



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Newsletter

Autumn Term

December 2021

Message from the Principal

As we reach the end of a very busy term, we wish all of our school community a very happy holiday period, and very best wishes for the new year as well. School will finish a little earlier, at 1.15pm on Friday December 17th, with lunch available for those wishing to stay.

It has been a delight to see the return of so many extra-curricular activities and House competitions this half term. School is about so much more than studying, and we encourage all students to be involved in the wider offer here at Soar Valley. Participation is one of our core values, and students who get involved are often more successful academically too. There are many examples of this in the current newsletter, and we look forward to many more being involved next term. Please do ask your child about their Participation Passport.

Students return to school on **Wednesday January 5th**, and please note this is a change to the previously published date, having been amended due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee later in the year. We expect a smart start to a new year, with students in full uniform, including black shoes, and of course, a mask.

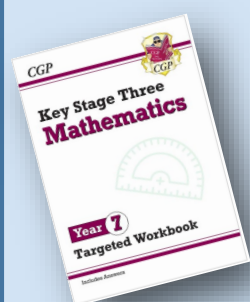
Students will be tested in school for Covid, either on the first or second day, in accordance with government advice. We will be testing all students for whom we have consent, and who have been tested in school previously. We would also urge all students to test at home using a lateral flow device on the day before they return, so that we can make sure our school community stays as safe as possible.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support throughout this last year. Your help with learning at home (which has been phenomenal), encouraging children to do regular Covid tests, and contacting us with any concerns, means we continue to work together to ensure students do as well as possible – a sincere thank you for all you do!

With best wishes for a safe and happy holiday,

Mrs J. Robinson

Principal



CGP Workbooks

Year 7 parents will have received a letter detailing CATs and Progress Test scores. Please do encourage your child to use the CGP workbook they were given to target areas for improvement.



Soar Valley College proudly marked Anti-Bullying Week 2021 between 15th and 19th November. The theme for this year was 'One Kind Word' and all week special assemblies were held to raise awareness of the power of words.

Children participated in a range of activities to spread kindness, including our Odd Socks Day where we highlighted the fact that we are all a bit odd! It was amazing to see so many students and staff in odd socks embracing our uniqueness as individuals.

#antibullyingweek



Happy Jólábóklóð

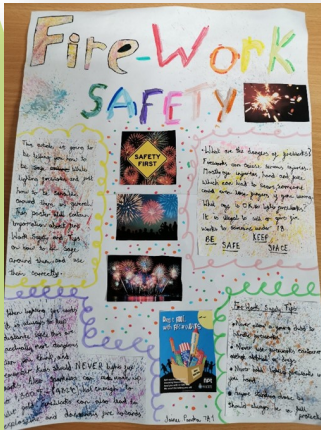
In ICELAND, books are exchanged on Christmas Eve, and you spend the rest of the night reading. People generally take their books to bed along with some chocolate. That sounds like a cosy and wonderful tradition!

Jólábóklóð means **Christmas Book Flood**.



BestPupilsBooks.com

The House System @SVC



Jainee's Winning Poster

Firework Safety

This term has been an exciting one at SVC including celebrations for Diwali and Bonfire night. Students were tasked with designing a fireworks safety poster which had to be creative but also informative about the risks when enjoying fireworks. Out of the many entries received the judges picked Jainee Pancha in 7.1, representing Abbey, as the winner. Well done Jainee!



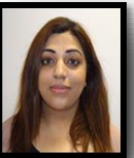
Geography Photo Competition

Those with a love of geography and photography were able to combine their passions in the latest house competition run by the geography team. Students were asked to submit photographs of geographical features found in the landscape accompanied by a short description of the processes at work.

The winning entry came from Hawwa in 7.1 who submitted this fantastic photo of the Dorset coast and successfully described the rock formations including caves, arches, stacks and stumps. Well done Hawwa!



Hawwa's Winning Entry

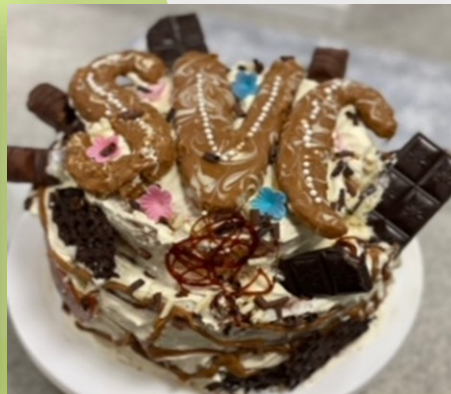


Children in Need

This year's Children in Need appeal raised a whopping £2005! Students took part in a range of activities such as "Guess the Value of the Jar", with the lucky winner taking the jackpot of the sweets and coins it contained.

We also enjoyed a bake sale on both the Thursday and Friday break times of the CIN week. A great selection of delicious cakes and cookies were enjoyed by all.

Thanks to all who helped to organise or run an activity and those who took part and donated to this worthy cause.



The Great SVC Bake Off

In November students across KS3 and KS4 competed in our annual SVC Bake Off House Competition, aiming to impress Mrs Robinson with their light sponges, flavour combinations and presentation skills. Competition was intense and all students worked extremely hard to produce successful and creative cakes. The overall winners in KS3 were Beacon followed closely by Abbey, with third place split between Watermead and Bradgate. First place for KS4 was awarded to Victoria with second place going to Castle. Well done to all involved!

Recognition for Stunning Work

by Young Soar Valley Artists

We are extremely proud to be able to announce that thirteen of our most talented students have been selected to have a piece of their work displayed at the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery in their *Open 32* exhibition throughout December and until January 21st.

This is a fantastic achievement and we cannot wait to see their work framed and in a gallery space.

Well done to all of the students, but we would also like to take the chance to say thank you to the art team for all the time, enthusiasm and encouragement you have put into helping the students to achieve this feat.

The full list of students chosen for the exhibition :

Aamina	11.4
Anantpreet	11.9
Bethan	11.2
Hafsah	11.3
Himani	11.7
Katie	10.7
Mahmad	9.5
Mili	11.11
Neha	11.6
Noorul	11.10
Shane	10.11
Skye	11.9
Starr-Blu	9.1

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Bethan 11.2

Starr-Blu 9.1

Anantpreet 11.9

Skye 11.9

Himani 11.7

A particular well done to Bethan for winning the *Soft Touch Arts* award and £80 to spend on art equipment!

Your PASSPORT to SUCCESS



At Soar Valley we are clear that **EFFORT IS EVERYTHING**. Participation in extra curricular opportunities is a great way to stretch yourself and make the extra effort needed to push beyond what you thought was possible.



The R.E. Scholars Programme

This term has seen the launch of a year-long challenge encouraging students to prove themselves worthy of the title of R.E. Scholar.

This involves undertaking several activities to show a deeper interest and commitment to their studies of R.E. and includes tasks such as:

- reading and reviewing a book with themes related to religion or philosophy;
- watching and reviewing a film with religious or philosophical themes;
- visiting a place of worship, ideally from a different religion;
- taking part in an R.E. House competition such as the upcoming challenge to build a place of worship;
- or earning a specific number of achievement points in RE lessons.

Students who choose to take part are rewarded for their hard work, determination and scholarship.

Many students have already returned to school with photographic evidence of their visits to places of worship!

History Booster Classes

Year 11 GCSE History Booster Classes will resume after the mock exam analysis has taken place, with a new focus on where the students need to improve. If your son/daughter receives an invitation, please encourage them to attend. The pre mock sessions were highly successful with more than 40 students working on the key knowledge needed for success.

This half-term has seen the successful launch of Soar Valley's first ever Creative Writing Club. The club is open to Year 7 and Year 8 students and takes place every Tuesday after school in F24. In our workshops, students have been exploring the popularity of ghost stories and writing their own chilling tales. They have also had the chance to develop their delivery skills to engage an audience when reading work aloud. In our most recent sessions, we have been examining the mysterious and the unknown. From creepy cryptids to the Bermuda Triangle, students have been drawing inspiration from the weird and the wonderful to create their own creatures and places of intrigue. If you love writing stories and want to unleash your imagination, come and join us at Creative Writing Club!



Retro Games Club

This term the ICT department have started a Retro Games Club where students have begun to learn how to develop their own retro games using Construct 3.

The students will have the opportunity to analyse, design and develop ideas for game designing using various skills required for computational thinking.

Science Club

Science club has just started on Monday lunchtimes for Year 7 students. We will be taking part in the CREST Awards and the first project will be to explore machines of the future. See Mrs Patel for more details if you are interested in joining the club.

Also in science, this half term Vrushit in 7.1 won the prize for creating the best satellite as a part of the *World Space Week* challenge.



Vrushit 7.1



If you are interested in joining them see Mrs Boyle in G58

Japanese Club

Students are currently learning a new language in Japanese Club with the aim of becoming pen pals with students from Kagoshima in Southern Japan and from Tokyo.

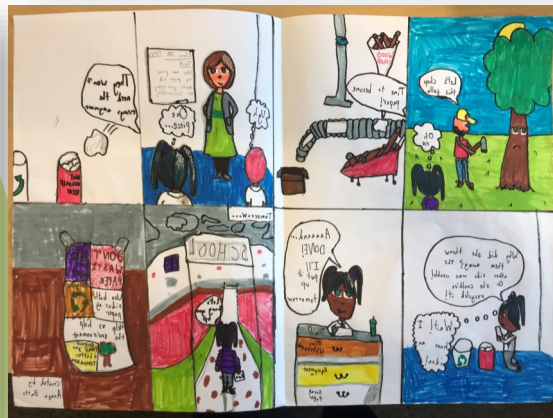
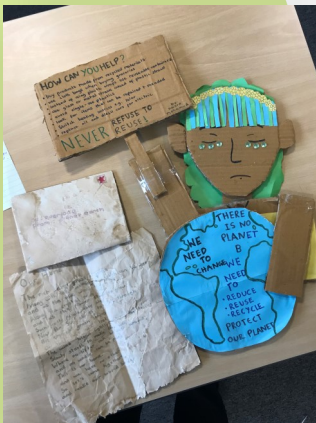
Creative Writing Club

The SVC Eco Team is Back!

The SVC Eco Team is up and running with a flying start this term. Students from across all year groups volunteered to be part of the important task of getting Soar Valley reaccredited as a 'Green Flag' Eco-School. Working with the global educational programme ,Eco-Schools England, the Eco Team are leading initiatives in school to make it more environmentally friendly, with the focuses being **transport**, **healthy living** and **global citizenship**. In the words of members of the Eco-Team Rajvi, Yukti and Angel, "Our planet is already beginning to feel the catastrophic effects of climate change, plastic pollution, biodiversity loss and a myriad of other environmental challenges. Now is the time for all of us to act."

Examples of the work conducted by the Eco-Team this half term include:

- Hosting a workshop with *Sustrans*, a sustainable transport charity, to come up with ideas about how to get more students and staff to use sustainable methods of transport and to reduce their carbon footprints. Watch this space to see some of these ideas in action next term!
- Conducting an environmental review of the school, undertaken by the School Business Manager and the G4S Site Manager, to see how environmentally friendly the school currently is. This has helped to shape our thinking for the year ahead.
- Preparing for Fairtrade Fortnight beginning on 21st February 2022.
- Joining The Climate Coalition initiative to send Boris Johnson (recycled) Christmas cards to encourage him to ensure promises made at COP26 are kept.
- Creating a brand new notice board in the community lounge to display all of the fantastic work the Eco Team are doing, if you are in school please do go down and check it out!



Year 7 Geography Homework on the Theme of Eco Schools



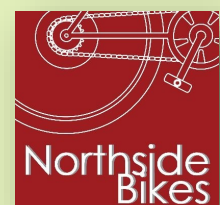
You may have seen on Twitter that we were lucky enough to have four trained mechanics in to provide on-the-spot bike checks and minor repairs. All for free thanks to **Northside Bikes** via **Sustrans East Midlands**. Northside Bikes have also given us 50 packs of bike lights to give away to students. Winners of the prize draw will be announced before the end of term.



The Eco Schools Roadshow

Soar Valley College was proud to host the COP26 Eco-Schools Roadshow this half term.

Students from local primary schools came to the college where they were educated on COP26, along with local and national environmental projects and how to get involved. The event proved very successful, and members of the school leadership team did a fantastic job helping the primary school students.





This has been another incredibly busy half term for the PE Department with lots of fixtures, extra-curricular activities and leadership opportunities for students to get involved in. Over 300 students have taken up at least one of these opportunities this half term.

Sporting Excellence

We have had lots of teams competing in fixtures against other schools and have some great successes. However, three teams have really stood out for their fantastic levels of performance, their excellent effort and the positive attitude.

Two of these are table tennis teams - the Key Stage 3 girls' team and the Key Stage 4 boys' team. Both teams won their age group's City Tournament, and as a result qualified for the County Tournament. After brilliant efforts on the part of both teams they each finished second. This is a fantastic achievement by both teams and we are really proud of them!



Key Stage 3 Girls: Table Tennis



Key Stage 4 Boys: Table Tennis

The third stand out performance has been by the currently 'all conquering' Year 9 Girls' Basketball squad. Both the A and the B squads have been unbeaten so far in tournaments this year, and will be looking to keep this proud record going for as long as possible. Well done to every student who has represented the college this year in any sport – you continue to do us proud.



England Roses Netball Trip



The Year 9 Girls' Basketball Squad

Netballers Enjoy England Roses Trip

On Sunday 5th December 14 of our keenest Year 11 netballers joined Miss Brett and Mr Badshah on a trip to the Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham to watch the England Roses take on Jamaica. It was an exciting, nail-biting game that eventually saw Jamaica run out 63-53 winners. Fortunately, the Roses had already secured the series the day before and were 2-1 winners overall. We are sure it was an inspiring experience for the students.



Sports Leadership

We are lucky enough to have 38 highly motivated Year 9 and 10 students who have been attending a sports leadership course on Tuesday evenings.

This course has been designed to help prepare students for acting as leaders at the primary school festivals that we hold throughout the year.

This half term we have had hockey, football and Key Stage 2 festivals, and these leaders—along with some of our Year 10 Sports Studies students—have done a brilliant job of helping to ensure that they have all been successful and well enjoyed by the visiting primary school pupils.

A massive thank you from the PE department for your hard work and dedication. We couldn't have done it without you.



Key Stage 2 Multisport Leaders



The Football Leaders



Primary Football Festival



Key Stage 2 Multisport Festival



The Hockey Leaders

PE Extra-Curricular Offer

At SVC we are really proud of the range of extra curricular activities on offer to our students, and PE is no exception.

We have extra-curricular activities on offer every morning and every evening, with activities ranging from basketball and netball to indoor cricket and dance.

It has been particularly pleasing to see the number of students turning up early in the morning to attend a breakfast club, starting their day with a healthy, energetic kick!

Come and join in the fun!



The Basketball Breakfast Club

LIBRARY NEWS

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

Free Books for Year 7

You'll remember that we told you about Bookbuzz in the last newsletter and that Year 7 were in for a treat after Christmas as they would be given a book to take home for free from the **17 brand new titles** available.



This term in their library lessons Year 7 students have had the opportunity to choose their book, spending a lesson, led by their English teacher and our school librarian, looking at the 17 different titles before making their final choices.

This opportunity is part of the Bookbuzz School Reading Project, an initiative that encourages reading for pleasure in young people. The books will be given to students after the Christmas break and will be part of an exciting project in English and library lessons, to encourage and promote the importance of reading for pleasure and enjoyment.

Manga and Comic Book Club

This term saw the beginning of the library's new Manga and Comic Club. Graphic novels have been growing in popularity around the world, and especially at Soar Valley. Students have been meeting on Monday afternoons to discuss all things manga, anime, and comics, and have taken on some great challenges, such as designing their own superhero characters. The club will continue next term, so come along to the library if you're interested!

Learning About the Library

Year 7 students have been spending time in library lessons learning a lot about how to use the school library, including how our non-fiction section works. They have also been exploring our online library system, which allows students to reserve and write reviews of library books, and our ebook system, ePlatform. This platform provides students with ebooks they can access at home on any internet-connected device – perfect reading material for the holidays! Links to both the library system and ePlatform can be found on the library page of the school website.

COMING SOON

Next term brings with it a lot of excitement for the library!

- Our Year 10 library assistants will be running a murder mystery club, asking students to use their book knowledge and logic to solve some challenging puzzles.
- We will be once again launching the annual Reading Rampage, a book challenge for Year 7 and 8 students which promises lots of excitement and engaging activities.
- And the library will also be inviting some Key Stage 4 students to try out some new reads.

So keep your eye out for all this and more in the new year!



Review by Dhian (9.6) Lonny has the ability to heal any living creature and bring it back from the dead but he pays a price for this ability as saving a creature's life shortens his own, so he must be careful. I think this book is outstanding because the premise was so interesting. The sense of place and character was really strong and I think the author is brilliant at conveying emotion.



Review by Memuna (10.3)

I really liked that the book explored topics that aren't talked about as much as they should be.

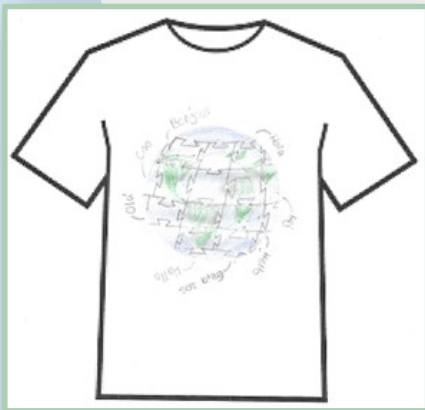
Note: This book is in our purple collection of books we feel more suitable for students in Year 10 and above.

European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages is an event held annually, on 26th September, to celebrate the diversity of languages spoken across Europe. Each year schools and other organisations mark the event by putting on activities that promote language learning and celebrate the cultural diversity of Europe.

This year the Languages Department ran a competition where students were challenged to design a T-shirt promoting the European Day of Languages. There were some really creative designs, and it was very hard to pick the winners, but the winning four designs are shown here.

Well done to Rita, Mahi, Cade and Omayya. Their designs will now be entered into the national competition



Rita 9.1

There are **more than 225 languages** spoken in Europe.

London is the most linguistically diverse city in the world with **over 250 languages spoken there.**



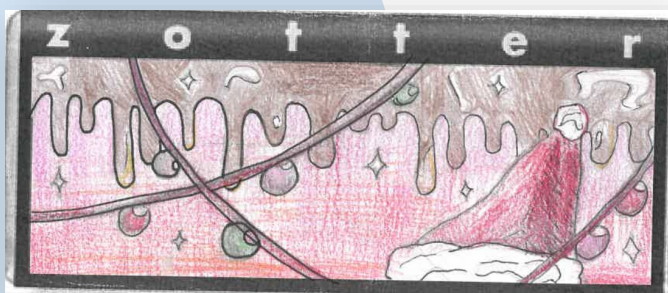
Mahi 11.4



Cade 9.1



Omayya 10.4



Pritisha 8.1



Asiya 8.1

Chocolate Wrapper Competition

In an idea inspired by the Austrian chocolate company *Zotter*, the department also ran a competition in which students were asked to design a chocolate wrapper based around the theme of celebrations.

Mrs Bonnell, Head of Languages, tells us that, "There were a lot of very creative entries. Students put a lot of time into researching the company, and their celebratory events, and it showed in the designs they created."

Two of the winning entries are shown here: Pritisha was inspired by Christmas and Asiya by Eid al-Fitr.

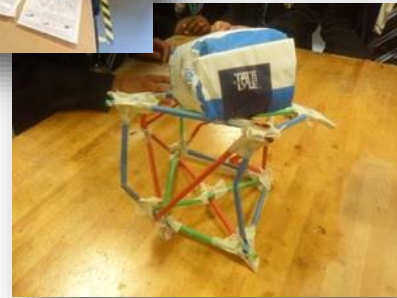
It only remains for us to wish you a **Fröhliche Weihnachten** and a **Joyeux Noël**

It's been a really busy term in Design and Technology with students working in the various areas on a range of exciting projects from sock toys to stir fries!

Straw Structures

Having learned about forces and stresses, students were set a timed challenge to see whether they could apply their knowledge of tension and compression to design and make a structure from paper straws that could support a 1kg bag of sugar.

Students worked in groups, showing their collaborative and leadership skills in various ways. Well done to everyone who took part!



Bridges Homework

Here we have an example of some of the fantastic work that students submitted. There were some examples of real excellence and the quality of work was outstanding. Look out for some Soar Valley Stars as a result!



Spinning Tops

During this project students develop their woodworking knowledge through the creation of a practical spinning top toy which encompasses balancing forces, gravity and torque.

It is always great to see the fascination and enjoyment when the string is pulled and the momentum is released!



High Flying Year 10

Year 10 D&T students have been busy developing their woodworking knowledge with a range of build projects from a desk tidy to a model aeroplane*. Well done to all for the quality of the work produced.

* Not suitable for actual flight!

Sock Toys in Year 7



It's been a busy term in textiles in Year 7 with students designing and creating their very own stuffed toys out of old socks!

The creativity on show was fantastic, but more importantly the students learned the essential skills of sewing by hand and using the sewing machines.

Snack Wrappers in Year 8

Meanwhile, students in Year 8 were challenged to create the wrapper for their favourite chocolate, sweets or crisps out of textiles.

This project was inspired by the work of *Lucy Sparrow* who is best known for making felt products



Sew N Sews Textiles Club



Zainab—Year 7



Krishna and Wafa —Year 9

Students in the Sew N Sews textiles club have been attending sessions after school this term to hone their skills and develop further knowledge.

The students were able to sublimation print their own fabric and use the computerised embroidery machine to stitch their design onto the cushions that they have made. Some examples of their brilliant work are shown on the left.

Food Glorious Food!

Students in Year 10 food preparation and nutrition have been developing their pastry and bread making skills, making a variety of quiches and soda bread to complement their wholesome and aromatic vegetable soups.

Students in Year 9 have been focusing on their knife skills, as well as developing flavour combinations, through their stir fry project. They have had to plan and deliver a dish of their own design.

In Year 8 students have been wrestling with the challenge of producing an even batch of chocolate chip cookies, which is a lot harder than it sounds!

Well done to all who have made fantastic dishes, some of which are shown here.



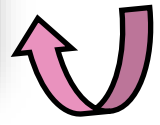
CREATIVE



ARTS

Stanislawski and Spies

This term has seen students in Year 7 drama studying Stanislawski's methods for creating characters in a performance. Students have taken part in 'Spy School', performing scripts from Mission Impossible and developing skills to help them become more confident and capable in their creation of character. Several groups have then used this knowledge to create a mini revision booklet on Stanislawski, some of which are shown here.



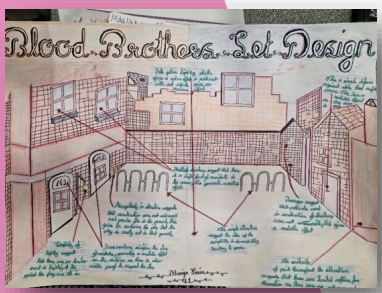
Year 8 Stage Silent Performances

Following on from the Melodrama unit students are now learning about other genres of performance and this term we focused on Silent movies. They have been using their knowledge from melodrama to create their own silent movie and are currently editing their films for review in lessons before we break for Christmas. They have had to plan and organise their own filming schedule and then film on location around school before finally creating their own movies and editing them.



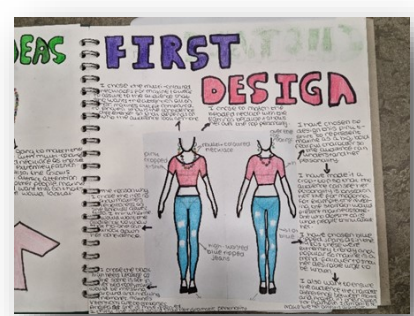
Drama Students Focus on Careers in Year 9

Year 9 drama students have been learning about careers within the creative industries and developing their transferrable skills across a series of workshops. They have explored the careers of lighting designers, set designers, performers and choreographers. And they even got a chance to explore stage combat and how action sequences are created for stage and film. Make up and special effects are up next!



Year 11 Final Performances on the Horizon

Over the last seven weeks, students have been rehearsing, developing and performing extracts from various plays and performances which they then will present at a final performance showcase. Several students this year have been designing costumes and scenery for their pieces and developing their knowledge of research and design skills. We wish them the best of luck!



Visiting Workshop Experience

In November we were able to welcome to SVC The Paper Birds, a visiting theatre company. Throughout the day 87 students were able to participate in workshops with theatre professionals, exploring a range of stimuli and scenarios as well as a few new games and warm ups! The groups explored topics such as social media, characterisation and devising from scratch. This experience will go on to support students in creating their own work in the future and encourage them to think more creatively.

AIM Students Show Residents They Care

Traditionally in December a group of students from the AIM Awards group, along with our BTEC music students, visit the VISTA New Wycliffe Home to entertain the residents with a few songs and Christmas treats.

We were really hoping to visit again this year but the risks from Covid for the elderly residents are too great so unfortunately we have had to cancel this year's visit. A very disappointed Mrs Megginson, who teaches the group, told us, "I have been trying to remember how long this activity has been taking place and I believe it is at least 25 years, possibly longer."

So, instead of a visit, this year the AIM group have put together over forty gift bags for the residents with items donated by staff and students and have sent a greeting along with the gifts. They have also made some decorations to hang on the tree in the nursing home. We are also hoping to record a video greeting later this week.

We hope that this small gesture will go some way towards giving the elderly people at the home the best Christmas they can have.



Careers Education Round Up:

In Careers Education, we have been really pleased to relaunch our **Career Talks**. These sessions are for Year 9 students with the intention of supporting them in their upcoming decisions about their GCSE Options. On Wednesday 17th November, we virtually hosted Tracy Pound from Maximity Ltd. Tracy spoke with the students about her successes in setting up her own IT business. The take away messages to students were to believe in their abilities and to follow their dreams.

We can now look forward to welcoming Andrew Bernard from Innovative Enterprise and Grace Moronfolou from The East Midlands Crown Prosecution Service to offer their perspectives on how to live up to your potential.

The Careers Team are now planning our annual Year 10 World of Work Week which will take place during the Summer Term. This includes an invaluable range of opportunities aiming to support students with preparing for Post 16 and beyond. During WOW Week, students will have the chance to meet with a range of employers from the world of work, they will write a CV and they will take part in a mock interview.

In Year 11, students have completed their *Positive Steps @16* college applications and tutors are busy writing references for their tutees to support their college applications. We wish our Year 11 students the best of luck as they continue to prepare for their Post 16 education and life after Soar Valley College.



Dates for Your Diary

Parents Evenings	
Year 11	Thursday January 20 th
Year 8	Thursday March 3 rd
Year 10	Thursday March 24 th
Year 7	Thursday May 5 th
Term Dates	
Autumn Term ends	Friday 17 th December
Spring Term begins	Wednesday 5 th January
Spring Half Term Break	February 14 th – 18 th
Spring Term ends	Friday 8 th April
Summer Term begins	Monday 25 th April
Summer Half Term Break	May 30 th – June 3 rd
Summer Term ends	Friday 8 th July
Other Events Next Term	
Battle of the Bands	Thursday 27 th January
Drama Exam Performances	Thursday 3 rd February
Year 7—10 Reports Home	Monday 7 th February
Year 9 Options Evening	Thursday 10 th February
Year 9 Options Interviews	W/B Monday 21 st February
National Careers Week	W/B Monday 7 th March
Year 9 Options Deadline	Friday 11 th March
Year 11 Reports Home	Friday 25 th March
Drama Club Showcase	Thursday 31 st March