



# Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**

**Newsletter**

**Autumn 2 Term**

**December 2025**

## Message from the Principal

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support in my first term as Principal. It has been a busy and rewarding few months, and we are pleased with how well our students have embraced the opportunities and expectations of school life.

Our new Year 7 cohort have settled in exceptionally well, showing enthusiasm, maturity, and a wonderful eagerness to become part of our school community. We know that those who are on the Wales trip are having a fantastic time and it was great that so many took this opportunity to go. Meanwhile, our extra-curricular activities, from sport and music to clubs and enrichment sessions have flourished, giving many students the chance to discover new talents, build friendships, and deepen their connection with school.

This term has also seen success for our Year 11 students, who have shown real commitment and resilience in completing their mock exams. As we celebrate everyone's efforts, I want to highlight the role that regular attendance plays in enabling achievements like this. Research shows that students who attend school consistently, typically defined as attendance of 95% or above, are far more likely to reach strong academic outcomes than those with lower attendance. Even missing as little as 10% of lessons (equivalent to roughly one day every two weeks) can significantly impact performance across all subjects. Regular attendance also supports social and emotional development: it helps students build lasting friendships, maintain confidence and to take full part in lessons and school life. It also develops habits like responsibility and punctuality, that matter for their future.

As we head into the Christmas break, I hope that all our school community has a restful and joyful holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026, ready to continue building on our achievements, especially remembering that regular attendance will be a key part of helping every student reach their potential.

Enjoy the break.



## Dates for your diary

19 December	School closes	6 January	School re-opens
13 January	Year 11 Reports and Mock Results P5	15 January	Year 11 Parents Evening
28 January	Intermediate Maths challenge	12 February	Year 9 Options Evening
13 February	Yr 7/8/9/10 Reports	13 February	School closes
23 February	School re-opens	26 February	Year 8 Parents Evening



# Library News

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

As we reach the end of the winter term, it's been a wonderfully busy and inspiring season in the Soar Valley College Library. Here's a look back at the highlights that have kept our shelves, and our students, full of excitement and curiosity.

## Honouring Remembrance Day

Our students engaged thoughtfully with Remembrance Day through curated displays, reflective reading materials, and discussions. The library highlighted moving poetry, letters from the front, and historical accounts to help students explore the significance of the day and the stories of those who served.

## 7 for 7 Reading Challenge

Our 7 for 7 Reading Challenge continued to motivate Year 7s to broaden their reading choices. From fantasy quests to thought-provoking real-life stories, students have been enthusiastically ticking off titles and earning rewards for their reading achievements.

## Spooky Autumnal Reads

October brought a chill in the air and an eerie selection of autumnal reads. From gothic classics to contemporary mysteries, students enjoyed delving into atmospheric stories perfect for the darker evenings. Our themed book display proved exceptionally popular and helped many students try authors they hadn't encountered before.

This term also saw the return of Bookbuzz, giving Year 7 students the opportunity to choose a free book to keep. A huge highlight was the visit from Grace Richardson, Miss England, who joined us to champion reading for pleasure. Grace spoke to students about her love of books, shared encouraging words about finding stories that "spark imagination," and even handed out some of the Bookbuzz selections herself. Her support helped make this year's Bookbuzz launch truly memorable.

Year 7 students also received a Bookbuzz challenge sheet to complete over the holidays. Students can earn achievement points, house points and prizes; plus, also have the opportunity to enter an external Bookbuzz bookmark competition via Book Trust. Prizes include a £50 book token and £100 worth of books for school.

## Looking Ahead: Launching Book Spark

As we step into the new year, we're thrilled to announce a brand-new reading challenge: Book Spark, created in partnership with BookTrust. This initiative aims to help students discover books that ignite curiosity and confidence, whether in fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, poetry, or beyond. More details will be shared soon, and we can't wait to get students involved.

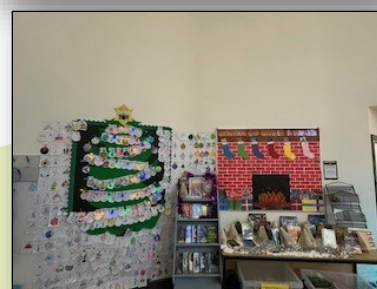
## Non-Fiction November

We celebrated Non-Fiction November with a series of activities, designed to help students discover the power of real-world reading. Students took part in a whole-school non-fiction quiz, exploring everything from science and sport to historical events, strange facts, and inspirational biographies. The buzz around the library was fantastic, and it was great to see so many students dive into new topics.

## Christmas Bauble Competition

Festivities in the library reached their peak with our annual Christmas Bauble Competition. As always, entries were creative, colourful, and wonderfully imaginative. The library looked magical, and judging the entries proved as difficult as ever! Thank you to all who took part and helped make the library sparkle throughout December.

## Bookbuzz 2025





# GEOGRAPHY



## Geography: Trip to the University of Nottingham

On the 12<sup>th</sup> November, 14 Year 11 geography students headed off to the University of Nottingham to attend the Geographical Association's Autumn lecture entitled *'The Globalisation of Modern Slavery and Climate Change: Not Just a UK Border Issue'*.



Before the lecture started, students got involved with some mind map work about the concept of globalisation and what they understood by the term. We then went on to learn about how the risk of modern slavery can be ranked in supply chains through looking at case studies about food – the supply of tomatoes and avocados – and brick kilns.

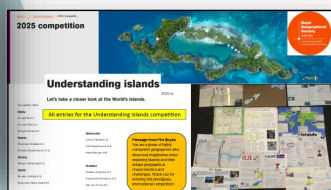
These lectures are a great opportunity for some of our most engaged geography students to really stretch their understanding of the subject and they represented the school brilliantly, asking some really great questions.



## Geography: Year 7 Fieldwork

As part of their work this term investigating the geography of Leicester, Year 7 took part in some field work to explore if closing the road outside of school during school drop off and pick up time would improve the environmental sustainability of the area.

Students followed the geographical enquiry process and had great fun carrying out a traffic survey and completing a questionnaire with friends and family.



Soar Valley College House Competition Geography Competition			
House	Rank	House Points	Number of entries
Bradgate	1st	150	3
Beacon	2nd	130	2
Abbey	3rd	130	3
Watermead		30	3
Castle		20	2
Victoria		10	1



## Young Geographer of the Year

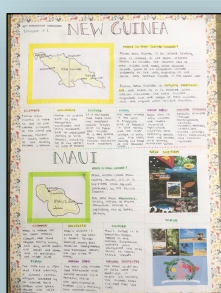
Every year our Key Stage 3 and 4 geographers have the chance to participate in the *Royal Geographical Society's* Young Geographer of the Year competition, which allows them to showcase their creativity and research skills on current global issues.

The purpose of the competition this year was for students to demonstrate their knowledge of at least two islands, by exploring their locations and unique geography across people, places and environments. Students were also asked to explore modern day challenges facing these island populations and government solutions to issues such as climate change and sea level rise.

As always, our students produced some outstanding work showing a great degree of knowledge and understanding. Congratulations to all of the entrants, but in particular to this year's winner Thakshvita Ghaneshan.

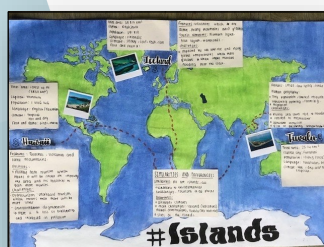
Young Geographer of the Year

First Place Thakshvita Ghaneshan



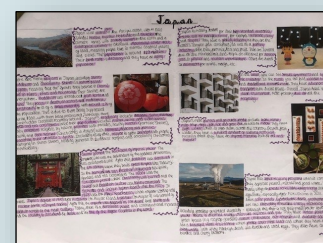
Young Geographer of the Year

Second Place Shrutika Shureshkumar



Young Geographer of the Year

Third Place Shreya Chohan



# ENGLISH

## A Christmas Carol

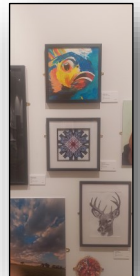
Year 10 enjoyed a visit from *Quantum Theatre Company* who put on a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens in the penultimate week of term. As well as being a classic story for this time of the year, this is the novel students have been studying in their English lessons this term in preparation for the English Literature GCSE.

The performance, which followed the story of the novel accurately, and included many direct references from the novel, was thoroughly enjoyable; with just three actors taking all the parts between them it was frantic at times. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to experience live theatre and see the story come to life on the stage. And they spoke positively about the show and how much they enjoyed it.

The Company were also very complimentary about the excellent behaviour of our students whom they described the best -behaved audience they had met all year. Well done Year 10!



## ART



## Artistic Success to be Celebrated

The art department are rightly proud that 18 of our Year 11 students from GCSE Photography and GCSE Fine Art have had their art work selected to be exhibited in Leicester City Council's OPEN People's Exhibition – Young People Category at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery. The exhibition is open to the general public from 26<sup>th</sup> Nov until 30<sup>th</sup> Jan. The Museum's details are: Leicester Museum & Art Gallery, 53 New Walk, Leicester, LE1 7EA.

Having the opportunity to exhibit for a public audience is so important for artists and designers. This is a huge achievement and all of the students have worked extremely hard to be selected. We are all very proud that they have been chosen to represent our school in this way. So, if you get the chance, please do go and visit the exhibition!

The successful students are: Aditi Patel, Rishil Sasikant, Afreen Mahebub, Saida Samatar, Fatima Abaghighough, Shaima Imran, Filip Olszewski, Shaun Kamboj, Jinkal Pravin, Susie Adamczuk, Krish Dilip, Tanay Halpati, Michelle Nimo, Vidhata Mukesh, Mit Mahesh, Yashita Quimji, Pietro Kumara Gamage Perera and Zainab Patel.

# MUSIC

## Winter Concert

On the evening of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, a proud audience of over 60 family and friends were treated to a real celebration of music and dance.

The very best of Soar Valley College's talented musicians performed an eclectic variety of solos, songs, group and band performances, and music from Bollywood and Japan.

Our students were amazing, and a special mention must be made to our tech team who - under the guidance of Mr Megginson - ensured that the whole event ran smoothly. The concert was a superb celebration of our highly talented performers and their hard work so far this year.

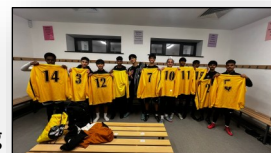
Our next concert is the Summer Showcase on 6th July.



## Year 10 Football Success

# PE

The Year 10 Boys football team have been crowned East Leicester Champions for 2025/26. Having beaten Madani, Judgemeadow and St Pauls in the group matches, they then went on to beat The City of Leicester College 2:1 in the final! In January they will be playing Fullhurst in the City Final.



## Rugby Development

The P.E. department would like to thank Ben Duke from Leicester Tigers for his support this term in delivering rugby during curriculum time. Ben also kindly delivered extra curricular rugby on a Thursday after school, sharing his wealth of knowledge and coaching expertise with our students. The students have thoroughly enjoyed working with Ben and we are proud to be a Leicester Tigers hub school.

## Primary PE Festivals

We have had three very successful primary school festivals this half term. On the 29<sup>th</sup> October we had a Year 5/6 Tag Rugby event, which saw 20 boys and 20 girls from Mellor, Rushey Mead, Tayor Road and



Wyvern taking part in a competitive and highly skilled event.

Then, on November the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> respectively, we had our Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 1 Multi-Skills festivals. Each of these saw 90 students – 45 boys and 45 girls – from the 4 primary schools taking part braving the cold in the Netball Centre and taking part in a fun afternoon of competitive and challenging activities.

As ever, each of these festivals are supported by our Year 10 Sports Leaders who do a fantastic job supporting and encouraging the students. Their leadership skills have improved vastly, and we are very proud of the job they are doing. Well done all!

## Wheelchair Basketball

On the 26<sup>th</sup> November, we hosted our second annual Wheelchair Basketball event, run by Taylor Road Primary School and Make Change Inclusive Sport Programme. This wonderful event saw 96 students from 12 primary schools getting the chance to come together and celebrate inclusivity.

We were very lucky to also receive an invite for students from our Year 7 Plus Group to take part, and they all acquitted themselves very well, being excellent role models and ambassadors for the college. They were all extremely pleased to be presented with their certificates.

Again, this event was supported by some of our Sports Leaders who were amazing throughout the day.



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## Language Leaders

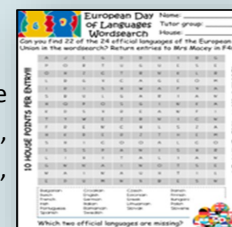
This term the **Routes Into Languages** Language Leaders Class of 24-25 had their award ceremony where we celebrated their excellent performance teaching a whole lesson of French to Year 7.

All of the students involved agreed that the programme was a great experience: challenging but a lot of fun and a good taste of what it is like to be a teacher. They are now wearing their Language Leader badges with pride.

The Language Leaders Class of 25-26 are now training and are doing extremely well. Our current Year 7 are in for a treat in June when they deliver their lesson.

## European Day of Languages

The MFL Department celebrated this year's European Day of Languages with a wordsearch House competition. Students were required to find the 22 of the 24 official languages of the European Union, and then to write down the names of the two not in the wordsearch. There were hundreds of entries, with Abbey coming out on top! Well done!







# Six Houses, One Community, Thousands of Opportunities

## The House System @SVC

What an action-packed half-term it has been at Soar Valley College! Our students have continued to demonstrate outstanding enthusiasm, teamwork, and creativity across a wide range of House competitions. Their commitment to representing their Houses with pride has made this a very memorable few weeks.



We began the half-term with the Stork Balance Test in form time, where students put their focus and resilience to the test. Congratulations to Victoria House, who secured first place with an impressive collective performance.



In our sporting competitions, students once again showed superb dedication and sportsmanship. The Year 10 Inter-House Basketball Competition saw Beacon take a well-deserved victory following a series of highly competitive matches. Meanwhile, the Year 11 Inter-House Football Competition was dominated by Bradgate, whose teamwork and determination set them apart. The high-quality football continued with our Year 10 competition, where Victoria clinched first place, and the Year 9 tournament, which saw Beacon emerge triumphant.



Our students' academic and creative talents have also been shining brightly. For National Poetry Day, students crafted thoughtful and expressive poems, with Beacon taking the top spot thanks to a powerful entry by Khadija M. (7.8). In the Geography: Understanding Islands Competition, Bradgate earned first place with an outstanding project from Thakshvita G. (8.3), who showcased impressive research and geographical understanding.



In the Careers House Competition, students explored *"How many jobs does it take to run a school?"* by researching and creating posters, lists, and presentations. Abbey finished in first place, led by a thoroughly researched and engaging submission from Mayasem A. (7.7). Abbey also added to their successes in the ever-popular Harry Potter Quiz, securing first place with an impressive display of knowledge and teamwork.



One of the most significant highlights of the half-term was our whole-school involvement in Children in Need. All Heads of House came together to deliver a whole-school assembly that helped students understand the importance of this national charity and to celebrate the successes achieved by each House so far this year. Students then enjoyed a fantastic range of activities on Friday 14th November, including Wear What You Will Day, Ping Pong Pursuit, Pin the Ears on the Head of House, a tuck shop, and the classic "Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar."



Thanks to the generosity and participation of our whole school community, we are incredibly proud to share that £1304 was raised for Children in Need. A special congratulations to Castle, who had a brilliant afternoon of success with Jeevan S. (7.4) winning the Ping Pong Pursuit, and Castle, again, claiming victory in Pin the Ears on the Head of House by earning the most points. A special mention goes to Hemal K. (9.1) from Abbey, who achieved the highest overall score in the competition. Very impressive!

Creativity continued to flourish in The Great Soar Valley Bake Off, where Victoria soared to victory with beautifully presented bakes from Saniya K. (8.11) and Ayana R. (8.11). For Black History Month, students produced thoughtful and inspiring research projects, and Castle House claimed first place thanks to a powerful and insightful entry from Roeisha C. (8.4), who focused on Black Inventors.

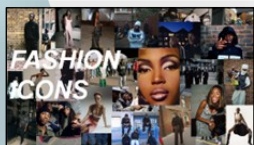
As we move toward the festive season, several competitions remain underway, including the Christmas Bauble Competition, Soar Valley Christmas Card Competition, the Year 8 Football Tournament, and the IT Cyber Squad Character Design Challenge, with results to be announced in January. We look forward to seeing even more creativity and enthusiasm from our students.

As always, we would like to extend our thanks for your continued support. It has been a wonderfully busy and productive half-term, and we are incredibly proud of the efforts and achievements of all our students. We wish you all a restful break and look forward to another successful term in the new year.

Best wishes,  
Heads of Houses

# EXTRA NEWS PART 1

## Black History Month



We are lucky to live in such a diverse and vibrant city, made up of people from many different cultures and backgrounds. Our school really represents that - with students from all around the world who make our community unique and welcoming.

To celebrate this and to mark Black History Month this October, some of our Year 11 students [Wardah, that's me, and Nazik, Yusra, Somaya, Angela, Najma, Jamila, Suleema and Asimwe] with the support of Miss Underwood, led an assembly for all year groups. We spoke about what makes us proud to be part of the Black community and shared what gives us confidence and inspires us the most about our culture and identity.

This was an important reminder of why it's so valuable to recognise and celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people in our society. Instead of focusing on the negative parts of history, we should continue to learn from them and highlight the strength, resilience, and successes of the Black community. Black History Month encourages everyone to come together, show respect, and celebrate the positive impact that the Black community has had, both in our school and beyond. We are really proud of ourselves for putting together and delivering an inspiring and meaningful assembly.

The school also held a special house competition to mark Black History Month. Students were able to show what Black culture means to them through art, music, poetry, or any creative idea.

By Wardah Nauman



## Charity at Christmas



During the last half term, staff at Soar Valley have been collecting foodie Christmas treats for an appeal run by the very amazing and very local charity, Open Hands.

Open Hands offer a range of support to those who need it and one of the things they do is provide Christmas Hampers for individuals and families to enjoy over the festive season. This year they hoped to collect enough donations to create 220 hampers.

SVC staff did their bit by donating 10 large shopping bags full of: chocolate coins and bars; Christmas crisps and popcorn; biscuits and crackers for cheese; hot chocolate and other festive goodies! We hope that by doing this, we can help Open Hands spread a bit of Christmas cheer.

## Dr Bike Visits Soar Valley

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December *Walk Wheel Cycle Trust* made their annual visit to the school to provide FREE bike maintenance. Over 30 students signed up and each bike was worked on by checking tyres, brakes, chains and lights so that students' bikes were made as safe as possible for the remaining winter months.

Students were overjoyed this year at receiving a set of free led lights to attach to both the front and back of their bikes. A huge thank you goes to Amy and George from *Walk Wheel Cycle Trust* who worked tirelessly on the bikes all day.

Students whose bike riding skills need work, or who have never ridden a bike, should keep their eyes peeled for the offer of free bike training in the summer.



## Eco Committee in Full Swing

The Eco Committee have had a busy half term carrying out an environmental review of the school before creating their Action Plan for this year. The three main areas they have chosen to work on this year are increasing the biodiversity around the school, improving the school grounds by teaming up with the year 8 Active Citizenship Project to create allotments in the school garden and increasing the amount of recycling in school.

They have also chosen to support Trees for the Future as their charity this year and have already been busy baking and selling cakes at the Year 9 Parents Evening. They will be running a cake stall at all of the upcoming parents' evenings so look out for them there. Next term the main focus will be on launching our new recycling initiatives and preparing our allotment space.



## EXTRA NEWS PART 2



### The Great Soar Valley Bake Off

Students from across the school showcased their culinary creativity in our annual SVC Bake Off House Competition. Participants planned, mixed, baked, and decorated a wonderful variety of sweet treats. The food room was filled with the smell of fresh bakes and the buzz of teamwork as students experimented with toppings and presentation styles and learned useful kitchen skills.

The competition concluded with a lively tasting event, where staff judges scored entries on taste, presentation, and originality. Choosing winners was no easy task, as every bake reflected real effort and enthusiasm. Congratulations to all who took part for their impressive bakes and positive spirit. We look forward to seeing even more budding bakers rise to the challenge again next year!

### Interfaith Event at City of Leicester College

On 13<sup>th</sup> November, twelve Year 8 students travelled to City of Leicester College for a guest speaker event celebrating Interfaith Week, a national programme designed to grow understanding of and collaboration between different religions and worldviews.

Students worked in small groups with other students from TCOLC and St John the Baptist Primary School and several guest speakers representing a wide range of faith and non-faith groups. Students learned about Methodist Christianity, the Baha'i faith, Quakerism and Humanism, and heard from Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Jewish speakers about what is most important to them in their beliefs and practices.

Since returning from the trip, students have also shared elements of their learning with their R.E. classes in school, some producing presentations or posters to do so. All the students involved represented Soar Valley brilliantly.

### Wales Residential Trip: A Week of Adventure and Growth

As part of our extended transition process, approximately 150 of our Year 7 students embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Wales, where they took part in an action-packed outdoor adventure. The week involved students spending three days immersed in nature, overcoming challenges, and developing essential life skills.

From the moment they arrived, students were thrown into an environment designed to test their resilience, teamwork, and confidence. The activities ranged from rock climbing and scrambling to gorge walking—some of which even took place in the dark, adding an extra level of challenge! Canoeing on the beautiful Welsh waters was another highlight, requiring balance, coordination, and trust among peers.

Each challenge pushed students outside their comfort zones, helping them develop problem-solving skills and perseverance. Whether navigating steep rock faces or wading through rushing streams, they showed remarkable determination and adaptability. Throughout the trip, they supported each other, strengthening friendships and building a strong foundation for their transition.

Beyond the physical activities, the trip encouraged independence and self-reliance. Living away from home, managing personal responsibilities, and working as part of a team all contributed to their personal growth. The experience was not just about adventure—it was about building confidence, resilience, and memories that will last a lifetime.

By the time the trip ended, students returned with a sense of achievement and a stronger connection to their peers. The Wales residential was a fantastic opportunity for them to embrace new challenges, step beyond their limits, and prepare for the next stage of their journey with confidence.

