



Soar Valley College

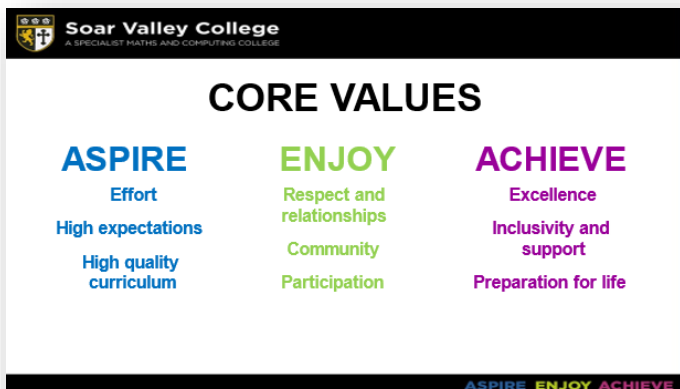
A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Newsletter
Spring Term
February 2024

Message from the Principal

We all know that 'Effort is Everything' at Soar Valley, and so in this newsletter I would like to focus on another of our core values, especially as we have just had such a successful curriculum options evening for our Year 9 students and their parents/carers. Our high quality curriculum is broad and balanced at Key Stage 3, where students study the whole of the National Curriculum suite of subjects, giving them a wide range of knowledge and skills on which to build later in their school career. Students choose their option subjects during Year 9, starting their examination courses at the beginning of Year 10. Students are given more choices than in many schools, with a range of both academic, practical and vocational courses available. They are very much encouraged to take the subjects they are good at, those they enjoy, and those where their effort score is high, and this contributes greatly to the high levels of attainment reached by the end of Year 11. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the superb activities which take place, both within and outside of the curriculum, in this newsletter.



General News

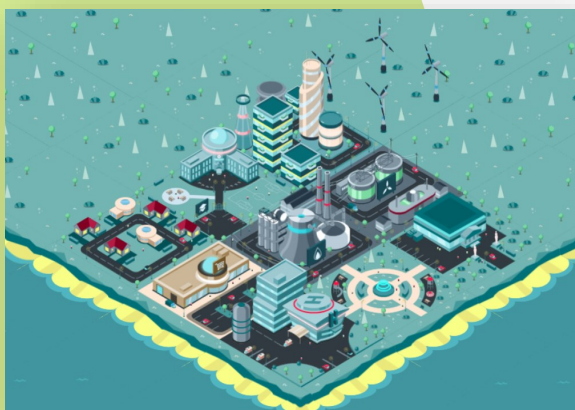
STEM Challenge

Year 7 have been set a STEM activity on Satchel:One to build their own 'Energy Town'.

The task is to build a happy, healthy and green city for the future. Students must use their science, geography, technology and maths skills to sustain the life of their city and make decisions that affect the city's wellbeing.

Students will then use these skills to enter a competition and win some great prizes. To take part in the competition collect the form from Mrs Yadav and enter by **29th March 2024** but the game can be played without having to enter the competition.

Highest score so far comes from Yusuf in 7.2 with an incredible 226,100 points!



Dates for your Diary

26th February	School Reopens
29th February	Year 8 Parents' Evening
W/C 4th March	Year 9 Options Deadline
12th March	Governors' Meeting
18th March	Year 11 reports home
21st March	Year 10 Parents' Evening
22nd March	School closes for Easter
8th April	School Reopens
2nd May	Year 7 Parents' Evening

Year 10 Active Citizenship: International Group

On Friday 9th February, John Coster, a guest speaker came to speak to 55 Year 10 students on the subject of activism and journalism, which is linked to their International Citizenship project.

John Coster works for the Documentary Media Centre in Leicester and is a prominent member of the community working to promote awareness of international affairs. He works on the Parallel Lives Project and has many links with international charities working within Leicester.

In addition to his visit, John is offering the chance for a small group of students to take part in a 'news day' to create media content and work as journalists and documentarians as part of their volunteering project.



Geography Fieldwork

As part of our Year 7 fieldwork, students have been conducting a traffic survey on Gleneagles Avenue in order to investigate whether the *Safer Streets Healthier Neighbourhood* scheme introduced by Leicester City Council has been effective at reducing traffic congestion.

Primary data collection has been an integral part of this geographical enquiry and the Geography Department would like to thank parents, family and friends for supporting their Year 7 child by completing the recent questionnaire with their opinions on the Council's Safer Streets Campaign. We've had a fantastic response and we are now collating the data in the classroom.

MFL Spelling Bee

The Modern Foreign Languages team are once again offering students the chance to take part in the Links into Languages spelling bee. The winners from Stage 1 have been practising for their Stage 2 competition which will take place on Friday 1st March.

Students have been putting in lots of hard work in lunchtime sessions and after school so that they can be in with a chance to progress to Stage 3 and compete in the regional final at the University of Nottingham. It's great to see such enthusiasm for learning languages amongst the students.



Eco Club Update

The Eco Club have had a busy half term as they have been working on the targets set out in this year's action plan.

During the first two meetings of the term the students created and painted a home-made bird bath from old garden pots which were lying unused in the school allotment and set out basil, mint and parsley seeds to grow in small pots in preparation for the allotment work which will take place in the new term when the warmer weather comes along.

Some of the team have been selling cakes at parents' evenings to raise funds for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) charity and we will continue to do this throughout the rest of the academic year.

The upcoming term will see some students taking part in a litter picking activity at Watermead Country Park which will help towards a target set within the topic of marine life.



Also, as part of the marine life topic the students will be making fish out of plastic bottles and creating an activism piece to show the damage that plastic can do to fish in the ocean.

The team are really looking forward to getting outdoors to do lots of planting of fruit and vegetables in the allotment to grow and sell in order to raise more money for the WWF. They have already been outdoors into the Ecology Garden this year to create a small log pile to help insect habitats as the spring months approach.

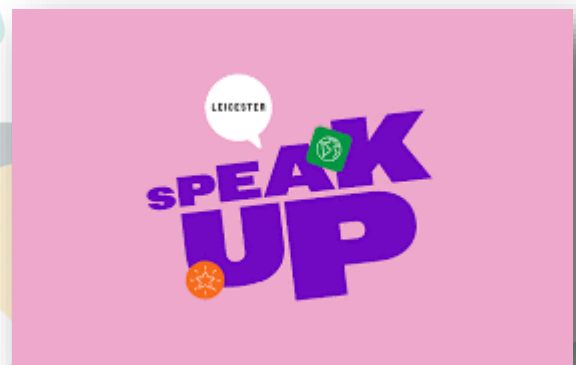
Speak Up!

In the Drama department, The Speak Up Project continues to be an invaluable extracurricular opportunity for students involved.

Working in conjunction with The National Theatre and Curve Theatre, the aim of Speak Up is to give young people a voice about issues which matter to them. Speak Up is in its second year and we are so pleased to be able to continue this project throughout this academic year. Students work weekly with visiting artist, Ben Johnson, who helps students to navigate through their ideas and thoughts and turn them into practice.

Following the success of our visit to Curve Theatre, students have written and recorded a song and are now working with local playwright Jayne Williams to write a script to support their work.

Speak Up continues to run every Wednesday from 3pm – 4pm in G9.



House News @SVC

Human Rights Day

Before Christmas, several students took part in a competition for Human Rights Day which was celebrated on December 10th. 2023 saw the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges. Students were tasked with creating a commemorative poster to honour and promote the historic date.

Competition was fierce, but Watermead reigned supreme with their thought-provoking first place entry.

Each Head of House was proud of the compassionate and informed responses from all entrants.



House	Rank	House Points
Watermead	1	12,764
Castle	2	12,024
Victoria	3	11,116
Beacon	4	10,129
Bradgate	5	9496
Abbey	6	8994

Current House Points

A dramatic start to 2024 saw the unveiling of the current House positions. A clear divide between Houses was starting to form which meant one thing: action!

In positive and competitive spirit, each Head of House rallied their House together in their first assembly of the term to encourage participation in upcoming events, and that meant putting on their loudest voices to see who could kick off the start of the year by bagging the all-important top spot in The Decibel Challenge.

The Decibel Challenge

An oldie, but a goodie, and kicking the year off in style, The Decibel Challenge challenged students to shout 'Happy New Year' as loudly as possible to register the highest score on the decibel meter.

Victoria was clearly the loudest on the day, with Castle just pipped at the post. Competition was close: what a noisy bunch! Languishing in last place, by some way, was Beacon, come on Mr Hatto!

House	Rank	House Points	This year's score
Victoria	1	150 pts	117.3
Watermead	4	90 pts	116.2
Bradgate	5	85 pts	115.4
Castle	2	120 pts	116.7
Abbey	3	100 pts	116.5
Beacon	6	80 pts	107

Thank you!

The Heads of Houses would like to thank every student who has volunteered their time, participated in activities, or donated to charity events over the year thus far.

We are looking forward to the continued House spirit across the remainder of the year to see what change it could make to the current positions.

P.E.

KS4 Boys' Badminton – East Leicester Champions!

On Tuesday 6th February our KS4 Boys' Badminton 'A' and 'B' squads travelled to Moat Community College to take part in the East Leicester Badminton tournament.

The competition was played in a round robin format where both squads had to play teams from Moat, Rushey Mead Academy, Orchard Mead Academy, and each other. Both squads played brilliantly in both the singles and doubles matches, and were exhausted by the end of the evening!

The 'A' squad won all of their matches and were crowned champions, and the 'B' squad won 4 out of their 5 matches and finished in second place. Well done to all of the boys involved!



Girl's Badminton teams

The PE Department would like to say well done to the Girls' Badminton teams who have played exceptionally well over the last half term. There have been lots of wins, but more importantly lots of laughs. They have exemplified the school's motto of *Aspire, Enjoy, Achieve!*



Sports Leaders Dance Festival

On Wednesday 24th January our annual Primary School Dance Festival was held at Taylor Road Primary School. The festival was attended by Mellor, Rushey Mead, Sandfield Close, Wyvern and Taylor Road Primary Schools, with each school having prepared two dances to perform. The dances were all of an extremely high standard and the pupils had clearly spent hours preparing and practising them. Soar Valley provided eight Sports Leaders for the event – all Year 10 students who are studying OCR Sport Studies.

The leaders helped with various tasks during the afternoon, ranging from setting up the equipment beforehand to giving feedback to each group after their performances. Many thanks to all the staff at Taylor Road for hosting us, it was a real pleasure and privilege to attend.

Thank you to the following Year 10 Sports Leaders:

Sukhbir, Kajal, Brahmleen, Harshita, Tia, Teeya, Krishna and Ankita.

Hockey

Shout out to Rajan in Year 8 who had a great experience playing for the Leicester Panthers men's second team! He absolutely loved it and had some great lessons in how to show the right spirit when you suffer a loss. He is clearly very talented, and we will watch his development with interest.



READING RAMPAGE

Reading Rampage, a reading scheme which encourages students from Year 7 and Year 8 to read and rate books they might not usually choose, has been launched during library lessons this term. Students have until the end of May to complete the challenge and can earn house points, prizes, and certificates along the way. Over the coming months students will be provided with the opportunity to attend live author events, complete fun activities linked to the books, and earn a place at our end of year party. One lucky student will receive the Reading Rampage Participation Award, a gift voucher, and their name read out at the multi-school celebration event.



New Year, New Challenge

During our January House assemblies students were encouraged to set themselves a new reading challenge, such as reading 10 pages a day, or for 10 minutes extra a day, the idea being new beginnings start with a resolution but are maintained through habit.

Many students decided to take up the challenge of reading something new, from a genre they have never read before, and are finding a whole new avenue of literature they never knew they loved!

Blind Date with a Book

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the library is playing matchmaker!

- Choose a book from our selection of wrapped books.
- Check it out.
- Read the book.
- Return the book and your 'Rate Your Date' feedback sheet to the library by the due date to be in with a chance of winning a prize.





Book Review House Competition Results

Thank you and well done all those that entered. It was hard to choose the best reviews, but results are in....

Soar Valley College Library Book Review

Return to the library for an achievement point, and to add to your house total!

Name: Tejal Thakur Form: 9.6

Book title: *Happy Head*

Author: Josh Silver

Review: I'm not kidding when I say this is a page-turner with emotional characters from which you can't look away. The plot is full of twists and turns, and the ending is a real surprise. I highly recommend this book to anyone who likes a good read. It's a real page-turner with emotional characters from which you can't look away. The plot is full of twists and turns, and the ending is a real surprise. I highly recommend this book to anyone who likes a good read.

★★★★★

Soar Valley College Library Book Review

Return to the library for an achievement point, and to add to your house total!

Name: Lovepreet Kaur Form: 8.11

Book title: *The Giver*

Author: Lois Lowry

Review: "The Giver" is a beautiful story about a world where everyone is the same. It's a story about a boy who grows up in a world where everyone is the same. It's a story about a boy who grows up in a world where everyone is the same. It's a story about a boy who grows up in a world where everyone is the same.

★★★★★

Soar Valley College Library Book Review

Return to the library for an achievement point, and to add to your house total!

Name: Saurabh Form: 10.4

Book title: *Sign*

Author: G. K. Goldstein

Review: Sign is a beautiful story about a boy who grows up in a world where everyone is the same. It's a story about a boy who grows up in a world where everyone is the same. It's a story about a boy who grows up in a world where everyone is the same.

★★★★★

Soar Valley College Library Book Review

Return to the library for an achievement point, and to add to your house total!

Name: Krishna Form: 9.2

Book title: *CLUTCH*

Author: Leonard

Review: The book is all about birds and an egg gets stolen. It ends up with a happy ending with loads of plot twists at the end. I also feel like you're being sucked into the story and you're one of the characters.

★★★★★

Bookbuzz

Name: Nidhi Shubhesh Form: 7.1 Abbey House

Review: I read the book called *Our Sister Again* and I really enjoyed it. It's a story about a girl called Isla who is a singer. The book shows me that it's not just about music, but it's about life. It also shows me that you only know yourself and people if you have a different vision of you.

★★★★★

Bookbuzz

Name: Jenna Pui Form: 7.3 House Bradgate

Review: *Sunshine* was an amazing book. It's a story about a girl called Jenna who is a singer. The book shows me that it's not just about music, but it's about life. It also shows me that you only know yourself and people if you have a different vision of you.

★★★★★

Student Library Assistants

Would you like to be a Student Library Assistant? You'll get to have a say in how the library is run, be involved in some exciting projects, and help other students use the library.

Activities:

- Shelving and keeping the library tidy
- Issuing and returning books
- Helping other students find the information they need
- Helping other students (and staff!) find books they'll enjoy
- Represent other students and tell staff what they want from the library
- Creating materials such as book reviews and displays to encourage others to read
- Helping to recommend new books for the library to stock

You will also:

- Be reliable and honest
- Be cheerful and enthusiastic
- Have an interest in books
- Enjoy helping other people
- Have good basic computer skills
- Abide by the LRC expectations
- Be able to work independently and as part of a team

Simply fill in the application form and return it to Mrs Richardson in the library!
Closing date: **31st March 2023** You may then be invited to a short interview.

We are asking all current Library Assistants to re-apply.

	House	Points	Entries
1 st	Watermead	150	32
2 nd	Victoria	120	91
3 rd	Castle	100	65
4 th	Abbey	90	61
5 th	Bradgate	85	19
6 th	Beacon	80	54

National Apprenticeship Week

Last week, Soar Valley College celebrated National Apprenticeship Week 2024. All students experienced an apprenticeship assembly, a morning registration activity, and the chance to ask questions to our providers. We place great importance on ensuring that all students, whatever their year group, receive information about the options available to them when they leave Soar Valley College. This way, we can work to ensure that from an early age, students are more likely to end up on a successful and positive career path.



Year 7 and Year 8 were introduced to apprenticeships by Sergeant Guy Bufton from The Army. Guy explained apprenticeships to students and talked through the wide range that are available.

Rahul Lakhani from SMB College Group came to talk to Year 9 students. Acknowledging this crucial part in the Year 9 education journey as students embark upon their GCSE Option choices, Rahul was able to talk about learning styles and link this to the apprenticeship model as a valuable option at Post 16 and beyond.

We were very pleased to welcome back ex-student Navjoyt Kaur from Work Pays to talk to our KS4 students about apprenticeships. Navjoyt spoke about apprenticeships at all levels equipping students with key information about the benefits of an apprenticeship at any stage of their education journey.

Following the assemblies, we provided four workshops, delivered in conjunction with Connexions, for KS4 students. These workshops enabled students who had expressed an interest in apprenticeships to learn more about the application process and the reality of being an apprentice. They proved to be so popular with our students that we will be arranging additional sessions later in the spring term.

The careers team at Soar Valley College now look forward to National Careers Week in March 2024.

National Careers Week

NCW

connexions
Let's talk about you

Post 16 Applications

Year 11 students are beginning to receive notification from their Post 16 providers following their college applications. All students are encouraged to accept all offers at this stage. As we receive information from local colleges regarding their interview process, information is being shared with students and is placed on the college website. Supporting information on interview tips and techniques will be shared after the half term break.

Find out more online

The careers page on our college website is updated regularly with key dates and information but should you have any questions, or would like to be part of the development of our careers programme, please do email careers@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk.