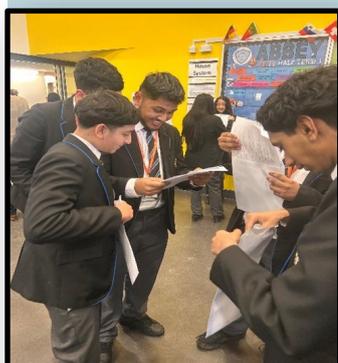


## Scholars Programme

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our Year 9 students who have successfully completed the Scholars Programme. The programme has been run in three groups one for each term. Our first group of students have successfully graduated and marked this achievement with a visit to the University of Sheffield. Cohorts two and three will be graduating later in the year. Throughout the programme, students demonstrated commitment, curiosity, and resilience as they engaged in academic research projects ranging from the development of vaccinations to the psychology of food choices. Successfully completing the Scholars Programme requires attendance at tutorials and completion of a 2000-word essay independently researched and written with the guidance of a PHD tutor.

The university visit was a highlight of the program and an exciting opportunity for students to experience campus life first hand, participate in interactive sessions and gain valuable insight into university pathways and future study options. As well as reflecting on their experiences, they also had the opportunity to meet other successful scholars from around the country.

We extend our sincere congratulations to all students who completed the programme and our thanks to the families who supported them along the way. Your encouragement plays a vital role in nurturing confidence and ambition.



## Mock Results Afternoon

Right back at the start of term, on the afternoon of January 13<sup>th</sup>, the nervous tension in the air was palpable as Year 11 came to the Main Hall to collect their mock exam results.

As some of the students were guided to reflect on their approach to the mocks by Mr Ridge-way in the Main Hall, shrieks of excitement could be heard from the Dining Hall, where the other half of the year were realising that the hard work in the months leading up to this moment had paid off.

Of course, we had the occasional moment of despair – followed by the realisation that they should have listened to the advice they were given – but, as expected, lessons big and small were learned during this invaluable event and year 11 have since kicked on and are working hard to achieve their very best come August.



# Six Houses, One Community, Thousands of Opportunities

## The House System @SVC

### Celebrating Identity Day and House Competition Success

At Soar Valley, our House system thrives when students come together to celebrate community, culture, and competition. Over the past few weeks, students have done exactly that - raising money for fantastic causes, showcasing their individuality, and competing with determination and pride across a range of events.

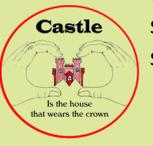


### The Runway Takes Centre Stage

One of the highlights of the day was the fashion runway walk, where students confidently stepped forward to showcase their outfits in front of an enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

With our resident DJ providing the soundtrack and keeping the energy high, the atmosphere was electric. Students truly shone on the runway, demonstrating confidence, individuality, and pride in who they are. Cheers and applause from the audience created a celebratory environment that captured the spirit of the day perfectly.

Events like this remind us how powerful it is when students feel confident expressing themselves and supporting one another.



### Get Involved – Every Point Counts!

The House competitions are well underway, and every event brings new opportunities to make a difference for your team. Whether you prefer sport, problem-solving, creativity, or leadership, there is always a way to contribute.

So, keep an eye out for upcoming competitions, support your Housemates, and most importantly - get involved. Every cheer, every effort, and every point helps push your House closer to the top.

Let's keep the energy high, the competition friendly, and the House spirit stronger than ever. Together, we can make this another fantastic chapter in the Soar Valley House story!



### Identity Day 2026

We are delighted to share the success of our recent Identity Day – a truly inspiring event that brought our school community together in a celebration of culture, individuality, and inclusion.

Students arrived dressed to impress in a wide range of cultural attire, proudly showcasing their heritage and identity. The vibrant colours, traditional outfits, and personal expressions on display created a powerful atmosphere of respect, pride, and curiosity across the school. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn from one another and celebrate what makes each individual unique.

In addition to celebrating diversity, the day also focused on giving back. Through a variety of fundraising efforts, students raised money for Comic Relief as well as our chosen student charity, Make-A-Wish. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm shown and the understanding demonstrated by students about supporting worthwhile causes that make a real difference to others.

The day culminated in a fantastic fashion show, where students confidently took to the stage to showcase their outfits. A particular highlight was a special guest appearance from former student Tia Sonegra, who returned to deliver an energetic live DJ set. Her performance brought the event to life and was a brilliant reminder of the talent within our school community, past and present.

Identity Day was not only a celebration, but also a meaningful reminder of the importance of inclusion, respect, and community spirit. We would like to thank all students, staff, and families for their support in making the day such a success.

We look forward to building on this in future events.

### Competition Heating Up Across the Houses

While Identity Day brought celebration and fundraising, the competitive spirit across the Houses has also been stronger than ever.

A wide range of inter-House sporting competitions have taken place recently, with students battling it out for valuable House points. From fast-paced matches to strategic team play, these events have truly got the competitive juices flowing as Houses push to climb the leaderboard.

But competition hasn't been limited to the sports field. Students have also been putting their minds to the test through a series of Dingbats and Word Ladder challenges. These brain-teasing competitions have encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, and quick thinking as Houses compete to prove they are not only strong in sport but sharp in the classroom too.

It has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved, whether competing directly or cheering on their Housemates from the sidelines.



### Identity Day:

#### Celebrating Who We Are

On Thursday 19th March, the school came alive with colour, creativity, and culture as students took part in our much-anticipated Identity Day.

Students were invited to come to school in their own clothing, making a donation that contributed to two wonderful causes: Comic Relief and our chosen school charity, Make-A-Wish. The generosity of our students and families helped raise valuable funds that will go towards supporting vulnerable children and helping grant life-changing wishes.

Identity Day was also a chance for students to express themselves and celebrate the diversity that makes our school community so special. Cultural dress was warmly encouraged, and it was incredible to see students proudly representing their heritage and identity through their clothing.





# Internet Safety Week



As part of Internet Safety Week in February, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have been doing some work on how to stay safe online. Some of the students created posters that were shown to all year groups in their IT/Computer Science lessons, and other students have been investigating the best ways to stay safe online. The below article has been written by Ayush and Abdirahman as part of their work towards staying safe online.

## Staying Safe Online

The online world is a space where we can encounter both good and bad content and influences. Internet Safety Week is a great opportunity to spread awareness about the online world. As a result, we have collated a series of top tips to help you stay safe this year.

### 1. Make sure you're using a secure internet connection:

Change the default password on your router to ensure it is more secure. Be cautious of using public networks such as cafés, airports, or hotels. By using a secure VPN you can mask your IP address, which helps to protect you from being tracked.

### 2. Choose strong passwords:

Passwords are one of the weak spots. People choose passwords that are easy to remember and easy for hackers to crack. Using the same password for multiple sites puts your data at risk. If hackers obtain your credentials from one site, they can access other websites too.

Have a long password – made up of at least 12 characters (ideally more). The latest recommendations is to use passcodes i.e. 3 random words with numbers in to ensure you password is more secure.

Use a mix of characters including uppercase and lowercase letters plus symbols and numbers.

Avoid the obvious – using sequential numbers (1234) or personal information that someone who knows you might guess (or that might already be online), such as your date of birth or a pet's name, and avoid memorable keyboard paths.

### 3. Enable multi-factor authentication where you can:

Multifactor authentication (MFA) is an authentication method that asks users to provide more verification methods to access an account, such as: sending an additional code to your emails, asking private questions that only you would know or using third-party apps to confirm it is you.

### 4. Avoiding scams or malware:

When surfing online, it is very important to remain safe and surf with clarity and that you don't have a virus. It is important to purchase an anti-virus software or to ensure that your internet connection is secure before clicking on any adverts as well as ensuring updates are applied regularly to your devices.

### 5. Cyber-bullying:

Cyber bullying is when someone uses the internet to harm or upset others. It mainly happens through social media, messages and games. If you experience it, there are many people who can help, and it is important not to respond. Instead, you can block the person, report them on the platform, and you should most importantly tell a trusted adult, teacher or an anti-bullying ambassador for support. Please remember that help is always available.

If you would like further information about online safety then the government's [Kids Online Safety](http://www.kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk) website [www.kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk] provides valuable support.



## Year 8 Students Reach for the Stars in STEM Event

Our Year 8 students recently took part in an exciting and engaging STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths] event, delivered in partnership with the National Space Centre. The workshop brought science to life as students explored the fascinating world of rockets and space exploration.



During the session students learned about how rockets work and even created their own rocket fuel using chemical reactions. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the rocket testing; the rockets shot across the room to the amazement and delight of everyone involved! The energy and enthusiasm in the room were truly spectacular, with students fully immersed in the experience.

In addition to the rocket challenge, students took part in a range of hands-on STEM activities linked to space, developing their scientific knowledge and practical skills. They also had the rare opportunity to handle and observe genuine meteorites that are hundreds of years old, sparking curiosity and wonder about the universe.

It was a fantastic day that inspired our students and showcased the excitement of STEM learning in action.

# PE



## Sports Leaders

It has been a busy term for our Sports Leaders, with a number of primary festival taking place and the return of the wheelchair sports event following its resounding success earlier in the year.



On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 9 of our Year 10 Sports Leaders went to Taylor Road Primary School for our annual primary school Dance Festival. They spent the afternoon helping and supporting a wide range of primary pupils as they each performed two separate dances. They also got to perform their own self-choreographed dance to all of the pupils during the interval which they absolutely loved seeing. They did a great job throughout the event. Congratulations to Fiyoni, Archita, Riya, Yenjal, Fenisha, Subhana, Navjeet, Nancy and Chahat.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February saw the holding of our annual Year 4 ultimate Frisbee Festival. The 8 Sports Leaders named below all did an outstanding job on the day. The competition was firm but fair throughout the event. It was fast paced and extremely tiring, but the Sports Leaders were brilliant at keeping the Year 4 pupils motivated and ensuring that they performed their best in each game that they played. Congratulations to Mohamad, Shinosh, Sumit, Smit, Ansh, Angad and Muhanad.

On Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> 6 of our Year 10 Sports Leaders had the opportunity to take the next step in their leadership development. They spent the afternoon at Taylor Road Primary School to help with the Year 3/4 Football League that they run. They were the first ever group from Soar Valley College to be given such an opportunity.

They had the chance to officiate and coach during the afternoon and all did a fantastic job. They were a real credit to the school and received outstanding praise from the primary school staff who were present. A huge well done to Muhanad, Dhruv, Sarvesh, Abdourrahman, Priyan and Harsh.

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March we hosted our second wheelchair sport event of the year in partnership with Taylor Road Primary School and Make Change Leicester. This time it was the turn of Wheelchair Rugby. We had the help of 11 Year 10 Sports Leaders, without whom the event could not have run. They were amazing throughout the whole day.

There were 16 primary schools present during the day, and 96 pupils had the opportunity to participate in this fantastic inclusive sport. A tiring but very rewarding day for all the leaders. Congratulations to Riya, Chahat, Safiya, Zainab, Shinosh, Arwa, Aliraza, Sumit, Ansh, Denson and Subhana.

On Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, we held our Year 5 Primary School Dodgeball Festival. This event is always fast paced and frenetic, and this year was no different! However, what really stood out this year was the standard of the pupils. Throughout the afternoon there were some incredibly powerful throws, some spectacular catches and numerous outrageous dodges – all the elements that make this such an exciting sport. The 10 Sports Leaders at the event did a great job with the officiating and the running of the event.

Congratulations to Nancy, Archita, Yenjal, Tia, Pakeeza, Navjeet, Prabjot, Nuzha, Habeebah and Fiyoni.



## Badminton Success – City, County & Beyond!

It has been an exceptional season for our badminton teams, with remarkable achievements across both Key Stage 3 [Years 7-9] and Key Stage 4 [Years 10 & 11].

Our KS3 Girls team impressed, finishing second in the city after a fantastic campaign. They showed excellent determination and sportsmanship throughout the competition and should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Our KS3 Boys and KS4 Boys delivered superb performances throughout the competition to be crowned City Champions and progressed through to the Leicestershire County Finals. Their teamwork, determination and skill were evident in every round, as they battled through strong opposition to secure the titles.

The success continued with our KS4 Girls team, who were also crowned City Champions after a series of outstanding performances. Not content with this triumph, the KS4 Girls went on to compete in the Leicestershire County Finals, where they once again demonstrated their quality and resilience to become County Champions. This incredible achievement means that they progressed through to the Regional Finals, a truly outstanding accomplishment and a proud moment for the school. And once there the girls were magnificent, emerging as East Midlands Champions! They beat Derbyshire (Derby High School) 5-0, beat Lincolnshire (Kings Grammar Girls School) 4-1, beat Northamptonshire (Oundle School) 4-1 and beat Nottinghamshire (George Spencer Academy) 3-2. And so now they progress onto the National Finals, which take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

Congratulations to all of the players involved, we look forward to supporting the KS4 Girls at the National Finals and celebrating what has already been a phenomenal season for school badminton!



# PE

## Nerf Gun Battle Club Takes Off with Year 7 and 8

This term has seen the exciting launch of our brand new Nerf Gun Battle extracurricular sports club, and it's already proving to be a huge hit with students in Years 7 and 8. With over 80 enthusiastic

participants attending so far, the club has quickly become one of the most energetic and enjoyable activities on our enrichment timetable.

Thanks to all of the safety equipment, Nerf blasters and foam darts being provided, students have been able to get stuck in right from day one. We have also loved seeing many students bring in their own Nerf blasters to add a personal touch to the action!

Beyond the fun and excitement, the club has also provided brilliant opportunities for students to develop a wide range of physical and personal skills. Each session supports teamwork, tactical thinking, movement skills, cardiovascular fitness, and most importantly confidence and fun.

The atmosphere has been fantastic, with students showing great sportsmanship and enthusiasm every week. We're thrilled with how popular the club has become and look forward to even more action-packed sessions ahead.

Well done to everyone who has taken part so far. Keep those Nerf blasters at the ready!



## Year 7 Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre Trip

Some of our Year 7 students recently enjoyed an exciting trip to the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits centre, where they took part in a range of adventurous and team-building activities including bush craft, archery, high ropes and the gladiator's course. Students challenged themselves to try new experiences and step outside of their comfort zones. The day was filled with energy, enthusiasm and plenty of fun as students supported one another and celebrated their achievements.

The trip was not only a great opportunity for physical activity but also helped to build confidence, resilience and teamwork skills. Many students showed determination and courage, especially when facing the high ropes and gladiator course. We are very proud of the positive attitudes displayed throughout the day and it was clear that the experience created lasting memories.



## MFL Spelling Bee Competition

Since September, Year 7 students have been participating in French in the Routes into Languages Spelling Bee competition.

All students took part in Stage 1 and the top 3 students from each class progressed to Stage 2. These winners have been working incredibly hard since January by attending lunch time and after school sessions every week, as well as practising a lot at home.

The Stage 2 competition was held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February and the top 3 students were: Muhammed S [7.2] Tanishka C [7.10] and Sharfa F [7.9]. The next stop for these incredible winners is the Stage 3 Regional Competition which is due to take place at the University of Nottingham.



# French

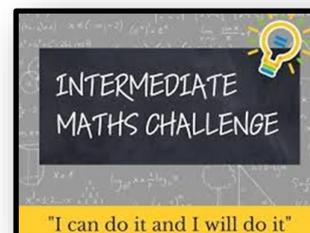
## The Intermediate Maths challenge!

A massive congratulations to all of the Year 9 and Year 10 students who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Maths teachers chose the students invited to take part in this extra challenge, a national competition designed to allow students to test their knowledge with problem solving skills. The hour long challenge paper is set by the UKMT (National Maths Trust) and encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency.

34 Year 10 students and 27 Year 9 students were set the challenge with a special mention to Karan and Sai who joined the top 1% of students nationally and were invited to challenge their problem solving skills further in the next round of the competition.



# Maths



# Creative Arts

## Art @ Soar Valley

Congratulations to all of our Artists of the Term whose work you will see dotted around this newsletter!

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you for your creativity, dedication, and the effort you have shown throughout this term. It is especially wonderful to see so many students being recognised, as it reflects the enthusiasm and hard work that has gone into your artistic journeys.

Your commitment to developing your skills and expressing yourselves through art has truly stood out, and you should feel very proud of your achievements.

## Photography Competition

In the dark winter months of January/February the art department lifted our spirits by running a photography competition for both staff and students.

The theme of the competition was *Our World* and participants were encouraged to take a photograph of whatever they considered to be an important part of their world. As you can see, this led to an incredible variety of images.

We had a fantastic response, and a massive congratulations must go to Mayumi VS [9.7] Vidhaya M [11.5] Nia S [10.10] Shaun K [11.2] Ayesha C [7.6] and Jenna P [9.3] for displaying their creativity and producing our top six entries. Well done and thank you to everyone who entered.

For those of you that have been into school lately, you will have seen the photographs on display in the area behind Main Reception; they were exhibited on Options Evening for example. They will now move into the creative arts corridor and will remain on display for students and staff to enjoy.



## WQE Trip for Fine Art Students

The Year 10 fine art group recently went to WQE College to take part in a mixed media printmaking workshop.

Not only did this strengthen their skills but it gave them a taster of studying art at Key Stage 5. The students made the art team really proud with their enthusiasm, creativity and curiosity throughout the day!

They produced some fantastic work. A massive well done to all that attended and a huge thank you to WQE for welcoming us and providing us with such fantastic resources and expertise.



# Science

## Year 11 Student Achieves National Success with Educake

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Year 11 student, Prina, who has won a national competition run by Educake.

Throughout the competition, Prina demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment to her studies by completing the highest number of hours on the Educake platform in a single month. Competing against students from across the UK, she secured first place nationally—an incredible accomplishment.

To recognise her success, representatives from Educake visited the school to personally congratulate Prina and present her with her prize—a brand new laptop. In addition, they generously provided a hamper for the Science Department and chocolates for her science class, allowing others to share in the celebration.

This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to Prina's hard work and determination. Congratulations, Prina—what a brilliant success!



## Eco Team Update

It may have been a cold and wet term but this hasn't stopped the Eco Team making progress on their action plan.

This year the Eco Team have chosen to focus on the 3 areas of Biodiversity, School Grounds and Waste. They started the term by sharing these plans with the rest of the school by delivering assemblies to each year group with many of the team challenging themselves to present, something they had never done before. In the assemblies they shared the school's current recycling report and launched the pen recycling competition.

They then took part in the RSBP Big Birdwatch to start to assess the biodiversity in the school grounds and next term will be making bird feeders and planting wildflowers to try to help to increase this.

Alongside this they have been taking a leadership role in the Year 8 Active Citizenship Allotment Challenge as part of the school grounds focus and have started work on their own allotment area planting fruits and vegetables which will hopefully be ready to harvest at the end of the school year.

The team have also been busy baking cakes and holding cake stalls at the Year 11, 10 and 8 parents' evenings and their fundraising total for Trees for the Future currently stands at £96.16. With the sun now starting to shine we are excited for the final term and continuing all our projects into the summer.

# Eco Team



# Culture Day & Red Nose Day



# WBD Escape Room



# Speak Out Challenge



## Finding Their Voice: Year 10 Speak Out Workshop

Thirty Year 10 students recently took part in an exciting Speak Out Challenge workshop led by a facilitator from the Speakers Trust, designed to build confidence and develop public speaking skills.

Throughout the day, students participated in a range of interactive activities that explored what makes an effective speech. From structuring ideas to using tone, body language, and storytelling, students learned how to capture an audience and communicate their message clearly.

It was fantastic to see every student put their best foot forward. As the workshop progressed, confidence blossomed across the group, with students becoming increasingly comfortable sharing their thoughts and speaking in front of others.

The highlight of the day came at the end of the workshop when every student delivered a short speech. Standing up in front of others takes real courage, and each student should be incredibly proud of their effort and bravery.

Students could really see the benefit of the workshop as these reflections show. Noor said, "My experience at the workshop was truly exciting as there were fun activities to help us build our communication skills as well as push us out of our comfort zone." Yousaf added, "I found the Speak Out workshop really fun with engaging activities. It helped me build my confidence in speaking in front of others." And finally, Chahat explained, "I really enjoyed the challenge as it gave me a chance to showcase my speaking skills in front of an audience and my peers. I learnt so many new things about communication and working as a team."

From these performances, five students were selected to take part in an upcoming assembly final. The winner and runner-up will then represent Soar Valley College in the regional Speak Out competition, competing against students from schools across the East Midlands.

Watch this space, and best of luck to our talented speakers!

## "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls"



## International Women's Day

### International Women's Day

Students at Soar Valley College marked International Women's Day by recognising the achievements and contributions of women around the world. Through dedicated classroom activities and a house competition, students explored the importance of equality, representation and the positive impact that women have had in all subject areas such as science, politics, sport and the arts.

These activities encouraged students to reflect on the progress that has been made towards gender equality, while also considering the importance of respect, opportunity and fairness for all. It was fantastic to see students engaging thoughtfully with these themes and celebrating the achievements of inspirational women both past and present.

At Soar Valley, opportunities like this help students develop a broader understanding of the world around them and support our wider aim of preparing young people to contribute positively to modern society.

