

# SHIRELAND NEWSLETTER

EDITORS IN CHIEF –  
GRACE, JACOB & MRS WINDMILL



## A term in numbers:

- \* 34 Trips
- \* 15+ Visitors to School
- \* 2 Whole School Events
- \* 1 charity events
- \* 50 + Extra Curricular Clubs across break, lunch and after school



Termly Spotlight

## THE HEADLINE

Dear Families,

As we welcome the start of the spring term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the energy, ambition and togetherness that continue to define our school community. This term has already seen our students engaging brilliantly with their learning, embracing new opportunities, and showcasing the values that make Shireland such a special place.

From the outstanding achievements across subjects, to the impressive number of trips, events and enrichment activities taking place, it is inspiring to see our young people flourishing both inside and outside the classroom. None of this would be possible without the relentless dedication of our staff and the unwavering support of families—thank you for everything you do.

As we move further into the term, our Year 11 and Year 13 students continue their preparation for examinations. Your encouragement at home makes a real difference, and we are proud of the focus and maturity they are demonstrating.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many highlights and successes from across the academy. We look forward to another term filled with ambition, achievement and community spirit.

Warm regards,

Mr T Daly  
Principal



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### \* Return to School

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Gates will open at the usual time for students to return to school after the Easter break.

### \* Year 10 Parents Evening

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026

### \* Culture Day

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

### \* May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### \* Family Support Hub

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Department Feature

## Exceptional Success in Maths

### UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge Success!

On Wednesday 28th January, 36 of our Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 students took part in this year's Intermediate UKMT Maths Challenge. This national competition consists of a 60-minute, 25-question multiple-choice paper designed to stretch students' mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and problem-solving fluency. We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part—every participant should be delighted with their achievement; we received an excellent set of results across the board.

Each year group receives a Best in Year award from the UKMT.



This year's winners were:

- Lex (Year 11)
- Abhay (Year 10)
- Sophie-Rose (Year 9)

Congratulations to all three students! A special well done to Lex and Sophie, who have also been invited to take part in the follow-on round in March—a fantastic achievement and a testament to their problem-solving talent. We wish you both the very best of luck in the next stage! The Junior UKMT, for students in Years 7 and 8, will take place in April, and we look forward to seeing even more enthusiasm and mathematical curiosity from our younger students.



Focus Day Spotlight

## Exploring Pi.

During Year 8's Focus Day, students explored what Pi is, and where the number originates historically. They investigated how ancient mathematicians discovered Pi by measuring circles and looking for patterns.

Students carried out their own practical investigation; they measured circular objects and discovered that when you divide a circle's circumference by its diameter, the result is always the same number — Pi ( $\pi$ )!

They then applied this knowledge to solve problems involving Pi, including calculating circumferences, areas, and real-life scenarios where Pi is used today. As part of the day, we held a Pi Recitation Competition, where students challenged themselves to recite as many digits of Pi as they could from memory. A total of 11 students took part; The winner of the competition was Accaciah, who memorised an incredible 176 digits of Pi. A phenomenal achievement — well done, Accaciah!

### Year 8 Maths Focus Day: Exploring the World of Pi ( $\pi$ )

Student Account: Marium, Year 8

Year 8 enjoyed a lively and engaging Maths Focus Day all about pi ( $\pi$ ), giving pupils the chance to explore this famous number in a fun and accessible way. Throughout the day, students learned what pi represents and why it appears so often in the world around us, especially whenever circles are involved. Teachers encouraged pupils to think about where they see circles in everyday life and how maths helps us understand and measure them.

To make the learning hands-on and enjoyable, pupils worked together to create bright and imaginative Pi posters. These posters showed facts, patterns, and creative ways of explaining what pi means, and many students took real pride in designing something eye-catching and informative. The posters were displayed around the classroom, helping everyone share ideas and celebrate each other's work.

A highlight of the day was the Year 8 Pi Competition, where pupils were challenged to remember and recite as many digits of pi as they could. The atmosphere was full of excitement and friendly competition as students encouraged one another and tried their best. After an impressive effort from many pupils, the winner was Acacia Brown, who amazed everyone with how many digits she could recall. Her classmates and teachers were delighted to celebrate her achievement. Throughout the day, pupils showed enthusiasm, teamwork, and curiosity. Many said the activities helped them understand pi more clearly and made maths feel more enjoyable and connected to real life. Staff praised Year 8 for their positive attitude and for making the day such a success. The Maths Focus Day helped build confidence and showed pupils that maths can be creative, interesting, and fun.

Department Spotlight

# Inclusion Department

## SEMH Sessions are Thriving

The "Who's Behind the Mask?" theme is designed to support students in developing a deeper understanding of their emotions, identity, and the ways they present themselves in school and social situations. Many young people, particularly those with SEMH needs learn to "mask" how they feel to cope with expectations, peer dynamics, stress, or past experiences. These sessions aim to gently unpick those layers in a safe, structured, and empowering way. Students have created some exceptional creative artwork.



## New After School Lego Club – Success

Our newly launched Inclusion LEGO Club has been a fantastic success, with students quickly embracing the chance to get creative, collaborate, and unwind after a busy school day. Hosted by Miss Ellie Penn, the club has already seen brilliant engagement, with pupils building imaginative structures, practising problem-solving skills, and working together in a calm and supportive environment. The sessions have offered students a positive space to develop communication, teamwork and confidence skills that transfer beautifully back into the classroom. Staff have been thrilled with the enthusiasm shown each week, and it's been wonderful to see students forming new friendships and celebrating one another's creations.

## SEND Aston Villa School Football Tournament- Thursday 19th March

Our SEND football team has once again done us proud at the Aston Villa SEND School Tournament, marking our third successful event this year. Students showed incredible teamwork, resilience and support for one another throughout every match. Their skills continue to grow with each tournament, but even more impressive is the encouragement, sportsmanship and maturity they demonstrate as a group. They have been a true credit to the academy, and we are immensely proud of every student involved.



## St Albans Community Centre Trip- Thursday 25th March

In March, a group of KS3 students enjoyed a meaningful visit to St Albans Community Centre in Smethwick, where they spent time engaging with elderly and vulnerable residents. Across two small group sessions, pupils took part in arts and crafts, light physio activities, and Easter-themed tasks, creating a warm and positive atmosphere. Students demonstrated kindness, confidence, and excellent communication while building new intergenerational connections. The centre expressed appreciation for the joy and energy they brought to the day. The trip was fully funded, with transport provided, and was led by Miss Penn. The school looks forward to continuing this valuable community partnership in the future.



## A Heartfelt Thank You to St Albans

Just before Christmas, we were also incredibly grateful to receive a thoughtful donation from St Albans Community Centre. Their generosity has continued to strengthen our partnership and has supported the work we do within Inclusion and SEND. We are delighted to recognise their kindness and the positive impact it has had on our students. We look forward to building on this relationship through future visits, shared projects, and continued community collaboration.

## Upcoming trips – SEND

### Frank Chapman Residential 7th – 8th May 2026

We are excited to offer Year 9 and 10 SEND students a one-night residential at the Frank Chapman Outdoor Education Centre. This adventure provides a safe and engaging environment where pupils can build confidence, independence and teamwork while staying in modern glamping pods. Students will enjoy a variety of outdoor and will be fully supported by Mrs Prince, Mr Appleby and Miss Cartwright throughout the visit.

Families are asked to contribute £21 towards the trip (the school funds the rest), which covers transport, accommodation, meals and all activities. There are 24 places available. To secure a place, payment must be made by Monday 13 April, with a parent information meeting on Tuesday 14 April.

All invited students will receive a letter on Arbor for consent  
For any questions, please contact [lprince@aca.shirelandcat.net](mailto:lprince@aca.shirelandcat.net).



## New level One Pathway to support our SEND learners in KS4– September 2026

The ASDAN Level one course – Preparing for Adulthood, places less pressure on traditional academic performance and instead focuses on building invaluable life skills such as independence, problem solving, confidence, communication and preparation for future work or college pathways. The programme is flexible, practical and personalised, giving students the chance to learn at their own pace and succeed in ways that feel meaningful to them

Learners also benefit from additional support time in Inclusion, where staff provide a calm, structured environment to help them consolidate skills, regulate emotions and develop confidence. Together, this creates a balanced curriculum that nurtures the whole child and supports their transition into adulthood.

### SEND and Business Enterprise Project

Our KS3 Preparing for Adulthood group, led by Miss Newman, has been busy developing real-life skills through an exciting enterprise project. Students have created and sold a variety of sweet treats and handmade items across the academy, gaining hands-on experience with budgeting, pricing, profit tracking and customer service. This practical project has helped students build confidence, independence and essential money-management skills, while taking pride in the products they create. It's a fantastic example of how the Preparing for Adulthood pathway supports students in developing the tools they need for life beyond school.



### More SEND Preparing for Adulthood KS3 projects.....

Our KS3 Preparing for Adulthood programme also continues to give students meaningful, hands-on experiences that build confidence and independence. This term, learners have been practising everyday skills such as making hot drinks and preparing healthy meals. They will soon showcase their progress by hosting a special Afternoon Cream Tea, demonstrating both their baking abilities and professional service skills.



### Next SEND Cafes:

We are delighted to share the following date for the upcoming SEND Café for the 2025–26 academic year:

Tuesday 28th April 2026 – SEND Café (Years 7–13)

Please complete this form if you wish to attend one of our SEND Cafés

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code



#MentalHealthMatters #LetsTalkAboutIt #SEMH #Affirmations

## SEND Aston Villa School Football Tournament- Thursday 19th March

Our SEND football team has once again done us proud at the Aston Villa SEND School Tournament, marking our third successful event this year. Students showed incredible teamwork, resilience and support for one another throughout every match. We had some new faces join this term and their skills continue to grow with each tournament, but even more impressive is the encouragement, sportsmanship and maturity they demonstrate as a group. They have been a true credit to the academy, and we are immensely proud of every student involved. Benjamin received the award for Most Valuable player .



## NEW SEMH and Poetry Workshops

We are delighted to share that next half term, Shireland Collegiate Academy will be welcoming Vignesh Venkataramaiah, an award-winning young poet who is celebrated across the UK poetry scene. Vignesh will be working closely with a selected group of SEND students on a six-week poetry and spoken-word programme designed to inspire confidence, creativity and self-expression. Over the course of the project, students will develop their own poems, explore spoken-word techniques, and take part in performance-based coaching.

The programme will culminate in two exciting outcomes:

- A published poetry anthology featuring all student work
  - A live performance showcase in the SCA theatre for families and friends
- This project forms part of our wider commitment to improving engagement and attendance within our SEND cohort, giving students a meaningful and empowering opportunity to explore identity, emotion and creativity through poetry. Vignesh will be visiting SCA on Friday 27th March to meet the students ahead of the programme starting after Easter. We are very excited to launch this project and look forward to celebrating our students' creativity next half term.

#MentalHealthMatters #LetsTalkAboutIt #SEMH #Affirmations



Faculty Feature

## Scholarship Pupils head to the Symphony Hall

47 Scholarship students went to Symphony Hall, to watch the CBSO Film music concert. They were fabulous and represented the Academy very well indeed. Hopefully it was inspirational for them to see what they could achieve if they work hard in their instrumental lessons.



## Composer Competition Winner announced!

Artur, Year 7, won our Composing competition, winning a £20 Amazon voucher for his composition, Smoke in Mid-Winter. We were very impressed with his creativity.

## Musical Futures looking bright for Joshua, Dallas and the Choirs

After a very rigorous audition process, Joshua, Year 11, has been accepted to both the Purcell School, London, and Chethams in Manchester to study in years 12 and 13. He has chosen to go to Chethams, focussing on both Violin and Jazz Piano. He is the first student from Smethwick to ever be accepted at the school, so is a very proud moment for him, and us as a school, who have supported him getting there.

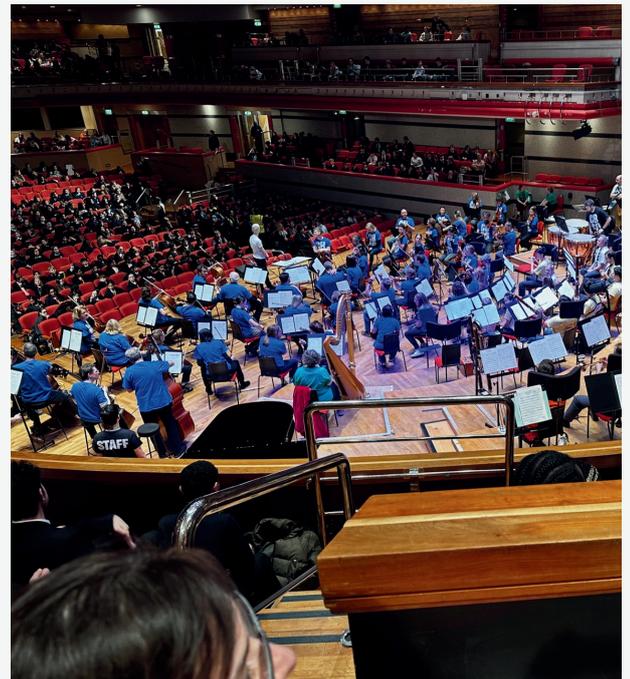
Dallas successfully passed his Grade 2 Musical Theatre exam with Distinction!

This year, we have entered KS3 choir, KS4/5 choir, Elite Vocal group and Josh in the UK Schools music festival. Last year, we achieved the Silver Award, so what can we do this year?



## Music Scholarship Student shines bright

Jonah received the Practise Champion Award from SIPS, for being an all-round superstar. He is encouraging, motivating and practises incredibly hard. The teachers from SIPS were asked to pick just one student from every school they teach at and Jonah received the award from the singing teacher.



## Music Mark has been awarded...again!

We're delighted to have once again been awarded the Music Mark in recognition of our contribution to high-quality music education. Huge thanks to our brilliant Music team for the opportunities, experiences and confidence they instil in our young musicians.



Department Spotlight

# L4L This Term in Pictures



## RSE Focus Day

This term, our Year 7 students took part in a dedicated RSE Focus Day as part of their PD curriculum. Throughout the day, they explored important themes such as screen time, puberty, and building positive relationships.

We were delighted to welcome Loudmouth, who delivered a captivating drama performance followed by interactive workshops that really brought the learning to life. Back in classrooms, students continued their learning through a variety of creative activities – including debates, artwork, games, and group discussions – making the experience both meaningful and enjoyable.

It was a highly positive and engaging day that encouraged thoughtful conversations and helped students grow in confidence as they learned about these important life topics.

## Year 7 and 8 Visit St Albans Community Centre

Our Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a special day at St Albans Community Centre taking part in Poetry Together, a project that brings local residents and young people together through the love of poetry.

Students performed their own poems and listened to residents share theirs, creating heartfelt conversations and connections across generations. The theme of friendship sparked reflections, laughter and shared stories.

It's inspiring to see how poetry can bring communities together, build confidence and empathy



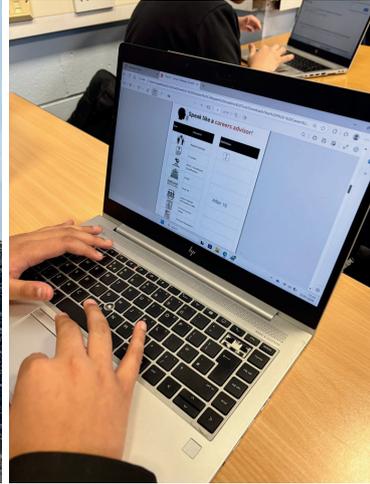
School Wide Spotlight

# Focus Days Successes

**New and exciting opportunities happening across all key stages**

Trips to Cardiff, St Martin’s Church, The University of Birmingham and Mexican restaurants were all part of external visits in January’s Focus Day. Students on site had a great day too, Poetry Slams and an incredible Career’s Day were just some of the highlights.

Focus Days give us the opportunity to offer experiences outside of our normal day to day curriculum. A fantastic day and a huge well done to all involved.



**FOCUS DAY**  
THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY

**All Families:**  
Please be reminded that **Thursday 22nd January** is a **Focus Day**. Students will be in the following subjects:  
Y7 - English  
Y8 - RSE  
Y9 - Careers  
Y10 - Option 1  
Y11 - Wellbeing and PE  
Y12 Level 2 - Business Studies  
Y12 Level 3 - Option A  
Y13 - Option B

**Y10 Option 1 Business Studies – Opt1B27**  
Please be advised that on 22/01/2026 students in Y10 Option 1 Business Studies should attend school wearing their PE kit.

**Y10 Geography, 100Pt1Ge1 and 100Pt1Ge2**  
Due to the outdoor nature of the Geography trip on 22/01/2026, students need to wear non school uniform, including comfortable footwear and a suitable coat.

**Y10 Option 1 and Y12 Option A Travel and Tourism – Opt1T127 and T1-A-25**  
Please be advised that on 22/01/2026 students in Y10 Option 1 Travel and Tourism should attend school wearing comfortable clothes and shoes that are suitable for walking.

**Y11 Wellbeing and PE**  
Please be advised that on 22/01/2026 students in Y11 should attend school wearing their PE kit.

**Y12 Option A RE – Re-A-25**  
Please be advised that on 22/01/2026 students in Y12 Option A RE should attend school wearing their Sixth Form Uniform (business dress).

**Y13 Option B Politics – Po-B-24**  
Please be advised that on 22/01/2026 students in Y13 Option B Politics should wear their own clothing, including a coat and shoes suitable for walking.

**GEOGRAPHY FOCUS DAY**  
Friday, 13th March 2026

**Explore map skills  
Understand river processes  
Create a practical river model  
Leading to fieldwork in  
Carding Mill Valley**

We have had a fantastic term – students in Year 7 have met with local poet Joe Cook, exploring how to add sounds and beat to performance poetry. Students then performed in a fantastic poetry slam.



Remember to look out for our bulletins! Right before each Focus Day, we share the finer details on what students can expect, and need for their next Focus Day. These are shared via our Social Media pages!

Loudmouth have performed for both Year 7 and Year 8 in order to explore what healthy relationships look like, and we continued to host an exciting array of visitors for Careers including West Midlands Police, National Highways and Birmingham Newman University, as Year 9 had their Careers Day. This was followed by Options Taster day in preparation for making those all-important options choices.



Travel and Tourism students learned all about Cardiff as a case study destination. experiencing landmarks and activities including a tour of Principality Stadium; a visit to Cardiff Castle and Cardiff Museum.



Cadbury World was another one of our destinations – Year 10 Business Studies students went to learn about key business concepts and had a tour of the attraction.

With the power of AI becoming more and more prominent, Year 10 ICT students had a day learning all about the importance of inputting the right information to yield the best results.

Year 10 also put their best detective skills to use for their An Inspector Calls Focus Day: an inquiry based learning day in which students theorised on who was responsible for Eva Smith's death.

7L4L8 chose to write a whole class poem, protesting against racism:

We must end racism.  
 Our fear will fall, and courage will rise.  
 Ending racism is like cleaning a mirror—  
 wiping away what should never have been there.  
 Racism is a raging storm,  
 howling at certain people  
 and refusing to fade.  
 But it cracks and snaps  
 each time we stand up for ourselves.  
 For ever it may feel unchanged,  
 yet change grows the moment we speak.  
 When the world finally grows quiet,  
 we will hear beneath our skin  
 the same steady pattern within.  
 They may try to call you dirty—  
 but racism is far dirtier.  
 We must fight for our rights.  
 Our voices may be locked by racism,  
 but we will still stand tall.  
 Courage and passion grow;  
 the true side of society shows.  
 Fear falls as anger rises.  
 A poisoned rainbow stains a diverse sky.  
 We refuse to stand by and let the lies spread.  
 Together we will fight—  
 fight for our rights.  
 Hatred is a storm,  
 shaking the bridge of our hearts.  
 Ending racism is reaching the same  
 destination,  
 hoping for a better nation.  
 No personality should sink behind skin.  
 Skin and race don't matter  
 when you are seen, valued, and adored.

Ending racism is like ending wars—  
 a victory for all of us.

Year 11 scientists had a day packed full of practicals for their Science Focus Day in February.

IT students experienced a vision of the future, using their own photos to explore how to manipulate the capabilities of AI to as efficient as possible.

Y12 Politics students visited Nottingham National Justice Museum to participate in a mock trial, followed by visit to Nottingham Castle Museum to see exhibits about legal & social history, including development of rights and political representation.

Year 12 RE students explore the Migana Collection and Biblical archives for their A Level studies:



Year 12 Level Three students also embarked on a visit to University, exploring the campus and having taster sessions to prepare them for making their UCAS applications in the Autumn Term.

Product Design students also explored different CAD software's used in industry, entered a National Design competition and got creative in Year 12 with formulating ideas for their end of year practical's.

We look forward to our next wave of Focus Days and the experiences they will bring!

# Meet some of the team!

As part of our Year 8 English Focus Day, our student journalists interviewed members of our Senior Leadership Team. See below the interviews with Mrs Bates, Vice Principal and Mrs Prince, Assistant Principal and SENDCo.

## What do you like about your job and what do you dislike about it?

I have worked for 22 years since September 2004, and like the students, family and communities. I don't dislike anything.

## What are the responsibilities and duties that you must do?

I must keep all students safe and ensure that we are happy and healthy. I oversees the INA and Inclusion. Previously, I have managed staff and the building.

## What is the school's vision and how do you contribute to achieve these goals?

I am a big believer in our school, and the vision that a student leaves with academic success and as a happy citizen. I want a space that feels safe for people to get things wrong so they can learn successfully.

## What inspired you to be in the role you are in now?

I have had lots of experience, and was Head of Year for Years 7 and 8. I was inspired by supporting the children and the staff.

## What strategies does the school use to promote student engagement and success?

Our student council, our student voice, people taking ownership of their behaviour and attendance.

## How does the school support ongoing training and education for the leadership team?

I have the option to take part in the National Professional Qualification for Headship. She works with Mr Daly and in leadership they keep learning from one another.

## How does the administration handle disciplinary issues and what role do you play in this process?

They investigate the issue and people write statements.

## Can you describe a project you're most proud of?

The two things I am most proud of are developing student council and knowing that it's student led and for those senior students and to empowering all the students. I am proud of enabling student voice.

## Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

I still see myself with students and our community at Shireland. I still wants to be supporting our school.

## If you could learn a new skill, then what would it be?

I would like to know how Mr Jenks does all the timetables.

## What is a concept in your field that most people won't understand?

I don't think other adults think about the amount of work that teachers and staff do.

## Can you describe a time where you had to lead a team through a difficult situation?

During Covid lockdown, when I was a Head of Year it was difficult to provide pastoral care in the way that we are used to.



**Mrs K Bates**  
Vice Principal



**Mrs L Prince**  
Assistant  
Principal and  
SENDCo

## What is your role at the school?

I am the Assistant Principal and SENDCo, overseeing provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. I coordinate all SEND provision, work as part of the Senior Leadership Team, and collaborate with external professionals to ensure we meet the SEND Code of Practice (2015).

## What does a typical day look like?

Every day is different. The role requires flexibility and adaptability to respond to the changing needs of our pupils.

## How does the school support pupils with SEND?

We provide intervention managers, teaching assistants, exams access arrangements, and work closely with families and external agencies to ensure inclusive, accessible learning for all.

## What do you enjoy most about your work?

I value the unpredictability of the role and the opportunity to make a difference each day, no matter how big or small.

## What project are you most proud of?

The Head Space Garden. We secured £4,000 in local authority funding to create an outdoor space that supports wellbeing and learning.

## What inspired you to become a SENDCo?

Having a child with autism inspired me to raise awareness and support other families navigating similar journeys.

## What skills are most important in your role?

Communication, organisation, leadership, collaboration, resilience, and integrity.

## How do you plan to improve inclusion?

By continuing to raise awareness and strengthen staff CPD to enhance inclusive practice across the school.

## What is your most important responsibility?

Ensuring the school meets its legal obligations and provides the right support for every child.

## What do you find most challenging?

Maintaining a healthy work-life balance alongside the demands of the role.

Sixth Form Update

## Shireland Sixth Form partner with Aston Villa Foundation

We were proud to see our new partnership with [Aston Villa Foundation](#) featured in the RB Salzburg UEFA Europa League match day programme in February! This amazing collaboration will give our post-16 students the chance to take part in a specialist football programme, combining their passion for sport with professional coaching and competitive matches. All while achieving their A level and vocational qualifications delivered through an exceptional Shireland education. We can't wait to see the opportunities this will create for our students, both on and off the pitch.

A huge thank you to the Aston Villa Foundation for bringing so much joy to our staff and students by generously providing match tickets to last Thursday's game. Over 100 members of our Shireland community from both the Primary and Secondary school attended, and enjoyed a fantastic game. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support.



Student Success

## Danika has reached ANOTHER new height!

Huge congratulations to Danika, who represented Shireland Collegiate Academy at the British Schools Central Zonal Trampoline Competition in Penarth last weekend!

She successfully completed both of her routines in the Elite category and secured an incredible 3rd place!

Even more exciting – this fantastic performance means she has now qualified for the National Finals in March!

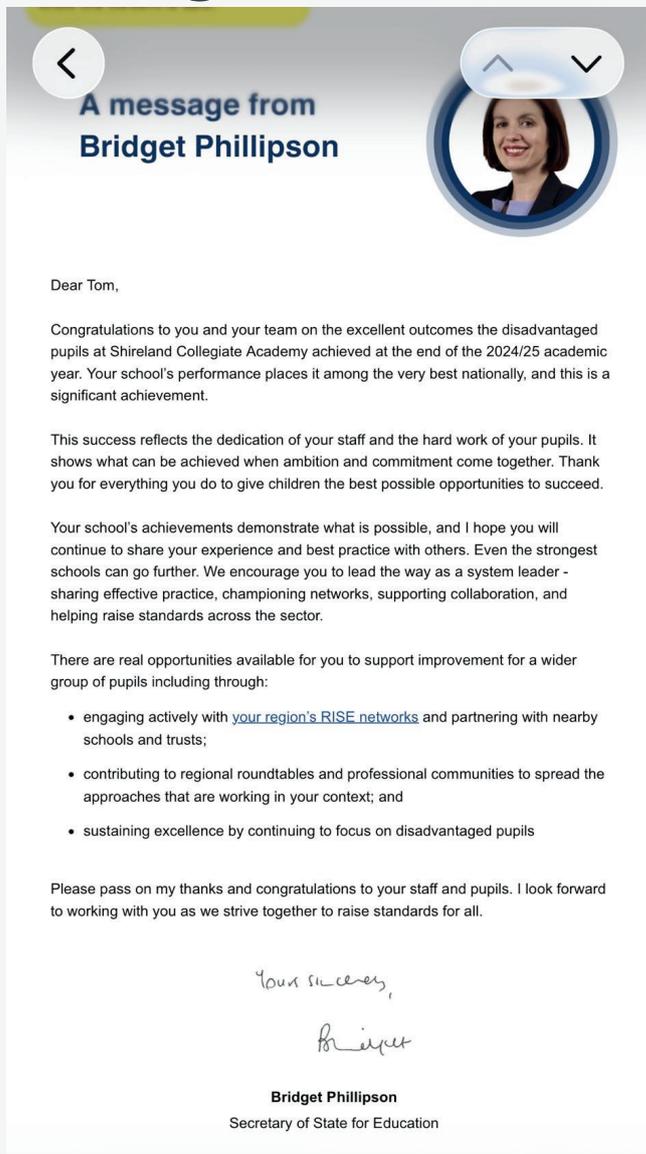
We are incredibly proud of her dedication, talent, and hard work. A massive well done, Danika!

## Year 10 visit the Creative Industry Take Over

A group of Year 10 students went to the Creative Industry Takeover event at South & City College's Digbeth campus, where our students represented the academy exceptionally well. They fully embraced the opportunities on offer, taking part in taster sessions in gaming and music, and attending an inspiring talk with ITV that explored the wide range of roles available within the creative industries. The day concluded with a careers fair, giving students the chance to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of pathways into the creative sector. It was a highly engaging, inspiring, and enjoyable day for all involved.

## Community News

# Secretary of State for Education congratulates SCA



We had the letter below from the Secretary of State for Education today. We are incredibly proud of the achievements of all our students.

Dear Shireland,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Shireland Collegiate Academy achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Bridget Phillipson

## Student Success

## Annaka shares K Pop Dance skills within local community

Year 8 student Annaka took a bold step into the world of community leadership by launching her own K-pop dance class, bringing energy, creativity and inclusivity to Halesowen. The classes were held at the newly opened Halesowen Wellbeing Hub in Somers Square, which opened its doors in November 2025. The hub is a collaborative project between three local community organisations: La Luz Life Coach and Wellbeing Services, Active Bodies 4 Focused Minds, and Creative Active Lives. Annaka, who has been dancing since the age of three, choreographed all of the routines herself, designing the sessions to be welcoming and inclusive. The classes were open to participants of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, with a focus on enjoyment, confidence building and self-expression. Sessions ran every Saturday and attracted interest from the local community.



Department Spotlight

# Physical Education

## Alumni Student returns to SCA to inspire future female athletes

We were thrilled to welcome back alumni and professional freestyle footballer Kaljit Atwal! Kaljit led workshops and talks with our students, sharing her journey, demonstrating her amazing freestyle skills, and inspiring the next generation of female athletes to build confidence, embrace creativity, and pursue their passions.

Freestyle football is as much an art form as it is a sport, and our students got a first hand experience of what dedication and perseverance can achieve.



## Boccia success!



Five of our students recently took part in a Boccia tournament – an impressive achievement considering none of them had ever played the sport before. Throughout the event, they quickly learnt the rules, developed their technique, and demonstrated fantastic teamwork.

Their determination paid off as they won 4 out of their 6 games, finishing just short of a bronze medal in a very close final round. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented the school, showing resilience, sportsmanship and a willingness to try something new. Well done to the whole team!

## Sport LIVE – Year 12 Careers

Our Year 12 students had an inspiring and informative day at the Careers in Sport LIVE event held at Edgbaston Stadium. The event brought together professionals and organisations from across the sporting world, giving students valuable insight into the wide range of careers available both on and off the field.

Throughout the day, students took part in workshops, talks and interactive demonstrations covering areas such as performance analysis, sports coaching, physiotherapy, sports journalism, fitness instruction, and careers within professional clubs and national governing bodies. They had the chance to ask questions, meet industry experts and explore routes into higher education, apprenticeships and employment within the sport sector. Our students represented the school exceptionally well, engaging confidently with presenters and showing real enthusiasm for their future pathways. The experience broadened their understanding of opportunities beyond the classroom and helped many begin shaping their next steps after Sixth Form.

A fantastic day for all involved – well done, Year 12!

Department Spotlight

## Sport Day – University of Worcester

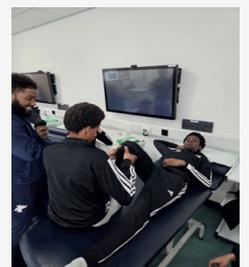
- Our Y12 Sport students attended the University of Worcester.
- They took part in an Anatomy & Physiology Workshop, tour of the campus and a Q&A session about life at university as a student.
- It was an insightful day as students had the chance to experience the day-to-day life of a University student, the chance to address any misconceptions about university and attend a workshop linked to their upcoming exam in May.



## Sports Discovery Day – University of Wolverhampton

Our Y12 and some of our Y11 Sport students attended the University of Wolverhampton Sports Campus.

- They took part in an exciting Sports Discovery day at the campus.
- This involved sports therapy workshops where students learnt about injuries, rehabilitation and methods used to help athletes recover from injuries.
- They took part in a different sporting activities and investigated the different career pathways associated with sport.



## Big Sister Festival

A group of enthusiastic Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Big Sister Festival at West Bromwich Leisure Centre this week. The event brought together girls from local schools to experience a wide range of fun, active and confidence building sessions. Throughout the day, they took part in an exciting variety of activities including Netball, Boxing, Aqua Fit, Football, and First Aid, as well as a guided introduction to using the gym safely and effectively. Each workshop encouraged teamwork, resilience, and the courage to try something new.

Our students represented the school brilliantly, showing determination, excellent behaviour, and a willingness to push themselves outside their comfort zone. It was fantastic to see them developing new skills and enjoying physical activity in such a supportive environment.



Extra Curricular Corner

## Esports Team Crowned Regional Champions: Undefeated Victory in Splatoon 3



Our Esports team recently attended the Nintendo Digital Schoolhouse Regional Qualifier, competing in Splatoon 3 against strong schools from across the region. The students delivered an exceptional performance, securing first place and going completely undefeated in every round of the tournament.

The team was led by Captain Joseph and Vice Captain Tomisin, alongside talented players Muhammad and Nana. Supporting the squad was Clement, who acted as substitute and tactical planner, providing strategic guidance throughout the competition.

The team was coached by Mr. Hussain, who also led the team last year into the semi final and to regional success. Under his continued leadership, the team has grown from strength to strength, building on last year's achievements to deliver an even more dominant performance this season.

In addition, Rami (Year 12) attended and performed as the official Esports commentator. The tournament was streamed live on Twitch in front of hundreds and thousands of viewers, showcasing the team's professionalism and composure on a public stage.

The students also competed in last year's 2025 regional tournament in Birmingham. Although they lost a few rounds on that occasion, they still secured first place. This year, however, their performance was stronger than ever, with a flawless undefeated run, earning four gold medals once again.



## All things Sixth Form...

Sixth Form have been busy this term exploring future pathways, going out and about on trips and getting stuck into the world of work and beyond. Below are some of the highlights...

### Year 12:

- Two of our Year 12 students travelled to London to take part in the Fair Education Youth Summit, hosted by Fair Education Alliance.
- A charity bake sale was held with over £250 raised for....
- Budding Engineers from Year 12 visited NMITE, a Hereford based University inspiring a hands on approach to future Engineering pathways, for an all day workshop and Taster Day.
- Our new cohort of Year 12s on the Elephant Group went to Cambridge University for the Spring Conference. A practical day exploring their bright futures and strategies to achieve.
- Year 12 Art Students visited one of our Trust Primary Schools, Tameside, to support with Art Lessons. The skill set shared inspired the younger generations, a real treat of a day.
- Our new football team, Aston Villa Foundation members, Primary School Members and Families visited Villa Park to celebrate a European night of football.

### In Year 13:

- 90 of our Year 13 students visited 3 international work experience placements across January and February, with 30 students each heading to Vienna, Saville or Dubai.
- cross the board we have some seen some amazing University offers coming through, and have made history with our first Oxford University offer.
- We've had record amounts of interviews for our upcoming 2026-2028 Year 12 cohort,
- Exam prep is well underway with students starting their exams in the next month or so... and leaving preparations also underway.

We want to wish our Year 12 and 13 students sitting any of the National Examinations the best of luck, and hope we get to celebrate your hard work and achievement with you all in August.

Sixth Form Feature

## Year 12 represented at the Fair Education Youth Summit



Led by the Youth Steering Group, the Summit brought together 200 young people aged 11–21 from across the UK. It was a unique opportunity for participants, alumni, advisors, trustees and volunteers to influence policy, develop their skills, and connect with other young leaders from across the country.

We are incredibly proud of our students for representing Shireland with such insight, passion and leadership.

Extra Curricular Corner

### SDC Surge make their performing debut

SDC Surge are proud to announce their successful debut at the UDO Gloucestershire Street Dance Championships on Sunday 22nd February. Miss Bans and our team of 11 dancers travelled to the Gloucestershire to compete for the first time at this prestigious event, the team delivered confident and accomplished performances, earning places in their respective categories and proudly bringing home medals. It was an inspiring and thoroughly enjoyable day for all involved, reflecting the dancers' dedication, teamwork and commitment to their training. The entire dance department is extremely proud of their achievement and we look forward to building on this success, returning to future competitions, and striving to bring home even more trophies and medals.



### Baby Elephant Group visits Oxford University!

In March, our Year 11 students joined our Sixth Form team for an inspiring visit to Oxford University at Keble College. The day included an aspirational talk, a Q&A with current Oxford students, lunch in their amazing dining hall, and a tour of Oriel College.

With four Oxford interviews and one offer already secured by our Year 13s, it's clear that big dreams are within reach, and our students are capable of achieving incredible things.

### Inclusive Attendance Student Voice Competition Winner

Congratulations to Savannah in Year 8, our Inclusive Attendance Student Voice competition winner!

Out of 344 entries, Savannah's personalised explanation stood out and has been selected as the headline for our Attendance page. She was also awarded a £20 gift voucher in recognition of her fantastic contribution.

Here is Savannah's winning entry:

*"Inclusive Attendance means that everyone is encouraged to come to school regularly and feel included, no matter their background or abilities. It's about making sure all students are supported to be a part of the school community, so no one feels left out. If you ever have trouble attending or need help, the school is here to support you. The school wants everyone to feel welcome and succeed together."*

A huge thank you to all students who took part – your voices truly matter!

Sixth Form Feature

## Year 13 take on 3 countries for Work Experience placements with the Turing Fund.

- In January and February this year, 90 Year 13 students successfully participated in residential trips to Seville, Vienna, and Dubai. As part of the programme, every student completed a 10-day work placement, gaining valuable employability skills and real-world experience. In addition, students engaged with key tourist and cultural attractions in each destination, significantly enhancing their cultural capital and broadening their global understanding.
- Work experience placements were wide-ranging and high-quality, including roles within five-star hotel hospitality, kindergartens, children's hospitals, GP surgeries, IT repair services, logistics firms and many more sectors. Employer feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many supervisors contacting us directly to express how impressed they were with our students' professionalism, work ethic and maturity

### Dubai

Student Account: Ishit, Year 13

I recently spent two weeks in Dubai completing an internship at Sheraton The Walk, and it turned out to be an incredibly valuable experience. Working inside a luxury hotel in such a fast-moving city gave me a close look at how hospitality and business come together in real time. During the first week, I worked across guest-facing departments like At Your Service, Front Desk, Concierge, and Guest Experience. Seeing how the team handled guests, solved problems on the spot, and maintained high service standards taught me a lot about communication, patience, and staying composed under pressure. The second week took me behind the scenes into Marketing, Sales, Food & Beverage, Room Service, HR, and Finance. This was where I began to understand the hotel as a business. Watching how decisions were made, how teams coordinated, and how financial planning shaped daily operations helped me connect what I saw to the economic concepts I've studied.

This internship significantly enhanced my skills and clarified my future ambitions, particularly my intention to pursue economics and launch my own business. Visiting the UAE itself was a great experience, as I learned about their culture and how a different country operated. It deepened my understanding of organizational dynamics, value creation, and the critical roles of teamwork and leadership in achieving success.



Sixth Form Feature

## Seville

Student Account: Amelia, Year 12

If someone told me at the beginning of this year I'd be spending two weeks abroad for work experience I would not have believed them. The last two weeks have been an insightful experience to say the least. I was fortunate enough to be one of 30 students able to go to Spain as a part of the Turing scheme with Shireland Collegiate Academy and only one of two year 12s.

I was Introduced to a completely different culture, gained a new found sense of independence as I had to make my own way to work, buy my own lunch within my budget and ensure I was on time. I'm now even more hopeful of what the future has to offer. I would be lying if I said that it went perfectly but, as the challenges formed I overcame them. I arrived late on the first day, got caught up in heavy rain, some days we couldn't even go in because of the weather conditions but I still made the most of every day!

This experience fostered my employability skills such as organisational skills, punctuality, etc, and the main one being communication. Working in a foreign country where they speak another language creates a huge language barrier meaning that I had to find better ways to communicate which I did. I learnt a lot whilst being there and I'm so grateful to have been able to be apart of it all. Sevilla will definitely be seeing me again!



## Vienna

Student Account: Nagib, Year 12

The Shireland Sixth Form residential trip to Vienna, Austria, was a highly valuable 14-day work experience programme involving 30 students placed across a diverse range of professional sectors, including Health, Medicine, IT, Care, Education, and Logistics. Throughout the placement, students gained practical, hands-on experience tailored to their fields of interest, such as working in mail room logistics operations, supporting nursery staff in early years education, learning clinical skills like how blood is taken from patients, assisting with weighing babies in healthcare settings, repairing computers in IT environments, and even developing customer service skills by working as waiters in restaurants. This immersive experience not only enhanced their technical abilities but also built confidence, independence, and communication skills in real-world environments. Upon completion of the programme, each student was awarded a formal certificate and a professional reference, recognising their participation and contributions. In addition to the work placements, students engaged in a variety of enriching cultural and recreational activities during the weekends, including a guided cultural walking tour of Vienna, visits to the zoo and a historical museum, a trip to the Prater theme park, and attending a Rapid Vienna football experience. Overall, the trip provided a well-rounded blend of professional development and cultural exposure, making it a highly impactful and memorable opportunity for all participants.



School Wide Event

## SCA Celebrate World Book Day

WORLD BOOK DAY

# CREATIVE CHARACTER COMPETITION



Create a unique character fit for a story, game or animated series. Hero, sidekick or villain. They need a distinct look, personality, and backstory. Submit a short description and an illustration - let your imagination soar!

**DEADLINE: 16TH MARCH 2026**  
Submit to: Miss H Powell

## “Dear England...”

49 students across Year 7-10 had the opportunity to watch 'Dear England' at Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre which they thoroughly enjoyed!

The show followed the journey of Gareth Southgate from his penalty miss in '96 to becoming England manager taking the nation to two Euro finals. Throughout the show themes of legacy, identity, community and Britain's shared history were explored.

Dear England had 5 star reviews from many of our students who conducted themselves impeccably and were a real credit to the Academy. Many have been inspired to pursue careers in performing arts, whilst others inspired to reflect on what England means to them. Students also took part in a workshop with National Theatre who produced the performance focussing on storytelling, legacy, community, the future of the country using themes from Dear England.



Department Spotlight

## Travel & Tourism



Year 10 and 12 Travel and Tourism students had a great day in Cardiff exploring Cardiff castle, the museum of Wales, Cardiff Bay and coastal paths. This was the first joint trust Travel and Tourism trip with WBCA and a huge success. Year 10 students were able to explore a range of features in Cardiff for part of their PSA coursework task. Year 12 students were investigating a coastal destination and the facilities they have on offer for different customer types as well as experiencing a range of organisation types in preparation for their upcoming exam.

### Sky People visit to Shireland

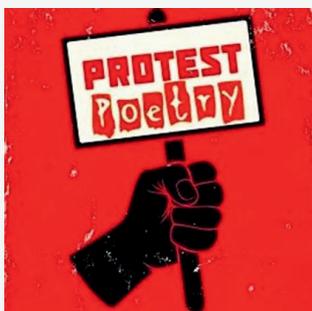
Year 10 and Year 13 Travel and Tourism students enjoyed an inspiring and highly engaging Focus Day in March, delivered by aviation specialists Sky People. Sky People are a leading cabin crew training organisation, working with major airlines such as Jet2 and British Airways to prepare staff for real-world aviation environments. During the session, trainers delivered an immersive workshop covering emergency landings, onboard safety procedures, and aviation first aid. Students took part in hands on activities using first aid equipment, practised crucial emergency actions including the brace position, and experienced what it is like to evacuate an aircraft during an unplanned emergency. They also explored historical aviation incidents, helping them understand how safety procedures have developed over time.

The day was highly interactive and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Many students left feeling inspired and more informed about future careers in the aviation industry.

Department Update

## Take a look what's been happening in English

Year 7 enjoyed an inspiring Focus Day centred on Protest Poetry, where students explored how poetry can be used to challenge injustice and spark change. After analysing powerful examples including performance poetry and Maya Angelou's Still I Rise, they developed their own ideas, created vision boards and protest signs, and wrote original poems on issues they felt passionate about such as equality, climate change and bullying. The day culminated in a vibrant Poetry Slam in the auditorium, where students confidently performed their work, celebrating their creativity, courage and growing understanding of how young people can use their voices to make a difference.



Year 10 took part in an immersive An Inspector Calls experience where students stepped into the role of detectives to investigate the events leading to Eva Smith's death. After exploring the historical context of 1912 and examining the characters' actions, students entered a transformed Inspector's Office filled with evidence, case files and artefacts to piece together the truth. They then prepared persuasive arguments for a mock trial, taking on roles such as defence, prosecution and jury to determine who was most responsible. The day continued with a viewing of the play, allowing students to deepen their understanding of Priestley's message about responsibility and social change. It was a powerful and engaging experience that encouraged students to think critically, argue effectively and reflect on the moral lessons at the heart of the play.

## Understanding Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships

Year 8 pupils took part in an SRE Focus Day aimed at helping them understand what healthy relationships look like and how to recognise when a relationship may be pressured or unsafe. Through scenario-based activities, pupils explored situations involving peer pressure, controlling behaviour, manipulation, and emotional pressure. Staff helped students identify early warning signs, such as feeling unable to say no, being isolated from friends, or being made to feel guilty for setting boundaries. Pupils were encouraged to trust their instincts and to seek support from trusted adults or school safeguarding systems when something feels wrong. The SRE Focus Day provided pupils with important knowledge that supports both their personal development and their safety. Staff praised Year 8 for their responsible attitude and thoughtful contributions.- Marium, Year 8

## Netball Update

SCA Under14 and Year 7 Netball Team 2025-2026 this year really showcased a year of precision, pressure, and player growth

Both teams delivered one of their most complete performances of the season with a thrilling second place finish in the Sandwell Under 14. Only made possible by victory over Q3 Langley. A match defined by sharp attacking play, disciplined defending, and the emergence of several developing talents who continue to elevate their game week by week. The Year 7 are presently the winner of the Sandwell Yr 7 League. They have all five game and is now waiting to find out who they will play in the final.

GA- Rachael (yr7) and Makeiah (yr9) were electric from the first whistle. their movement in the circle was intelligent and unpredictable, constantly unsettling their opponent's defensive unit. They combined beautifully with GS Edna and Ellen, threading quick give and go passes and showing impressive composure under pressure. Their shooting accuracy—an outstanding 89%—kept the team in control throughout. It was their ability to create space and dictate tempo that truly set them apart.

Lets look at our attacking strengths:

- Fast, clean transitions from defence to attack kept our opponents on the back foot.
- Circle rotation between Makeiah and Ellen created constant mismatches.
- Accurate feeding from Serena and Shofiyah ensured the shooters received the ball in optimal positions.
- Varied attacking patterns, including baseline drives and highpost holds, made the Shireland unpredictable.
- Now our defensive excellence
- Highpressure marking from Aaliyah, Maria and Stefania forced teams into errors early and often.
- Effective doubleteaming in the circle neutralised their strongest shooter.
- Quick defensive resets after turnovers prevented them from capitalising on loose balls.

Student Report

## Young Voices, Big Dreams: Year 7 and 8 Students Published in National Poetry Book

Marium, Year 8

Students from Year 7 and Year 8 are celebrating an exciting literary achievement as their poems are set to be published in a public poetry book titled 'I Have a Dream'. This outstanding opportunity comes after their work was submitted to the nationally recognised Young Writers Competition: I Have a Dream, a platform that showcases the creativity and imagination of young poets across the country.

The poems, written by talented Year 7 and Year 8 students, explore a wide range of powerful themes including justice, fantasy, adventure, hope, and ambition. Each poem reflects the unique voice and perspective of its author, demonstrating not only strong writing skills but also a deep understanding of emotions, storytelling, and the world around them.

Students in Year 7 and Year 8 were invited to take part in an I Have a Dream poetry competition, where they had complete freedom to create any poem in any genre that inspired them. The entries that followed were full of imagination and ambition, ranging from visions of fairer worlds to magical realms, daring adventures, and hopeful futures. Teachers were genuinely impressed by the maturity and confidence shown throughout the students' writing, making this year's collection something truly special.

After careful review, selected poems were sent off to the 'Young Writers Competition', where they were chosen for publication. Being published in a national anthology is a remarkable achievement, especially at such a young age, and gives students the chance to see their work in print alongside other young writers from across the country.

The book 'I Have a Dream' will be available to the public on 2nd March 2026, allowing friends, family members, and the wider community to celebrate the students' success. This achievement not only recognises their talent but also helps to inspire a lifelong love of writing and reading.

Teachers and staff have expressed immense pride in the students' hard work and creativity. Opportunities like this highlight the importance of encouraging young people to share their voices and ideas, proving that even at an early age, students can create meaningful and impactful literature.

*Congratulations to all our Year 8 winners of the Young Writers poetry competition, "I Have A Dream". We are incredibly proud of your creativity and hard work.*

*Well, done to:*

- Marium
- Ayaan
- Leena
- Muhamma
- Umaiza
- Zainab

*Fantastic achievement"*

**Head of year 8 - Mrs Istafa**

*"Seeing our young writers published on such an inspiring platform is amazing. A huge well-done – this recognition is absolutely deserved!"*

**-Miss Jolly**

Congratulations to all the Following Year 7 and Year 8 students involved your dreams, words, and imagination have truly come to life.

## Year 9 Careers Programme

This term, Year 9 students engaged with Dupoto to support their careers learning. The programme provided a flexible and engaging way for students to explore future pathways and develop a clearer understanding of the world of work.

Students began with an introductory video then teachers used the embedded presentations from a range of global business professionals across different sectors. Across five lessons, students were then able to map their progress using a combination of school resources and Dupoto worksheets. Importantly, this programme has helped students feel more confident and informed when selecting their GCSE options, giving them a better understanding of how their choices link to future careers. We have been pleased with the positive impact this has had on students' decision-making and engagement.

## Shout out to Year 7 Winners!

Our Year 7 Recognition Reward celebrated students for their Epraise, inclusive attendance, and for the fantastic contributions they make each day. We are proud of their effort, positivity, and commitment to our school community.

## Anti Bullying Ambassador Updates

### Safe Space Thursdays

Huge shout out to our Student Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for running such a brilliant Lunch Club yesterday – especially on Time to Talk Day, helping to raise awareness of mental health. This Thursday they hosted their first 'Safe Space lunch club, creating a welcoming place to come inside, sit with others or make new friends. Thank you to our ambassadors for leading the way in supporting mental health and raising awareness of anti-bullying

### ABA language buddies

We'd like to recognise the incredible work of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, who are also Language Buddies, for the support they provide in our International New Arrival Centre.

Through kindness, patience, and leadership, they help new students feel welcomed, understood, and safe – supporting communication, confidence, and wellbeing from day one.

Thank you for being positive role models and for making our school a more inclusive and caring place for everyone.

### Year 7 RSE Focus Day

This week, our Year 7 students took part in a dedicated RSE Focus Day as part of their PD curriculum. The day explored key themes including screen time, puberty, and positive relationships. Students were visited by Loudmouth, who delivered an engaging drama performance alongside follow-up workshops. Learning continued in classrooms through a range of creative activities, including debates, artwork, games, and group discussions, making the day both informative and enjoyable. It was a positive and interactive day that encouraged thoughtful discussion and helped students build confidence around important life topics.



Student Report

### Year 12 Visit Cambridge University

Oliwia, Year 12

On Tuesday 17th March, year 12 Elephant Group students had the fantastic opportunity of visiting Cambridge University for a spring conference. During their endeavour they had the chance to speak to students that attend Cambridge, revision tips, UCAS and a tour of the campus. While being able to speak to some of the students who attend Cambridge, many of our medicine orientated students were able to gain advice on applications, especially in regards to super curricular and extra curricular activities. A fun fact we found out is that Cambridge is the only University in the UK to perform full body dissections! Furthermore, we were able to gain new revision tips and advice from the CEO of the Elephant Group herself! We learnt that mega-cognition is the ability to be aware of your own cognitive processes- 'thinking about thinking', which can allow us to reflect on our revision while revising and change our method to suit our needs. It can also be used to hinder procrastination, which is a general area of difficult for a lot of us. We also had lectures by the university of Exeter and UCL, who informed us about UCAS, super curricular's and exciting opportunities at their respective universities. Overall the event could be described as an informative, well rounded experience leading many of us to aspire as high as possible.

