



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Newsletter

Summer Term

July 2026

Message from the Principal

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a successful and rewarding year for our school community. Our students have continued to demonstrate resilience, ambition and kindness, achieving so much both inside and outside the classroom. None of this would be possible without the support of our parents and carers. On behalf of all staff, thank you for your continued trust, support and commitment to our school.

As always, the end of the school year also brings the opportunity to say goodbye to colleagues who are moving on to new adventures. This year we bid a particularly heartfelt farewell to three long-serving members of staff: Mr Holyland, Director of Maths; Mr Bhogaita, Teacher of Maths; and Ms Jeffery, Teacher of English. Between them, they have dedicated an incredible 69 years of service to Soar Valley, making an immeasurable contribution to the education and lives of countless young people. We thank them for their dedication and professionalism and wish them every happiness and success in the next chapter of their lives. We also say goodbye to colleagues who, although with us for a shorter period, have each made a valued contribution to the success of our school. Mr Howard, Mr Piper, Mrs Messenger and Mr Leake all move on to pastures new, and we thank each of them for everything they have done for our students.

Finally, we extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to our lunchtime supervisor, Mrs Solanki, who retires after 14 years of impeccable service. Her kindness and care have been greatly appreciated by students and colleagues alike. To all those leaving Soar Valley this summer, thank you for the difference you have made. You will always be part of the Soar Valley family and we wish you every success.

We hope everyone enjoys a well-earned summer break, and we look forward to welcoming our students and families back in the new academic year.

All students start back on Monday August 24th

Year 7 and Year 11 return at 8.45am Year 8, 9 and 10 should come to school for an 11am start, arriving no earlier than 10.30am.

Mr Pabari

Principal

Dates for Your Diary



Parents' Evenings	
Year 9	Thursday November 12 th
Year 11	Thursday January 14 th
Year 8	Thursday March 11 th
Year 10	Thursday April 8 th
Year 7	Thursday May 6 th
Term Dates	
Summer Term Ends	Friday July 10 th
Autumn Term Begins	Monday August 24 th
Bank Holiday (CLOSED)	Monday August 31 st
Autumn Half Term Break	October 19 th —October 23 rd
Disaggregated Training Day	Monday November 9 th
Autumn Term Ends	Friday December 18 th
Other Events Next Half Term	
KS4 Transition Evening	Tuesday September 8 th
Year 9 Jazz Workshop	Tuesday September 8 th
Year 8 LOPC Trip (A&B)	Tuesday September 8 th
Year 8 LOPC Trip (C&D)	Wednesday September 9 th
School Photographer	Wednesday September 16 th
Open Evening	Thursday September 17 th
Year 7 LOPC Trip (A&B)	Tuesday September 29 th
Post 16 Evening	Tuesday September 29 th
Year 7 LOPC Trip (C&D)	Wednesday September 30 th
Flu Vaccination	Thursday October 1 st
Vaccinations	Thursday October 8 th
Yr 11 Study Skills Session	Wednesday October 14 th
Yr 7 Reports Home	Thursday October 15 th
Yr 7 Settling in Evening	Thursday October 15 th
Yr 11 Reports Home	Friday October 16 th

PE

PE Department Achieves Prestigious School Games Platinum Mark Award for 2025/26

We are delighted to announce that our PE Department has been awarded the School Games Platinum Mark Award for the 2025/26 academic year, the highest accolade available through the School Games Mark programme.

This prestigious recognition is only awarded to schools that have demonstrated sustained excellence in school sport and physical activity, having achieved the Gold School Games Mark for at least five consecutive years. Achieving Platinum reflects our long-term commitment to providing outstanding opportunities for every student to participate, compete and thrive through physical education and school sport.

The award recognises a PE curriculum that is both inclusive and aspirational, ensuring that every student, regardless of ability or experience, is supported and challenged to achieve their personal best.

Alongside curriculum provision, the school offers a broad and inclusive extra-curricular programme, providing all students with opportunities to participate in a wide variety of sports and physical activities throughout the year. Our students also benefit from an extensive programme of competitive sporting opportunities, with teams representing the school across a range of local, county, regional and national fixtures.

A key strength recognised within the award is the school's commitment to student leadership. Through roles such as Sports Leaders, students are empowered to organise activities, support younger pupils, officiate competitions and play an active role in promoting physical activity across the school community and local Primary Schools.

This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication, enthusiasm, and professionalism of our PE staff. We would also like to thank our students for embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm and commitment.

Receiving the School Games Platinum Mark Award is a significant milestone and reflects years of sustained excellence. We are incredibly proud of this achievement and remain committed to continuing to provide exceptional sporting and physical activity opportunities that inspire all students to lead healthy and active lives.



YEAR 11 PROM

SVC Y11 PROM 2026

They came as little ones, trying to find their place
Wide-eyed, a little afraid, but excitement on their face.
They soon found their feet, some having loads of fun
Occasionally we heard, "I have no friends," to which the reply was, "There are 315 of you... pick one at random!"
Fast forward five years, prom night finally here

Great food, crazy level of dancing and sharing of some tears.

As we remember the journey they have all just had

Loads of fond memories made of which they will be glad.

Time to bid farewell to our gems of 2026 who are just the best!
Invest in yourself, and life will take care of the rest.

Wishing you all the best x

Miss Patel and Mrs Collins

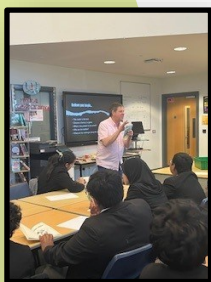


Library News

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

Year 7 Embark on a 3-Day Adventure with Steve Skidmore!

This term, our Year 7 students were thrilled to spend three incredible days with author Steve Skidmore, co-creator of over a hundred *Choose Your Own Adventure* books. From the very first story, students were hooked, begging for Steve to read more as they laughed so much their sides hurt! His interactive storytelling had everyone on the edge of their seats, showing just how exciting and unpredictable reading can be when every choice matters.



The excitement continued with a hands-on workshop, where Steve shared his creative process, teaching students how to plan multiple storylines and characters, and how to craft unexpected twists that keep readers guessing. Students were able to experience firsthand the challenges and rewards of writing interactive stories, gaining valuable insights into the world of narrative design.

This author visit perfectly complemented the term's library curriculum module, where Year 7 have been creating their own *Choose Your Own Adventure* stories. The knowledge and understanding gained from Steve's sessions proved to be incredibly beneficial, equipping students with the skills to plan branching narratives, make their stories interactive, and bring their own imaginative worlds to life.



READING
CHALLENGE



A Summer of Stories!

As another fantastic year in the library draws to a close, we'd like to thank everyone who has borrowed books, taken part in our reading challenges, entered competitions, and helped make the library such a busy and vibrant place. It's been wonderful to see so many students discovering new books, sharing recommendations and developing a real love of reading.



7 for 7 Reading Challenge

This term, our **7 for 7 Reading Challenge** has been in full swing!

This exciting challenge, organised by Creative Learning Services, encourages students to read **7 books across 7 different categories** before the end of the year. From mysteries and classics, to non-fiction, books by diverse authors and stories set around the world, students have been exploring books they might never have picked up before.

The challenge is all about reading for pleasure, building confidence and broadening horizons and we've been delighted to see so many students embracing it.

Our monthly Book Club has also continued to thrive, with lively discussions, thoughtful recommendations and plenty of enthusiasm for each month's featured title. It's always a pleasure to hear students sharing their favourite reads with one another.

Well done to everyone taking part, keep reading over the summer and you'll be one step closer to completing the challenge!

SVC Book Spark Reading Challenge

Our biggest reading challenge yet has been a tremendous success!

With **40 fantastic titles** to choose from, students have been challenged to read **five books across four different categories**:

- A fiction book, a non-fiction book, a graphic novel, a quick read, a free choice

Featuring collections recommended by BookTrust, alongside many personal favourites selected by Mrs Richardson, there has truly been something for every reader.

We've been so impressed by the number of books students have completed already, and it's been wonderful to see so many new faces discovering books they may never have considered before.

There are still plenty of opportunities to continue the challenge next year, earn participation points and, of course, win prizes!

EVEN MORE...

Library News

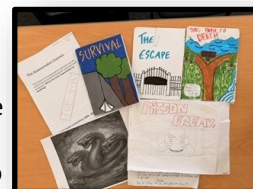
If you would like support with encouraging your child to read for pleasure then please contact our librarian, Mrs Richardson

Choose Your Own Adventure Competition

Our creative writers have certainly been keeping busy!

Students have produced some fantastic **Choose Your Own Adventure** stories, filled with imaginative plots, unexpected twists and brilliant storytelling.

The entries are now being judged by our visiting author, and we can't wait to announce the winner's next term. Good luck to everyone who entered!

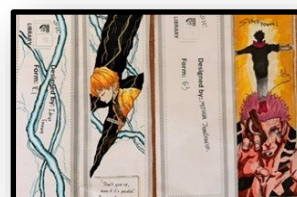
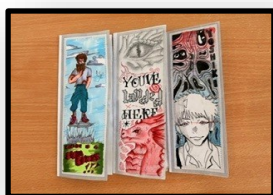


Annual Bookmark Competition

Once again, our Annual Bookmark Competition attracted an incredible number of entries.

The standard this year has been exceptionally high, making the judging process incredibly difficult! Thank you to every student who took the time to create such imaginative and beautifully designed bookmarks.

First place was shared between two highly creative friends: Idrys (8.1) and Mithun (8.3), in second place was Khushi (8.8) and third place was Hazel (9.6). Designs will be made into bookmarks for students and staff to use.



Student Library Assistants

We were absolutely inundated with applications to become Student Library Assistants this year. The quality of applications was outstanding, making the selection process extremely difficult.

Congratulations to everyone who was appointed, we're looking forward to working with you next year!

For those who weren't successful this time, don't worry as additional positions become available throughout the year.

Library Stocktake

A huge thank you to everyone who returned their library books so promptly ahead of our annual stocktake.

House points were awarded based on how quickly each House returned their books, and your support made this year's stocktake much smoother. Bradgate took first place for speed, swiftly followed by Victoria and Abbey.

There are still a small number of books outstanding. Reminder emails have now been sent, so if you think you may still have a library book at home, please have a quick look over the summer and return it to the library at the start of next term.

Every book returned helps us keep our shelves full for everyone to enjoy!

Looking Ahead...

As we head into the summer holidays, we'd like to thank all of our wonderful student readers, library helpers and staff for another successful year.

Whether you've completed a reading challenge, discovered a new favourite author, written an adventure story, entered a competition or simply found a quiet corner to enjoy a good book, you've helped make the library a vibrant place to learn, explore and imagine. We hope you all enjoy a relaxing summer filled with plenty of reading.

Happy Reading, and we'll see you next term!
Soar Valley College Library Team



Six Houses, One Community, Thousands of Opportunities

The House System @SVC

House Newsletter (Summer 1 & 2)

The Summer Term has been packed with House competitions, creative challenges and plenty of opportunities for students to earn those all-important House points. Every entry, every quiz and every competition has helped keep the House rivalry alive and well. Some Houses have certainly been making themselves comfortable at the top of the leaderboard... but until the final results of the year are announced on the last day, nobody can afford to relax!



World Poetry Day

To celebrate World Poetry Day, students also showcased their creativity through poetry. Congratulations to Meera O, whose wonderful entry secured first place for Victoria House.



World Poetry Day

Pride Playlist competition

Students can also finish the term by entering the Pride Playlist competition by creating a playlist of five songs celebrating confidence, acceptance and standing up for others.



Dingbats Quiz

Mr Hatto's Dingbats Quiz also proved hugely popular during form time, with Abbey once again taking first place. Clearly, solving cryptic pictures is becoming something of a House speciality.



100-Word Stranger Sagas competition

Our creative writers kicked things off with the 100-Word Stranger Sagas competition, where students had to tell a gripping story in just 100 words. A huge congratulations to Naba K from Beacon House, whose winning entry proved that sometimes less really is more.



Maths Competition

Mathematical minds were put to the test in our House Maths Competition, where students tackled a challenging logic puzzle using dominoes. Watermead House secured first place thanks to the highest number of correct entries across the competition.

Women's History Month

As part of Women's History Month, students researched and celebrated inspirational women who have shaped history. The quality of entries made judging incredibly difficult, with excellent research, thoughtful writing and beautifully presented work throughout. Congratulations to Shreya C and Sunshine U, whose outstanding entries secured first place for Abbey House.



Earth Day Bingo

Students also got involved in Earth Day Bingo, completing environmentally friendly activities such as walking to school, enjoying a meat-free day or switching off screens for an hour. Abbey House once again secured first place thanks to their fantastic number of entries.

Redesign a Book Cover competition

Creativity continued with the Redesign a Book Cover competition, where students gave their favourite books a fresh new look. Congratulations to Milly J, whose creative design earned first place for Victoria House.

Re-design a book cover (1st place winner)



EVEN MORE...



Six Houses, One Community, Thousands of Opportunities

The House System @SVC

The second half of the summer term arrived with a whole new set of challenges. Miss Evans tested everyone's powers of logic with a quiz inspired by *The 1% Club*, where Abbey House came out on top. Congratulations to Abbey for proving they have the kind of logical thinking that would make *The 1% Club* proud!



Landscape in a Box challenge

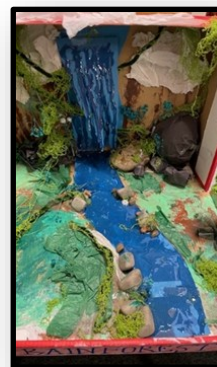
Meanwhile, our geography students quite literally thought outside the box with the Landscape in a Box challenge. The standard of entries from Key Stage 3 left everyone completely flabbergasted! Special congratulations go to Filip J from Castle House, whose incredible attention to detail earned a very well-deserved first place.



Landscape in a box (1st place winner)



Other entries for Landscape in a box.



Design an Easter Egg competition

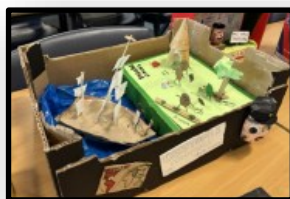
History took a slightly more egg-citing turn with the Design an Easter Egg competition, where students transformed ordinary eggs into famous figures from history. The judges were incredibly impressed by the creativity and attention to detail on display, with Bradgate and Victoria sharing first place overall. Special congratulations go to Bradgate's Muhammad Ali egg, which secured first place, Victoria's Christopher Columbus egg, which claimed second place, and Abbey House's Ozzy Osbourne egg, which earned a well-deserved third place. Winners received chocolate eggs, and several students even received nominations for a Soar Valley Star.



History Egg Competition (1st place winner) Muhammad Ali



History Egg Competition (2nd place) Christopher Columbus



History Egg Competition (3rd place) Ozzy Osbourne



EVEN MORE...



Six Houses, One Community, Thousands of Opportunities

The House System @SVC



National Numeracy Day

On National Numeracy Day, our Year 7 and Year 8 students competed in relay races that combined teamwork with mathematical thinking. Congratulations to the Year 7 team from Abbey House and the Year 8 team from Beacon House, who both raced their way to victory.



House Debate

Students also demonstrated fantastic speaking and listening skills in our House Debate, confidently arguing whether school uniform should be banned while responding thoughtfully to opposing viewpoints. Congratulations to Beacon House, who argued their case well enough to convince the judges - even if not everyone was convinced school blazers should disappear forever.



Soar Valley staff re-created famous goal celebrations.

World Cup

The countdown to the World Cup Final has well and truly begun at Soar Valley! Every form has been randomly allocated a nation to support, leading to some very passionate discussions already. Some forms were delighted with their draw, while others were left bravely trying to convince themselves that miracles do happen in football.



The football fever inspired a whole host of competitions. In Design & Technology, students designed brand-new World Cup kits, with Yahya H securing first place for Watermead House.

D&T World Cup Kit Design Competition (1st place winner)



Our Year 7 students also battled it out in Tug of War and Penalty Shootouts, with Beacon House pulling their way to victory in Tug of War and Watermead House holding their nerve to win the Penalty Shootout.



Several World Cup-themed competitions are still underway as we write this. Students can design a winning nation's commemorative coin, debate who deserves the title of greatest World Cup player of all time, test their language skills by identifying how "World Cup" is written in different languages, create an official team mascot, or even invent the perfect goal celebration. The latter has already inspired several members of staff to have a go themselves... with varying degrees of athletic success.

One Word, One Design challenge

There is also the One Word, One Design challenge, where students can create colourful artwork inspired by a single meaningful word. Every entry earns valuable House points, so it's well worth getting involved.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be recruiting our new House Captains and Deputy House Captains for next year. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills, represent their House with pride and help organise competitions and events throughout the year. We can't wait to see the next generation of House leaders step forward.

Best wishes,

Heads of Houses

CAREERS

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Between Monday 8th and Friday 12th June, our Year 10 students went out on their much-anticipated work experience. Over the weeks leading up to this, students were placed with a broad range of employers from across the city. Work Experience is a brilliant opportunity for students to develop their employability skills by spending time in a real workplace. And they coped brilliantly; staff were proud to go out to visit students during work experience. We were pleased to welcome them back to school again after their week at placement to hear all about their week and to start building towards their Post 16 applications in Year 11. For example, over the summer all students – not just Year 10 – can continue to update their Unifrog profile.

Well done to all Year 10 students for their mature, enthusiastic and resilient attitude during their placements. Thank you to parents, carers and employers for supporting this process.

If you have any questions about our careers programme, please email careers@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk

Work Experience Report – Technology Core, Leicester by Busola

From 8th June to 12th June 2026, I completed my work experience placement at Technology Core in Leicester. During my placement, I worked from 9:00am until 3:00pm each day and gained valuable insight into how a technology business operates with a small team of staff.

On my first day, I observed how the owner managed many aspects of the business, including client communication and technical problem-solving. This showed me how a business can operate efficiently even with a relatively small number of employees.

Over the week I learned about the daily routines and responsibilities of the staff at the company, shadowed them to better understand the processes involved, assisted with organising and categorising hardware components, examined computer and laptop hardware components such as the CPU, motherboard and RAM, learned how to prepare the packaging materials used to protect laptops during delivery, installed Windows 11 onto laptops.

Although some of the tasks seemed repetitive, it helped me understand the importance of being organised and efficient in the workplace. Other tasks gave me a hands-on experience with computer software and allowed me to take on greater responsibility. One of the highlights of the week was when the owner asked for my opinion on a laptop that was being prepared for a customer. This made me feel included and part of the team.

Overall, my work experience at Technology Core was both enjoyable and educational. I developed my organisational skills, learned more about computer hardware and software, and gained an understanding of how a technology business operates. The experience also improved my confidence and showed me the importance of teamwork, responsibility and effective communication in the workplace.

Year 10 Go Ape

Before embarking on work experience – and to build their confidence and self belief ready for this important milestone in their school careers – Year 10 recently enjoyed an exciting trip to Go Ape, where they took on the Tree Top Challenge and participated in a range of team-building games.

It was wonderful to see students supporting and encouraging one another throughout the day, demonstrating resilience, determination, and a positive attitude when facing challenges. They all enjoyed seeing Mrs Rodway and Mrs Nolan screaming on the zipwires too!

The experience provided an excellent opportunity for students to step outside their comfort zones and develop the confidence and perseverance that will help them meet the challenges of Year 11. Their behaviour was exemplary throughout the trip, and they were a real credit to the school. Well done, Year 10! We are very proud of all of you.





UNLOCK OXFORD

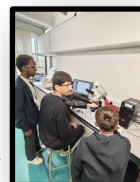


In April, seven of our students took part in the Unlock Oxford Residential at St Edmund Hall, one of the historic colleges of the University of Oxford. This enriching experience was designed to inspire and challenge students through a series of engaging academic sessions led by expert tutors, offering a taste of university-style learning. During their stay, students developed key skills such as critical thinking and confident discussion. The programme also gave them valuable insight into student life at Oxford, helping them to better understand the expectations and opportunities of higher education.



Beyond the academic programme, the residential was a chance for students to build friendships, grow in independence, and immerse themselves in the unique atmosphere of Oxford.

The university will now work with these students through Years 10 to 13 to support them should they see their future as Oxford scholars. It was a highly rewarding experience that has left our students feeling motivated and excited about their future pathways.



SPEAK OUT FINAL



Speak Out Final

Two of our Year 10 students, Arwa and Abdul, valiantly represented Soar Valley at this year's National Speak Out Challenge: East Midland's Regional Final. Arwa delivered an impressive speech about how Star Wars is a metaphor for life, whilst Abdul passionately spoke about why Muhammad Ali is the world's greatest boxer. The competition on the night was fierce and both Arwa and Abdul did us proud. Once again, the night celebrated young people and the power of being able to confidently articulate yourself. Both students left the final with huge smiles, a tremendous sense of pride in themselves (rightly so!) and talking about how much fun the whole event was.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French MFL Club

This academic year, the MFL *Blooket Club* focused on French language learning and has once again been a huge success, in particular with Year 7. Held weekly, the club has provided an engaging and fun environment where students can strengthen their French vocabulary and practice essential language skills through the interactive game-based platform Blooket. One of the standout achievements of the club has been its positive impact on student motivation. The competitive, quiz-style format of Blooket



has proven especially effective in encouraging active participation, and many students have reported feeling more confident and enthusiastic about learning French. Vocabulary reinforcement through repeated exposure and playful learning has helped many students retain key terms and phrases more effectively.

Notably, the club has also contributed to increased engagement among boys, with a marked rise in their involvement and enjoyment of language learning sessions. The game-like and competitive elements of Blooket have been particularly successful in tapping into their interests, making French learning both enjoyable and rewarding. With its mix of fun, collaboration, and educational value, the French Blooket Club has become a much-loved feature of the school week, and we look forward to seeing it continue to grow in the next academic year!



Language Leaders

After a whole year of training, June has seen the completion of the Routes into Languages, Language Leaders programme for 25-26 with twenty Y9 students taking on the role of a teacher and teaching French to a Year 7 class for a whole hour. They did amazingly well and learned a lot about what it is like to be a teacher. Hirundee said of the programme, *'I found it a really fun, and educational, programme that has helped me to improve my confidence too.'* Out of these twenty students four were selected to teach a one-hour lesson to four Y6 classes in a local primary school. They handled this extra challenge brilliantly and did Soar Valley proud. Well done to Shreya, Hazel, Diya and Hirundee. Diya said afterwards, *'Teaching French at a primary school was so much fun. It was nice to see the children actually understand what we were doing and treat me as a teacher. Having found out what it is like to be a teacher; I definitely won't be messing around in lessons. If I had the chance, I would 100% do it again!'*





CITIZENSHIP



Year 10 Citizenship Students Step into the Courtroom

Our Year 10 GCSE Citizenship students recently took part in an exciting Magistrates' Mock Trial, giving them the opportunity to experience the justice system in action. Working alongside two volunteer magistrates, students participated in a realistic court case, taking on roles including magistrates, solicitors, witnesses, police officers and ushers, while the rest of the classes observed the proceedings. It was fantastic to see the knowledge they have developed in lessons brought to life, and even better to watch them confidently apply it in a real courtroom setting. We're pleased to report that every group reached the correct verdict too – perhaps we have a few future legal professionals amongst us!



The visiting magistrates were incredibly complimentary about our students, describing them as exceptionally well prepared, confident and impeccably behaved throughout the day. They were particularly impressed with the volunteers who embraced their roles with enthusiasm and professionalism. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the magistrates for generously giving up their time to provide such a memorable and valuable experience. Opportunities like this are at the heart of our Citizenship curriculum, helping students to develop confidence, communication skills and a deeper understanding of the legal system while showing how learning in the classroom connects to the wider world.



Year 10 GCSE Citizenship Students Make a Difference in the Community



Over three days, our Year 10 GCSE Citizenship students completed six visits to New Wycliffe care home as part of their Active Citizenship project. After researching local issues, planning evidence-based actions and preparing a range of engaging activities, students put their learning into practice by working directly with residents. From pass the parcel, quizzes and dancing games to performances, discussions and activities exploring topics such as social media, multiculturalism and online safety. Every group set out to make a positive difference while developing valuable skills such as communication, teamwork and leadership. As part of the GCSE course, students also measured the impact of their work through surveys, which showed an increase in residents' awareness of the issues they had been exploring.



The visits were about far more than completing part of their GCSE course. They were filled with laughter, singing, dancing and conversations that brought different generations together. Students listened to residents' stories, shared their own experiences and built genuine connections, with many residents asking when they could come back again. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, compassion and enthusiasm shown by every student throughout the project. Our sincere thanks go to the residents and staff at the care home for making us feel so welcome and for embracing every activity with such warmth and enthusiasm. Experiences like these remind us that Citizenship is not just about learning how society works - it's about giving young people the confidence and opportunity to make a real and lasting difference in their local community.



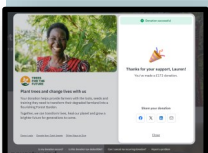
ECO TEAM



Eco Team Update

The Eco Team have had another busy term which started with the team delivering assemblies celebrating Earth Day on April 22nd to Years 7, 8, 9, and 10. As part of this the team launched the Earth Day Bingo Challenge which saw lots of students getting involved completing challenges such as having a meat free day, walking or cycling to school, and upcycling and using reusable items.

The pen recycling competition also reached its conclusion with a total of 60 boxes of used pens and highlighters being sent for recycling; special mention must go to 8.7 and 8.10 for filling the most boxes. The new recycling bins also arrived and have been placed in all classrooms, learning zones and staff bases helping us to reduce our waste even further.



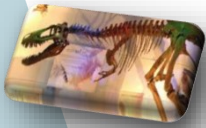
The team have finished off the term by making bird feeders to encourage more birds into the Ecology Garden at the back of school and harvesting their allotment which provided some carrots, spring onions, radishes, potatoes and a few strawberries which were given away to the school community.



We also had our final cake sale of the year at the Year 7 parents' evening. In total we have raised £173 over the year, which has been donated to Trees for the Future which helps communities in Saharan Africa plant trees to reduce the risk of desertification and to help their farms to thrive.

English

My experience of Leicester University, and the inspirational talk by author Dame Jacqueline Wilson: by Risha Bhate 10.1



On the 30th of April, myself and fourteen other students were very lucky to get the chance of going to Leicester University, for a tour and attend a talk delivered by the outstanding author **Dame Jacqueline Wilson**.



After school ended, at 3.00pm, we all gathered at the main entrance awaiting to be met by Miss Ost. We were all then escorted by the school minibus to the campus of Leicester University. There we were met by two volunteers who were going to give us a tour of the campus. First, we went to the History building where we saw a model of King Ricard III's bones, which were made by former students. After that we went to the Chemistry building, where we saw a very interesting version of the periodic table. It consisted of many real elements apart from the radioactive ones. Then, we were told about the university pet which is a **T-Rex**! Sadly, it wasn't a real dinosaur, only it's fossils. Whilst we were walking towards the Student Union building, we were told that DNA fingerprinting was discovered in a lab on the campus, by a student who was doing their Masters, his name was Sir Alec Jefferys. We also got to see the library, very vaguely and the gaming room, which was decorated very nicely. After our short tour, we were taken to meet Jacqueline Wilson, just before her talk.

Whilst we were waiting to attend the talk, we all got a signed copy of Jacqueline Wilson's books. Then, we went inside the auditorium to attend the talk, luckily we got front row seats. Dame Jacqueline Wolson told us how she got into writing; it was very inspirational. She also gave tips to new writers and answered some questions from the eager audience.

This experience was very motivational for me and I really enjoyed it!

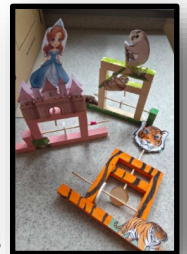


Design & Technology

Design Welcome Catherine Juniors' Year 5 Students



On Wednesday 17th June, Soar Valley College welcomed 60 Year 5 students from Catherine Junior School for an exciting day of design and technology. The visit was arranged to build upon the design and technology lessons the pupils had been completing in their own classrooms, giving them the rare opportunity to turn their theory into action.



Led by staff at Soar Valley College, the workshop began with demonstrations and guidance on health and safety procedures and correct tool usage. The students were introduced to a range of specialist woodworking tools and equipment, including saws, drills, vices, and hand tools — many of which they had never used before.

The main task was to construct a sturdy wooden frame for a moving automata. This project gave the Year 5 students a chance to explore how mechanical motion works; by using small rotating cams, they could see firsthand how circular movement is converted into up-and-down or side-to-side motion. Once the frames were assembled, they were taken back to Catherine Junior School, where the students will continue their work by decorating and customising them as part of their ongoing learning programme.



Throughout the day, the atmosphere was one of focus, curiosity, and enjoyment. The students not only gained new practical skills but also developed a better understanding of how tools and mechanisms work. Their behaviour was exemplary, and staff at Soar Valley College were highly impressed by their enthusiasm, existing knowledge, and the resilience they showed when tackling new challenges.



It was a wonderful opportunity for younger learners to experience a secondary school environment and use equipment not usually available in primary school settings. We look forward to welcoming more visiting students in the future!