

**SHIRELAND COLLEGIATE ACADEMY**

# **SPRING NEWSLETTER**

**APRIL 2025**



# “Head” Line

Dear Families,

As we welcome the vibrant season of spring, I am delighted to reflect on the remarkable successes we have achieved together during the last term. Our school community has demonstrated resilience, dedication, and a commitment to excellence that truly sets us apart.

Firstly, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our students for their outstanding commitment towards their studies. Students in Years 11 and 13 are approaching a busy exam season after the Easter break. In recent weeks and months, we have seen them engaging well in lessons and study support sessions. Please continue to encourage them to do so after the break. Every bit of effort will be worth it when it comes to their results.

The number of opportunities we offer our students is one of the things I take most pride in as Associate Principal. In recent weeks alone, we have seen the Inclusion Department take Year 7 and 8 students to a football tournament at Aston Villa, a team of students competing in the National Finals of the F1 in Schools Competition, Music Showcases, trips to universities, as well as a number of inspiring visitors in school. The specific events I mention are just the tip of the iceberg. In the Newsletter, you will see just how many things staff plan for your children. Thank you to all of the staff involved; your efforts in going the extra mile are greatly appreciated.

I am thrilled to share that our Culture Day was a resounding success. Students and staff came together to celebrate the rich diversity within our school community, showcasing various cultural performances, traditional attire, and delicious cuisines from around the world. This event not only fostered a sense of unity but also provided an invaluable opportunity for everyone to learn and appreciate different cultures. While we are celebrating the diversity of our school, I would like to take this opportunity to say that I hope families celebrating Eid had a wonderful day. I also extend our best wishes to those celebrating Easter over the break.

Finally, thank you for all of your support as families. The success at Shireland is down to the way in which we work together as a school community. Please enjoy the break and encourage students to do so too. We will see you after Easter for another busy term.

Thomas Daly



# Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



## **Anti-Bullying Whole School Inclusion badge**

Congratulations to our fabulous Antibullying ambassadors who have worked really hard this year to achieve our whole school inclusion badge. Our ABA's took part in the following:

- Upstander Training – Ambassadors trained 500 students in how to support their peers and take action against bullying.
- LGBTQ+ & Anti-HBT Training from The Diana Award – Ambassadors gained confidence to support LGBTQ+ students and tackle discrimination.
- Odd Socks Day – A fun way to celebrate individuality and spread the message of respect.
- Black History Month – A month-long celebration with activities and competitions to honour Black history and culture.
- Diverse Library – New books and a Myon project (across the Academy trust) give students access to stories that reflect a range of experiences.

In addition, we also evidenced a wonderful range of additional activities! Including a special shout out to Izaan and Grayson, as well as the wider ABA team.



On Tuesday, 21st January, we organised a visit for our Year 7 and Year 8 students from Joel Foster, an up-and-coming music artist from Burton-Upon-Trent and a former contestant on the first season of *The Voice Kids UK* (2017). Joel performed live and delivered an inspiring message about diversity, bullying, and mental health. Both our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and those from Shireland Technology Primary School, part of our multi-academy trust, also joined us for the afternoon.

The event was designed to engage students in a meaningful and relatable way, using music as a medium to discuss important topics such as fostering positive relationships, diversity, standing up against bullying, and promoting mental well-being. Joel's background and success story provided a relatable and motivational example for our students.



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# Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



## Culture day –

### SCA Acts of Kindness – Spreading Positivity in Our Community

On Monday, 1st April, as part of Culture Day, our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors took part in a Random Acts of Kindness initiative. Accompanied by Mrs Bradley and Mr Moore, they walked into the local community, visiting nearby shops to share small gifts as a token of our appreciation. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to spread positivity and gratitude while representing our academy with pride. We are proud of the impact they made in our community!



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# Careers



This month, I had the pleasure of delivering careers assemblies for all year groups in our academy. The sessions focused on:

- **Career Pathways:** Exploring various career options available after school.
- **Skills Development:** Emphasising the importance of skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- **Future Trends:** Discussing emerging industries and the skills needed for future careers.



*Ms A Begum – Academy Careers Advisor*

## Year 10 Careers Event – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

On Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, a Year 10 careers event featuring a college representative and several employers. This event provided students with valuable insights into:

**Further Education Options:** Discussions about courses and programmes available at the college.

**Employer Engagement:** Opportunities for students to learn about various career paths and ask questions directly to employers.

### Employers & Further Education College that were present:

- National Highways
- Arup
- Halesowen College
- WJ Group
- SIPS Education

## Ongoing 121 Career Guidance Meetings for Students with a detailed Action Plan

In addition to the assemblies, I am conducting one-to-one career guidance meetings with students. During these sessions, we cover:

**One to One Career Goals:** Helping students identify their interests and aspirations.

**Work Experience Opportunities:** Advising on how to source and secure work placements.

**College and University Options:** Providing information on further education pathways and applications.



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# Inclusion



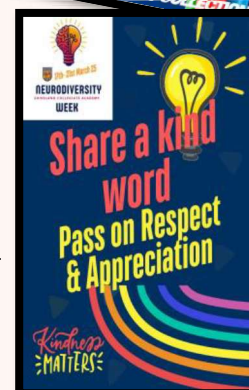
## Neurodiversity Celebration Week 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March



Some of our wonderful entries

We are thrilled to announce that our academy recently hosted its very first Neurodiversity Celebration Week! It was a wonderful experience, with a great number of staff, families, and students coming together to celebrate and promote the value of neurodiversity. The creativity and boldness of the entries were truly inspiring, and we are grateful for all those who participated in the quizzes and competitions. Your enthusiasm and support helped make this event a success!

Thank you to everyone who took part, and we look forward to making next year's celebration even bigger and better!



## Celebrating Valentines Day - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

On Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, our Inclusion students celebrated the day with a creative burst of love! The students showcased their talents by making wonderful cakes, building impressive Lego creations, and producing beautiful artwork, all inspired by the theme of love. It was a heartwarming day filled with creativity, laughter, and the spirit of togetherness. We are so proud of all the amazing work that our students created and the joy they shared with each other. Here's to more days of creativity and connection in our Inclusion community!



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# Inclusion



## 27<sup>th</sup> March Aston Villa Football Club Trip

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, Year 7 and Year 9 students from Shireland spent the morning playing football at Aston Villa FC against other West Midlands schools in a local tournament. They were some of the youngest there, and their conduct, energy, and sportsmanship were outstanding! 🏆👏

#Inclusion #TeamSpirit #Sportsmanship #AstonVilla #SEND  
#CelebratingNeurodiversity



## 1<sup>st</sup> April, Culture Day in Inclusion

Our day was filled with an array of delicious cultural foods and dishes. Students and staff contributed traditional recipes, creating a beautiful and tasty display of the diverse cultures that make up our school community. The shared experience of food helped bring everyone closer, sparking conversations and a deeper appreciation for one another's traditions. In addition to the food, we held a clothes swap, where students and staff had the chance to exchange traditional clothing and accessories. This fun activity allowed students to express their cultural identity and learn about different styles from their peers, enriching their understanding of the world around them.



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# Inclusion

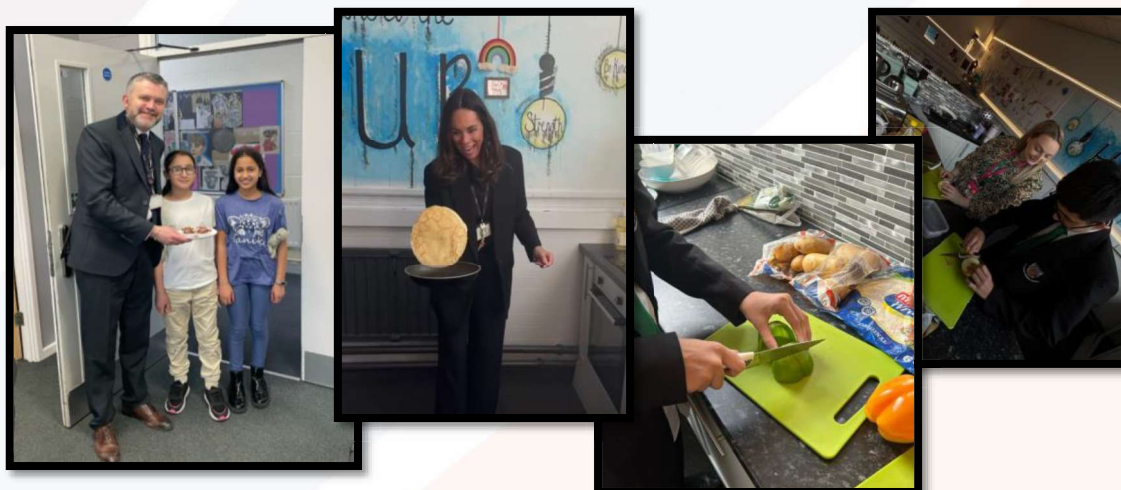


## Our Nurture Programme

This half term has been full of fun and flavour as our students have spent a significant amount of time in the kitchen! From getting their hands deep in cake mixtures to flipping pancakes, and even preparing nutritious meals, our students have been busy creating delicious dishes.

Our Principal, Mr. Daly, even received a special delivery of some of our wonderful bakes straight to his door – a sweet treat for him to enjoy! Meanwhile, our Assistant Principal and SENDCo, Mrs. Prince, gave her best effort at flipping pancakes.

It's been a fantastic term full of learning, laughter, and tasty creations. We can't wait to see what culinary adventures await next!



## Successful SEND progress evenings and SEND Cafes.

Following the success of our newly implemented SEND cafes and progress evenings, we are excited to continue these initiatives into next term. These events have provided valuable opportunities for staff to connect with more of our families and work together in a collaborative way to support our young people's growth and development.

It has been rewarding to see the positive impact of these gatherings, and we look forward to continuing this strong partnership in the upcoming term. Thank you to all the families who have participated, and we can't wait to build on this success moving forward!



# Performing Arts

## Patrick Centre performance

On Wednesday 26th March, a group of our Year 8 students took to the stage at the Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome. The event was to celebrate the launch of the &Juliet performance, currently touring the UK and showing on the main stage this month. Students presented their own alternative versions of Shakespeare plays, with their piece being based around the idea of a group of students who were arguing over which play to perform. Their piece even involved an appearance of the ghost of Shakespeare himself! Well done to all involved.



## Music Showcase – Happiness & Heartbreak

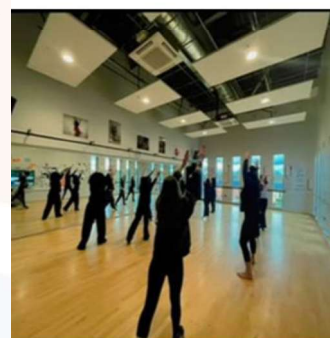
On Thursday 27th March, Music students from across the Academy took part in the annual music showcase, this year entitled, Happiness and Heartbreak. The audience was treated to a variety of musical acts, from Pop, Musical Theatre, RnB and Soul. The finale provided an opportunity for our year 11 band, The Raincoats, to perform alongside our soloists, for one last time before they head into their GCSE examinations. It was a wonderful celebration of the vast array of musical talent we have here at SCA.



## Dance- SCA Sessions

Since the start of the February term SCA Sessions, a new dance experience for our alumni and current students has been up and running. Alumni students have been invited back to the Academy, offering them a safe space to continue their passion, but also invites them to return as choreographers, giving them the opportunity to be creative and teach current students their own work. Our current students have been enjoying a variety of styles, from a variety of teachers, whilst also having the opportunity to talk to alumni students about their pathway into further education and careers, supporting them with their future choices and next steps in a fun and active environment.

## **SCA SESSIONS**



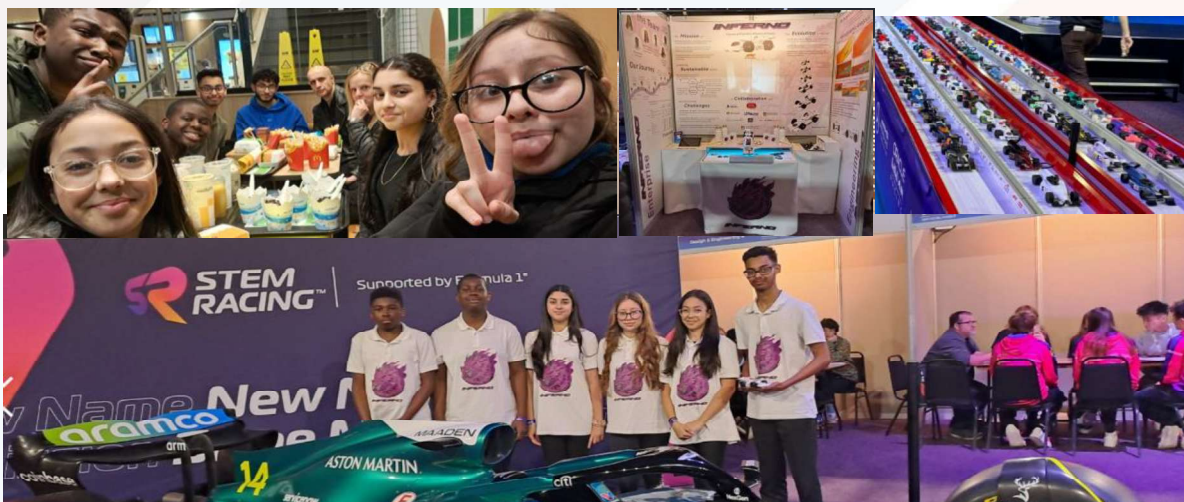
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# F1 in Schools Competition



## F1 in schools Shireland Collegiate Academy 2024/25

After the success of F1 in schools during the 23/24 season, Shireland Collegiate Academies Design and Technology Department entered two teams into the regional competition this year. Both Team dominated the regional competition with Team octane having the fastest car, and Team inferno qualifying for the national competition!



## F1 in schools' National competition

This week, TEAM INFERNO competed in the F1 in Schools ([STEM Racing](#)) UK National Finals! After months of hard work, dedication, and perseverance, they gave it our all on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of March. Over these two days, they were assessed on various aspects such as enterprise, engineering, brand identity, car scrutineering etc. They showcased their passion, teamwork, and innovation at every stage of the event. While they didn't take home the trophy this time, they gained something even greater—knowledge, experience, and the drive to come back even stronger next year. This journey has taught them a lot and they will embrace everything they learnt, in their lives ahead.





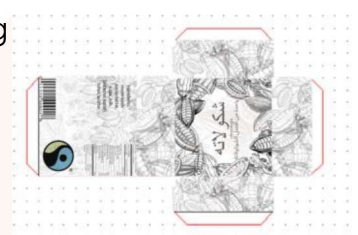
# Design & Technology



Our students made some innovative and high-quality products this year in Design and Technology!

Our year 7's made some high-quality textiles monsters, improving their sewing skills. Year 8's made some eye-catching boardgames and pendants which were produced to a high-quality. The year 9's have been continuing working on a Skills Passport to prepare them for GCSEs.

Year 11 and year 13 this year have recent made some high-quality products for their NEAs controlled assessments. There were well over 150 practical products produced by Year 11, and over 20 for year 13.



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# Physical Education

## **BTEC Sport Trip To Wembley Stadium**

Our BTEC Sport students from Y10 to Y13 had the opportunity to watch the England men's team in their World Cup qualifier match against Albania. The students had a fantastic time and for some it was their very first experience of an England match at Wembley Stadium. England won 2-0 too which helped make the trip that bit more enjoyable!



## **Y10 Boys Football Success**

Our Y10 boys football team took part in their 1<sup>st</sup> round match of Sandwell cup against George Salter Academy. The match finished 1-1 after full time with Gabriel Jones scoring a penalty. However, the game went to a dreaded penalty shoot-out. Thankfully, our goalkeeper Ekraaj Sidhu saved a penalty and all our players including Shemario Bailey scored the winning penalty to take us into the next round. Well done boys!

## **Girls England Netball Trip**

Our Girls netball teams headed off to the Motorpoint arena in Nottingham to watch some live Netball. They went to watch the England women's netball team in an international tournament against several different countries including Jamaica. They had a great time and hopefully took some tips on what they need to do in their very own Netball matches for our Academy. Well done girls!





# Sixth Form



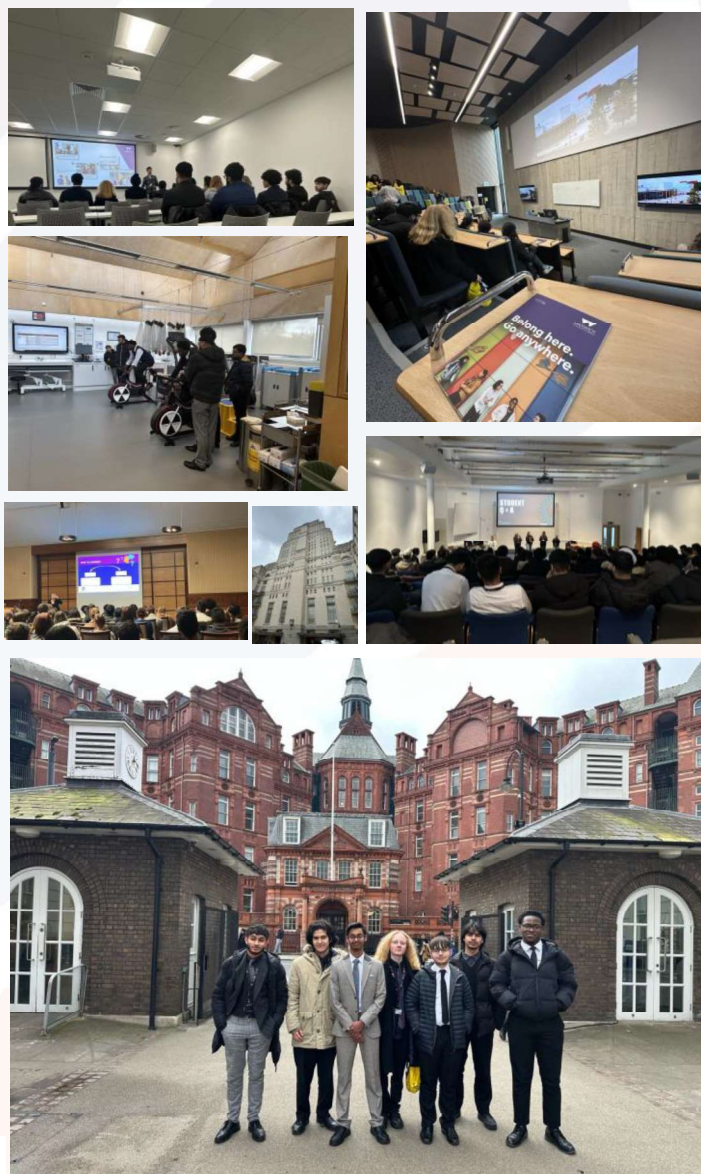
## University Visits

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, our Year 12 Elephant Group Cohort had the exciting opportunity to immerse themselves in university life during a taster day at Warwick University. The visit included a campus tour, an introduction to university life, and a masterclass on education and inequalities led by a university lecturer. The students had a fantastic experience exploring the campus-style university.

The Elephant Group also got the chance to attend the Spring Conference hosted at the University of London. An exciting opportunity with Key Note Speakers, tutorials on Metacognitive Revision Strategies and a tour of the campus across the capital city.

The whole of Year 12 also visited University of Gloucester for a Focus Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> March where they explored workshops in the Sports, Health and Social, Business and Law Schools.

These trips provided them with valuable insights into higher education and inspired them to consider their future academic paths.



## Launch of Sixth Form Societies

This academic year, we welcomed the new additions of Shireland Sixth MedSoc and Shireland Sixth Engineering. Led by our budding STEM students, the societies meet every fortnight to discuss, debate and present to one another about the latest developments and societal impacts these subjects are having.



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# Sixth Form



## Elephant Group Midlands Interviews

Our Partnership with the Elephant group continues to flourish, so when an interview panel was needed to speak to candidates for the role of Programme Coordinator, we were asked to support, along with the group's CEO and other herd members. Year 12 & 13 students and some of our SLT teams took the time to meet candidates and provide their feedback, forming an invaluable part of the recruitment process. It was such a privilege to be part of the process and we can't wait to continue to build the partnership!

## SCA Sixth Form leads on fundraising efforts

SCA Sixth Form have been working hard to raise funds for our first whole school charity this term. With the fundraising efforts of our Sixth Form Volunteer team, who sold just under 5000 samosas, and our Non Uniform Day we have raised over £1500 for Birmingham Hospice! Thank you to all who contributed. This in turn meant that we could "adopt" a bull calf that will be soon adorned with Shireland patterns and colours to go on and be part of a city-wide art project in the Summer with "Wild in Art". All students have been asked to submit their artistic designs of what they think SCA's diversity and culture looks like for their chance for their artwork to be seen by visitors to Birmingham across the summer months. Our Arts Apps students, and Designers and Artists from KS4 and KS5 will be bringing these ideas to life alongside our talented Art department

## Futures Programme

Across the Spring term we have been privileged to welcome a variety of inspiring guest speakers to talk to our Year 12 and 13 groups during their Futures sessions. Futures is a programme designed to motivate, inform and ignite curiosity for next steps. Whether that be for an apprenticeship, the world of work or higher education. Students have welcomed the following visitors this term:

- Mark Russell – CEO of Children's Society
- Peter Radford - Beyond This
  - Warwick Scholars
- Faith Idiahi – Alumni Student
- Miss Bans – Alumni Student
- Mock interviews with SIPS
  - ASK Apprenticeships
- Cambridge University Roadshow
  - PWC





# Sixth Form



## University Applications

Our Year 13's are starting receive some of their University offers this term for their next steps. Offers are coming in from University of Birmingham, Sheffield, Keele, Worcester, Aston, Queens Mary University of London, University of Budapest, University College of Birmingham, De Monfort, Plymouth, Liverpool, Exeter, Manchester and University of Derby.

We wish them all the best with their upcoming exams.

## Celebratory Breakfast

In February, we had a celebratory breakfast for our Sixth Form students who were making tracks in their progress and efforts towards post 16 life. Well done to all students who are making incredible progress and following the SCA Sixth Form ethos: honesty, opportunity and commitment.

We look forward to our next lot of success stories next term!



## Shireland Basketball continues to hit new heights

This year, our Post 16 basketball team played their first-ever season in the AOC league. The team has been extremely competitive and performed at a very high level throughout the season. A noticeable highlight was the record 83-32 win, showcasing their skill and determination. Their impressive debut season is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

## Her Honour Judge Katherine Tucker delivers online seminar

SCA Sixth Form were visited by a sitting judge at the academy to speak with our sixth form students on Wednesday 12th March. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain firsthand insights into the legal profession, hear about her career journey, and be inspired by her experiences within the judiciary.

# Travel and Tourism

## Severn Valley Railway

Year 10 Travel and Tourism students had a unique experience at Severn Valley Railway in Kidderminster due their focus day in March. They had a taught session by the customer experience manager on all things technology being used at the heritage attraction. They then had a guided tour behind the scenes of the steam trains and how they are operated.



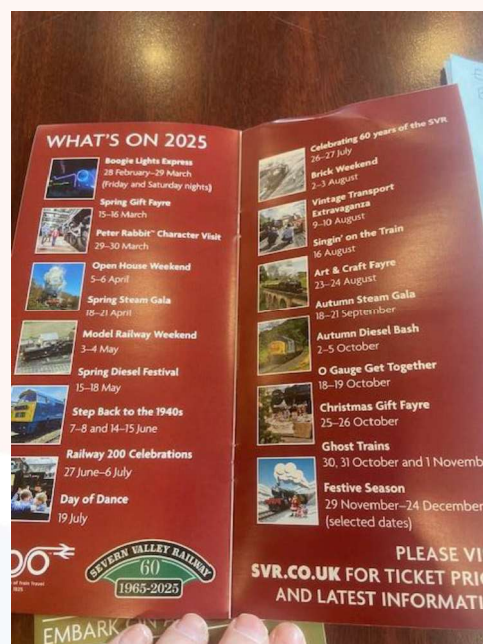
## Bowler Hat- Marketing Talk

Year 12 business and tourism students welcomed a guest speaker who specialises in marketing to the academy. Marcus from Bowler Hat based in The Custard Factory, Digbeth gave up his time to share his marketing knowledge with our students. He discussed all things digital marketing and current trends happening in the marketing world right now.

## Experiences coming soon

Our Year 12 and 10 tourism students will take part in a visit to a UK tourist destination during their next focus day in May of Chester. They will have a guided walking tour, a talk from Visit Chester marketing department and then spend the afternoon at one of the most popular attractions in the England, Chester Zoo.

Our Year 10 students have also been invited on their annual 3 days residential trip to the Isle of Wight in July. Exploring different types of businesses and staying in eco-lodge cabins!





# Year 13 Dubai Work Experience – Jan 2025

## **Dubai- Work Placements**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 30 of your Year 13 Business, Travel and Tourism and IT students experienced a once in a lifetime opportunity as part of the Turing grant. As a sixth form we secured 30 placements in some of the most well-known 5\* luxury resorts in Dubai such as Sheraton Mall of Emirates, Grand Hyatt Dubai, Four Points by Sheraton and many more. Students spent 10 working days completed a range of skills and expertise in areas such as HR, finance, marketing and front of house. They were welcomed by trained staff and managers of the hotels and had a buddy to support their experience.

Students also had amazing excursions planned to get an insight into the United Arab Emirates culture. Activities such as desert safari, local camp dinner, Dubai marina, shopping malls, Burj Khalifa, fountain show, global village and the incredible Atlantis Water Park. As our 2 weeks work placement came to an end students participated in graduation ceremonies, leaving certificates and showered with gifts by the hospitality staff to show their appreciation. This was an amazing achievement for both staff and students as this is the first ever cohort to participate in overseas work experience placements.

Even some of students were offered jobs at the hotels and will be welcomed back with open arms in their future journeys. What an experience end their last year at Shireland.



# Year 13 Dubai Work Experience – Jan 2025



## Quotes from HR directors

Providing hands-on opportunities and sharing our expertise is something we take great pride in, and it's always rewarding to see talent students engaged and eager to learn. We appreciate their enthusiasm and professionalism throughout their time with us.

We look forward to future collaborations and to welcoming more students for similar experiences. Please do not hesitate to reach out whenever we can be of support.

*Sheraton Jumeriah Beach*



We would like to extend our appreciation for the opportunity to host Qasim and Kirills for their two-week hospitality industry exposure at our property. During their time with us, they displayed enthusiasm, curiosity, and a genuine willingness to learn. They engaged well with our teams and showed a keen interest in understanding various aspects of hospitality operations.

*Four Points by Sheraton*



The interns demonstrated great enthusiasm, cooperation, and a strong willingness to learn. Their eagerness to gain hands-on experience was commendable, and our team thoroughly enjoyed working with them. Their proactive attitude and curiosity made a positive impression, and we are confident that they will excel in their future endeavors.

*Sheraton Mall of Emirates*

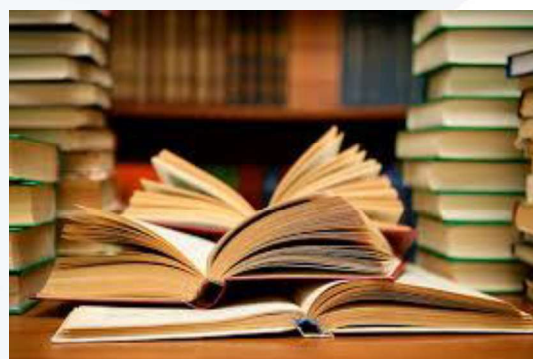
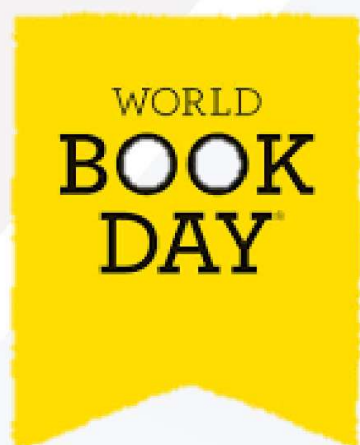


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# English

For World Book Day, the English department led a captivating starter activity where each teacher revealed their favourite book and explained why it holds a special place in their heart. From timeless classics like *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen to modern masterpieces such as *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, the teachers' selections showcased a rich diversity of genres and themes. Their heartfelt explanations not only highlighted the personal connections they have with these books but also inspired students to explore new literary worlds. This activity set a wonderful tone for the day, fostering a love for reading and sparking curiosity throughout the school community.



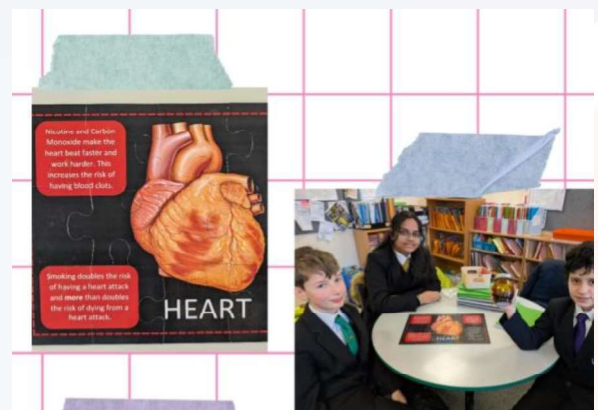
Year 9 students had an enriching experience in the immersive room, where they delved into the history of World War II and explored the themes of *Journey's End* by R.C. Sherriff. This interactive lesson allowed students to step back in time and gain a deeper understanding of the war's impact and the poignant narratives within the play. Through engaging visuals, sounds, and discussions, students were able to connect with the historical context and the emotional depth of the characters. This immersive approach not only enhanced their knowledge but also fostered empathy and critical thinking, making the learning experience both memorable and impactful.



# Literacy 4 Life

## Year 7 wellbeing day

Year 7 enjoyed a variety of activities during our wellbeing focus day: boxercise, fitness, just dance, origami, escape room, scavenger hunt, board games, Lego challenge, movie time and mindfulness colouring. They also took part in an interactive workshop with our school councilor to promote positive wellbeing.



## DECCA

Year 7 and INA students were visited by DECCA (drug education, counselling and confidential advice). We learnt all about the dangers of smoking, nicotine addiction and ENDS (Electronic nicotine delivery systems).

## The trial of Goldilocks

We were joined by BPP university law students where students learnt about careers in law and took part in a mock trial. But was Goldilocks found to be innocent or guilty?

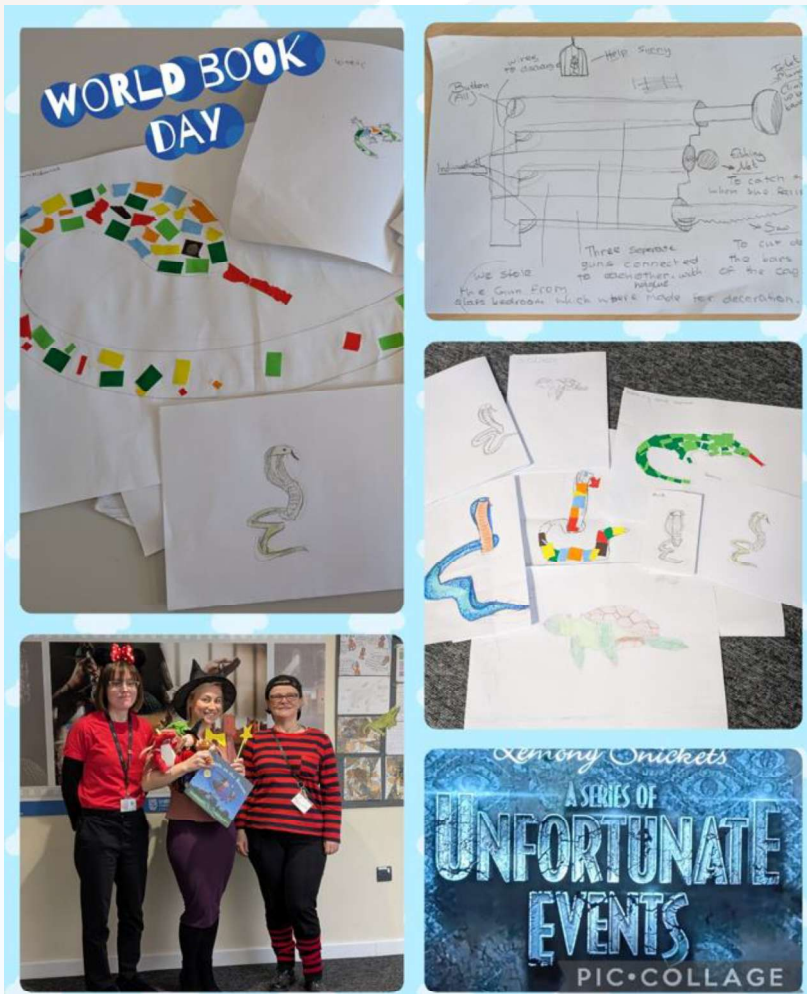




# Literacy 4 Life

## World Book Day

This year's World Book Day celebrated *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket. Students took part in three exciting sessions — art, Design and Technology, and drama — each starting with a passage from one of the books in the series. The activities that followed brought the story to life in creative and engaging ways, making for a fun-filled day of learning.



## Immersive experience

Year 7 students participated in an exciting immersive experience exploring the history of robotics as part of our *iRobot* theme in L4L. They discovered how robots have evolved over time, from early mechanical inventions to cutting-edge AI, bringing their learning to life in a fun and engaging way!



# Literacy 4 Life



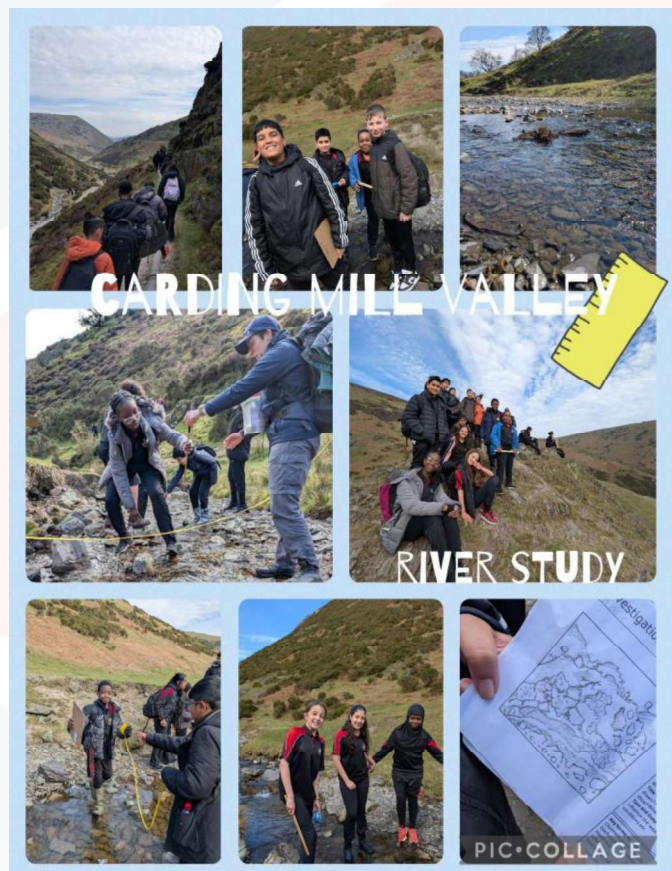
## Cinema trips

On Wednesday, 12th March 2024, Year 7 visited Cineworld at Resorts World to watch *The Wild Robot*.

This exciting trip connected directly to our L4L theme, *I Robot*, as students explored the intersection of nature and technology. The film encouraged them to reflect on adaptation, survival, and the evolving relationship between artificial intelligence and the natural world.

On Thursday, 13th March 2025, some Year 7 students attended a school trip to The Light Cinema, Walsall, to watch *Kensuke's Kingdom*. This enriching experience allowed them to engage with themes of personal growth, the natural world, and friendship. The film inspired them to reflect on resilience, survival, and the power of human connections, complementing their learning in a meaningful way.

Our Year 7 river study trip to Carding Mill Valley was an exciting adventure where students explored the natural features of a river in action. They observed key river features such as tributaries, v-shaped valleys and interlocking spurs and measured the depth, width and speed of the water at different points along the river. This hands-on experience allowed students to apply their classroom learning to the real world, deepening their understanding of the processes that shape rivers and their environments. It was an engaging and educational trip that brought geography to life!





# Literacy 4 Life

## Year 7 Culture Day Celebration

Our Year 7 students recently took part in an exciting Culture Day, celebrating the rich diversity within our school community. Throughout the day, students shared aspects of their own cultures and participated in engaging activities inspired by continents including Asia, Oceania, the Caribbean, North America, and Europe. A highlight of the day was a special dance workshop led by a former student, who returned to share their passion and talent with the next generation. It was a vibrant, joyful day of learning, movement, and connection!



Adding to the spirit of the day, a group of students went out into the local community to spread some joy, delivering daffodils and Easter eggs to local residents and nearby shops as part of our SCA random acts of kindness initiative.



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# Art

## Year 12 Art Gallery Experience

We are thrilled to announce that our Year 12 Art students recently had the unique opportunity to visit the IKON Birmingham Gallery. This visit was developed in partnership with Ikon's Education team and delivered by staff and MA students from Birmingham School of Art. It provided an enriching experience for our students to engage with creative workshops and explore the works in the exhibition *Friends in Love and War – L'Éloge des meilleurs ennemis*.



## Voices of Unity: A Tribute to Benjamin Zephaniah

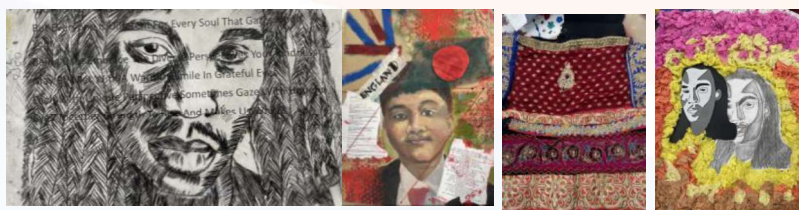
Thirty year eight students have come together to create a powerful collaborative collage inspired by the life, poetry, and beliefs of Benjamin Zephaniah. Through a mix of portraiture and personal artistic interpretations, each student explores Zephaniah's themes of identity, justice, and unity, reflecting his impact on society and their own lives. This artwork celebrates diversity, creativity, and the power of words, bringing together individual voices to form a collective tribute to one of Britain's most influential poets. These students will be going to London on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April to have their work displayed at Brunel University.

## Wild at Art Trail

We are delighted to share the latest updates on the 2025 Art Trail Wild in Art, a brand new art trail inspired by Birmingham's iconic bronze Bullring bull. This exciting project is being developed in partnership with Birmingham Hospice, bringing together art and community in a meaningful way.

### **Celebrating Our Design Winner: Sandi Maccarthy**

We are proud to announce that Sandi Maccarthy, a talented student from Shireland Collegiate Academy, has been selected as our design winner for this prestigious art trail. Sandi's creative vision and artistic skills have impressed everyone, and she is currently working closely with our Art Department to bring her amazing art piece to life.



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# Year 10 AI Focus Day Workshops

On Friday, 14th March 2025, our Year 10 Digital Information Technology students had the incredible opportunity to take part in an AI workshop designed to broaden their understanding of artificial intelligence. The day was packed with hands-on activities, interactive learning, and eye-opening insights into the future of technology!

Students began their journey with a fun and engaging introduction to AI, exploring how this revolutionary technology powers real-world applications such as chatbots, recommendation systems, and image recognition. They then put their problem-solving skills to the test by designing, coding, and testing simple AI models to tackle real-world challenges. Using AI tools and platforms such as AI-in-Schools, Google's Quick Draw, Teachable Machine, and Replit, students had the chance to experiment with AI-powered image manipulation, even using webcams to create interactive digital effects.



Beyond the technical aspects, the workshop also emphasised the importance of ethical AI and the impact of plagiarism in the digital world. Students discussed the responsibilities of AI developers and explored how fairness, transparency, and accountability play a crucial role in creating trustworthy technology.

The day wasn't just about learning, it was also about inspiration. Students explored exciting career opportunities in the AI and tech industries and gained valuable advice on how to start preparing now for a future in this rapidly growing field. To support them on their journey, they were issued an *AI Careers: Creating a Digital Portfolio* template to kick-start their own digital showcase of skills and projects.



It was a fantastic experience filled with creativity, discovery, and hands-on fun. This workshop not only sparked curiosity but also encouraged students to think about how they can shape the future with AI. Who knows? Maybe the next great AI innovator is sitting in our very own classroom.

# Year 10 Star Students

This Spring term has seen a number of Year 10 students nominated for Star Student of the Week. Well Done!



Year 10 students who have performed outstandingly well in assessment point 2 were rewarded a special breakfast. Keep up the good work!



On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Year 10 students took part in our Culture Day this included Dhol Drumming.



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# Business Studies

## Enterprise events – Year 7/8/9 Movie events

Our year 11 Enterprise students had the amazing opportunity to run some of their movie events as part of their Enterprise ideas. Students were then kindly given some funding towards their costs from Mr Daly. Each group were able to buy supplies from Costco and sell these during their movie events. Students successfully sold most of their tickets and were able to pay back all their costs and make a small profit.

Students successfully raised **£530.21 for Birmingham Children's Hospital.**

Well done to all students!



## Important information

- **Year 11** – Component 3 exam is on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May** – GOOD LUCK to all students sitting the examination!
- **Year 10** Option 2 trip to **Cadbury World is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May** – please ensure consent on Arbor is given and payment requested is completed on Parent Pay



# E-Sports Extra Curricular



Our students recently took part in an exciting esports tournament sponsored by Nintendo and Digital Schoolhouse, showcasing exceptional performance throughout. The team, led by Captain Joseph Tate and Vice Captain Clement Oppong, along with members Tomisin Akinwale, Muhammad Hussain, and Nana Kofi Baako, first competed in the regional qualifiers held in Birmingham.

Over a two-day period, the team demonstrated incredible skill, professionalism, and teamwork, remaining undefeated against all competing schools. Their outstanding efforts were rewarded with four medals, proudly representing Shireland Collegiate Academy.

Following their success at the regional level, the students qualified for the Southern England qualifiers. Despite having only four months of practice, the team competed against 56 other experienced teams, including last year's grand champions.

They performed admirably, ultimately securing 5th place. Although understandably disappointed by their narrow defeat, the team's achievement in reaching the top five, despite their relative inexperience, is remarkable.

Please show your support by congratulating the team members when you see them around the school. Their dedication and resilience have made us incredibly proud, and they are already enthusiastically preparing for next year's tournament.

