



# Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**

Newsletter

Autumn Term

February 2023

## Dig Day

SAT 4TH MARCH  
10.30-1.30

SOAR VALLEY  
COLLEGE  
ALLOTMENT

Our Allotment needs some community spirit to help get it in shape for spring. Whether you can spare an hour or three, pop in to help on the 4th of March and lend a hand.

Drinks and refreshments provided. Children welcome - must be supervised by an adult. Bring a garden tool if you can.

Please register your interest with Miss Kenning if you intend to join us.

[skenning@soarvalley.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:skenning@soarvalley.leicester.sch.uk)



## Dates for Your Diary

### Parents Evenings

Year 8	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 10	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 7	May 4 <sup>th</sup>

### Term Dates

Spring Term ends	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Summer Term begins	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April
Summer Half Term Break	May 29 <sup>th</sup> – June 5 <sup>th</sup>
Summer Term ends	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July

### Other Events This Term

Year 9 Options Deadline	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
Full Governors Meeting	14th March
Year 11 Reports Home	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March
Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May
King's Coronation	Monday 8th May

## Do you know your child's attendance?

100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80%
NO ABSENCE	10 DAYS ABSENCE	12 DAYS ABSENCE	19 DAYS ABSENCE	29 ABSENCE	38 DAYS ABSENCE
190 DAYS OF EDUCATION	180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	178 DAYS OF EDUCATION	171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	152 DAYS OF EDUCATION
VERY GOOD	OK	WORRYING	CONCERN	SERIOUS CONCERN	

Having an attendance figure of 90% or below means that the government define you as a PERSISTENT ABSENTEE (PA).

It will come as no great surprise, but the more days a student attends at school, the more progress they make! This means that we should all be aiming for our child to have 100% attendance.

In each edition of our school newsletter, we will be sharing the importance of outstanding attendance coupled with some helpful top tips to ensure your child attends every day. This edition sees Top Tip 3 and 4.

### Attendance Top Tip Number 3: Return to school after appointments

If you cannot avoid making medical appointments during the school day, make them after 2pm or ensure your child returns to school after the appointment

### Attendance Top Tip Number 4: Looking after others

Avoid keeping children at home to look after other siblings or relatives. They are not legally responsible

### Illnesses

We appreciate that at present there are several viruses present in society and as a result there is an increase in sniffles, headaches, aching feelings etc. Please support us by encouraging your child to visit our qualified staff in Welfare if they begin to feel ill rather than contact you directly from their own phone. Where we see it necessary, if your child is ill enough to return home we will contact you on their behalf.

If you have queries about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us and request to speak to your child's Associate Head of Year.

# The House System @SVC

## House News

The half term began with the House Council meeting to discuss the opinions of the student body. Students are happy with the additional facilities available at break and lunch with the purchasing of football goals and basketball nets in response to their feedback.

## The Annual Balloon Race

Following this, the annual Balloon Challenge proved to be difficult for many Houses during their assemblies as only a few managed to complete the challenge! Bradgate dominated, closely followed by Victoria, whilst seconds behind were Beacon and Watermead. Unfortunately, Abbey and Castle did not manage to complete: Castle managed to burst both balloons!

House	Rank	House Points	Time taken
Bradgate	1	150 pts	2 mins 1 secs
Victoria	2	120 pts	2 mins 9 secs
Beacon	3	100 pts	2 mins 16 sec
Watermead	4	90 pts	2 mins 22 secs
Castle	5	Disqualified for popping the balloon	-
Abbey	6	Did not manage to complete	Forever

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

## Inter House Dodgeball

The competition was fierce for the inter-house dodgeball this term. All teams were strong and very competitive. The games were played in true Soar Valley style with lots of effort being put in by all the students to achieve the best results for their House.

Across the year groups, the results varied: Watermead has consistently come in 5th place across Years 9 to 11; Abbey, Beacon and Bradgate stood out, placed in the top 3 for the inter-house tournament; Abbey secured the win for both Year 9 and Year 10 and Beacon fought for the top spot in the Year 11 battle.

The Heads of House would like to thank all the students who volunteered their time to compete. It was a real joy to see so many students working well together as one House.

The results of Year 7 and Year 8 are still to be determined with the teams currently being formed.

### Year 7 History House Competition!

Calling Year 7 Saxon warriors - time to get creative!



Your challenge is to design and make a Saxon Shield. You can use cardboard or any other materials you think are appropriate. It should be colourful and have an authentic design on the front. Speak to your History teacher for more details.

**There are house points and achievement points for the best shield.**

**There are extra points available for the form that can make the biggest and best shield wall!**

The deadline for entries has been extended - it is now 27<sup>th</sup> February (after half term)

The deadline is 27<sup>th</sup> February

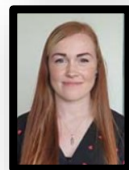
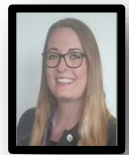



### HOUSE COMPETITION: ROCKET RE-ENTRY CHALLENGE!

Your mission should you choose to accept it is to build a re-entry capsule for a precious cargo (an egg)

It must contain:  
 Protection for the cargo  
 An aerodynamic design  
 A parachute  
 A heat shield

Deadline: 27<sup>th</sup> Feb  
 All entries to Mrs Yadav in S8

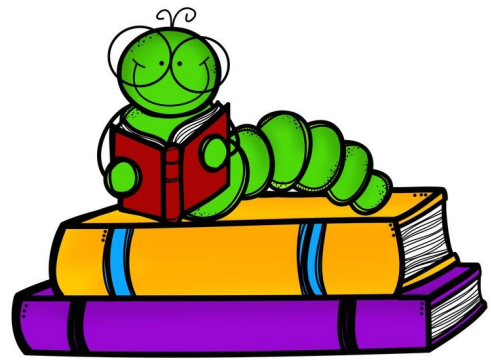



## Reading for Pleasure

This half-term we have been able to truly see the success of the Year 9 Booktalking event we held last half-term. Students from across Year 9 have kept the library busy by taking out the recommended books **over 600 times!** Year 9 favourites have been: *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*, *On the Come Up*, *Hold Back the Tide*, *Savage Island*, *That Asian Kid* and *Run, Rebel*.

This term also brings the launch of 7 for 7 with Year 10 students guiding and leading sessions on 7 books with a select number of readers from Year 7. Reading Rampage is also being launched this term, a reading challenge to promote many newly released books for Years 7 and 8 to read and review for House points!

Lastly, all Year 7 students received their Bookbuzz books as a gift from Soar Valley College this half term. They have been encouraged to share these books at home and to read them with their siblings and parents. These books will help the Year 7s continue to read for pleasure at school and at home.



## Young Carers

A Young Carer is a child under the age of 18 who regularly looks after someone in their family or a friend who is ill, disabled, or has a mental health problem or an addiction. Children may engage in:

- Shopping, cooking, cleaning
- Managing medicines or money
- Providing personal care
- Helping get people out of the house
- Keeping an eye on someone
- Providing emotional support

At Soar Valley College we want to celebrate our young carers. And as we move forward, we will be developing our offer to young carers and their families.

If you feel that your child may be a young carer or you would like to discuss this Information further, please contact our Young Carers Lead, Catherine Swain on (0116)2669625 or [cswain@soarvalley.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:cswain@soarvalley.leicester.sch.uk) All contact will be treated in the strictest confidence

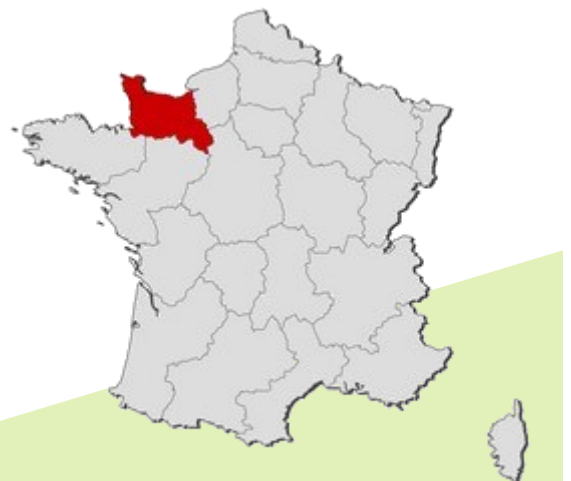


## Coming September 2023: The MFL Normandy Trip

The modern foreign languages department are thrilled to be able to offer 40 of our Year 8 pupils the opportunity to take part in a residential trip to Normandy, France which will be taking place in September 2023.

During their stay students will have the chance to take part in various excursions to improve their cultural and historical understanding of France and in particular the region of Normandy. These will include visits to Mont St Michel, a local French market, the town of Fougères, the WWII cemetery at Bayeux, a chocolate factory, an animal refuge and a visit to the 360-degree cinema at Arranches.

We are delighted to be able to offer an international residential once more post pandemic, so this is a very exciting time in our calendar and both staff and students are very much looking forward to this trip!



## Oxford University Bebras Competition



This term at Soar Valley all Key Stage 3, and some Year 10, students took part in an international competition organised by the University of Oxford. Our students were introduced to Computational Thinking and challenged to complete a set of short problems that mirror those often faced by computer scientists.

Ten students made it through the next round of the competition with Muhammad Tahir Mahmood 8.12, Saurabh Makwana 9.4 and Nidhi Modhwadia 9.5 our top performers. Well done to everyone for taking part!

## Lord Mayors Sickle Cell Awareness Competition



As part of the Lord Mayor's competition, students across the city were invited to take part in a competition to raise awareness of Sickle Cell Disease. Students were asked to make a PowerPoint, poster and flyer.

At Soar Valley we ran this as a house competition in science. There were some fantastic entries, particularly in Year 7 and Year 8.

We await the result of the city competition to find out if any of our students will be asked to attend the awards ceremony where winners will receive their prizes. As far as school goes the overall winner was Risha Patel in Castle House.

## Primary Transition Work

With Year 6 pupils about to find out which secondary school they will be joining in September, at Soar Valley we have continued to engage in transition work with our primary colleagues.

This term we have been working with two of our feeder primary schools, Wyvern and Catherine Junior, to prepare Year 5 and Year 6 students for life at Soar Valley. We introduced them to computer science where they had the opportunity to use Block Base for programming, to use an online simulator and to get their hands on the BBC Micro:bit pocket sized computers.



## Careers



There have been assemblies around the theme of Careers and National Apprenticeship Week this term for Year 7 through to Year 10.

Leicestershire Education Business Company engaged with students in Year 7 and Year 8 and encouraged them to develop their thinking about different learning styles, and transferrable skills, and to consider future pathways that might work for them.

Year 9 students have been considering their GCSE Options choices and where their choices could lead them in the future. We have also welcomed Leicester College to talk to Year 10 students about Post 16 pathways.