



# Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**

Newsletter

Spring Term 1

February 2025

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

As part of our transition process, students recently embarked on an unforgettable residential trip to Wales, where they took part in an action-packed outdoor adventure. The week was split into two groups, with each spending three days immersed in nature, overcoming challenges, and developing essential life skills.

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

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

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

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



## Primary Dance Festival

On Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January we held our annual Primary School Dance Festival, hosted by Taylor Road Primary School. Seven of our Year 8 and Year 10 students were there to help lead the event. They did a fantastic job, offering lots of support and encouragement to the primary students.

Also, in a first for the event, the girls put on a very impressive dance performance, which they had choreographed, during the interval. Huge thanks to Taylor Road for hosting the event and congratulations to: Sneha, Aniksha, Dhruvi, Nidhi, Devanshi, Shreya and Haney.





## The House System @SVC

What an incredibly busy half-term it has been at Soar Valley College! Our students have been actively engaging in a wide range of exciting activities, showcasing their creativity and school spirit.

### Library led Monthly House Competition

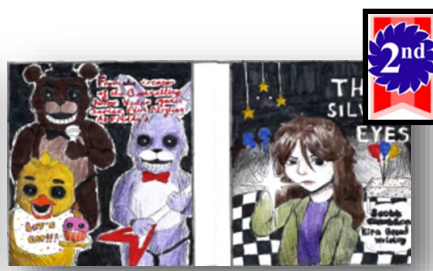
January's House competition in the library challenged students to re-design a book cover. The detailed artwork made it exceedingly difficult to select our winners, but first place went to Anya in Year 7, second place to Aminah in Year 9 and third place went to Millie in Year 7. Thank you to everyone who took part.

February's Library led House competition is to write a book review. Whether students loved or loathed a book they have read we would like to hear all about it. There are book review templates available in the library. We are looking for students to give their opinion on why they liked or disliked the book. What was it about the book that grabbed them, or out them off. Was it the plot? The characters? The writing style? The closing date for the competition is the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.

### Library House Competition re-design a Book Cover Results



1st Place: Anya 7.1



2nd Place: Aminah 9.12



3rd Place: Milly 7.5

1 <sup>st</sup>	Abbey	70 participation points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Watermead	170 participation points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Victoria	20 participation points
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bradgate	10 participation points
5 <sup>th</sup>	Beacon	60 participation points



# Your PASSPORT to SUCCESS

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

## Careers Update

With the Year 11 college application process now complete students must continue to check their personal email address and their Positive Steps @16 account. All notifications from colleges and training providers will come directly to students. As we hear more information on interview dates and welcome events we will update parents and students through the student bulletin and the school website.

We are very much looking forward to National Apprenticeship Week next half term. All students will receive an assembly from a local college or training provider. The careers team always works hard to ensure that all students are signposted to a range of pathways at Post 16 and beyond. During National Apprenticeship Week, students will have time to reflect upon their own skill set and learning style and begin to consider which type of pathway would be best for them as they continue with their careers education journey.

Year 10 work experience placements continue to be organised for our students. We look forward to preparing our students for their experience of the work place through our pastoral curriculum.

In addition, please encourage your child to log on to their Unifrog account. You can help your child to use this tool by exploring the range of resources available. Resources include the career library, Post 16 information and local labour market information.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or feedback regarding the Careers Education programme at Soar Valley College, please do email [careers@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk](mailto:careers@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk).

## A Christmas Carol Performance

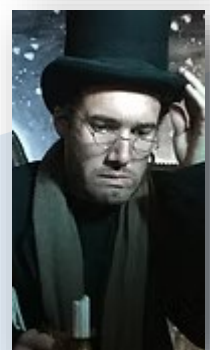
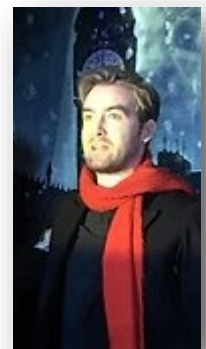
On the 16th of January Year 10 entered the very heart of Victorian London in an amazing live production of Charles Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol'. Previously studied at school, the performance made this novella live in a manner quite different to what students are used to and in ways that were quite unforgettable.

This cast brought boundless energy and enthusiasm to the stage from the very first scene, bringing every character to life. From the bitter disposition of Scrooge to the warmth and optimism of Fred, each role was portrayed with care and energy. The Ghosts of Christmas -Past, Present, and Yet to Come - hauntingly and powerfully added to the production and left a mark on those in attendance.

The staging and the effects were similarly striking with ingenious lighting and sound design, the hall was alive with colors and noise.

This production did not just retell the classic story, it engraved in our minds the timeless message of generosity and redemption.

Thank you very much to the English department for giving us such a rewarding and memorable experience!





# Library News

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

## VOXBLOCK & YOTO AUDIO coming soon

The library has recently invested in the addition of several Voxblock and Yoto audio players with which students will be able to borrow and listen to a range of titles in the library during break and lunch, and during guided reading sessions.



## READING RAMPAGE

**Reading Rampage** books having been flying off the shelves, as students from Years 7 & 8 race each other to see which house can read the most Reading Rampage books before the end of May. Currently, **Castle House** and **Watermead House** are in the lead, with **Beacon House** catching up fast!

In June, Reading Rampage participants, from schools across Leicester, Leicestershire and Derby, are invited to attend the online award ceremony and watch the author(s) receive the highest of accolades – **'Student's Favourite Reading Rampage Book Award'** and **'The Most Borrowed Reading Rampage Book Award'**.

All students taking part earn a participation certificate and can earn lots of achievement points, House points and rewards simply by reading and reviewing the books. There are even more opportunities to earn points by completing related activities. In addition, one student from each participating school will receive the **Reading Rampage Student Award**. This award goes to a student who stands out due to their level of engagement, participation, or commitment to developing their reading ability through the programme.

## BOOK SALE

To accommodate all of the new stock library staff have been withdrawing older stock from the library and will be hosting a book sale, in the library, during the week of World Book Day which will be celebrated on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025. More details will follow at the start of next term.

## WORLD BOOK DAY:

In addition to a book sale, Soar Valley College has lots of fun activities coming up to celebrate World Book Day including: a whole school book-themed tutor time House activity, a 'Book Thief' scavenger hunt challenge, 'The Curious Case of the Clockwork Cleaner' crime solving activity in the library, a design a World Book Day token competition, our book-in-a-jar competition and lots more!

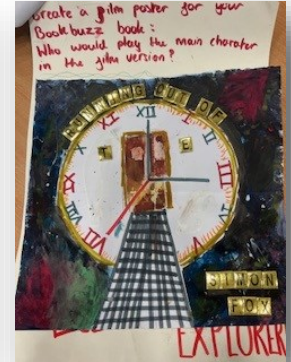
**EVEN MORE...**

# Library News

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## Bookbuzz 2025

Our Year 7 **Bookbuzz** challenge participants produced some fabulous work relating to their Bookbuzz books, which were gifted to them by Soar Valley College at the end of last term. Those taking part in the challenge received their award certificate and prize(s) during library lessons this half-term. Whilst the Bookbuzz challenge has ended, Soar Valley College Library stocks the full set of the Bookbuzz books which students from all years can borrow.



## 8 for 8 READING CHALLENGE

In addition to Reading Rampage, many of our Year 8 students have taken up the additional **8 for 8 Reading Challenge** which encourages students to broaden their reading repertoire to include books from genres they may not have otherwise considered. Studies show that reading a wide array of books for pleasure not only improves students' cognitive performance, language skills and academic achievement but aids well-being, and further develops students' empathy and understanding of the wider community and world we live in.

It is not too late to take part in either the Reading Rampage or 8 for 8 Reading Challenge. Students simply need to visit the library and select a book from the relevant displays and start reading. The library team are on hand to answer any questions.

## YEAR 9 BOOK-TALKING

Year 9 students enjoyed a visit from the **Creative Learning Services (CLS)** librarians Cassie, Marrison, and Alyssia this half-term. The CLS Team delivered enthralling **Book Talking** sessions, with tantalising teasers from brand new and must-read titles. The CLS Team's selection of books was diverse, covering lots of different genres and writing styles such as short story collections, dyslexic friendly prints, novellas, and a range of graphic novels including the acclaimed *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell in graphic novel format.

The CLS Year 9 Book Talking books are on loan to Soar Valley College for twelve weeks, so there is still time for students, wishing to borrow more titles before the books are returned to CLS, to get their hands on them.

## NEW STOCK

Since joining Soar Valley College in 2022, our Learning Resources Manager Mrs. Richardson has been revitalising the library, replacing old and very well used stock with fresh new copies and lots of new books. Together with the support of the library assistants over a thousand new books have been added to the library catalogue, with more on the way.

Soar College Library is brimming with new stock, including the eagerly awaited expansion to the graphic novel and manga section of the library. Students will be pleased to learn the library is expecting more graphic novel and manga books next term.

From classics to crime, adventure or fantasy, real-life, sport and non-fiction Soar Valley College Library has something for everyone. We even have a range of magazines for students to read whilst visiting the library.

We welcome suggestions and requests for books. There is a book suggestions box near the entrance of the library where students can fill in and post a suggestion slip.



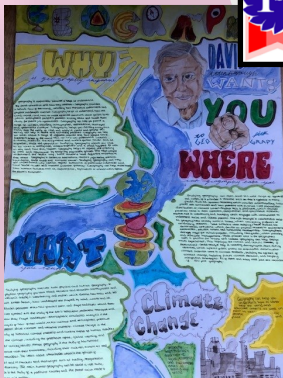
# Royal Geographical Society

Every year, our Geography department invites students at SVC to enter the Royal Geographical Society's Young Geographer of the Year Competition. The theme this year is 'Why should we Choose Geography?'. The Society invites students to create their own #ChooseGeography poster to promote the value of choosing geography at school, in further study and the workplace, linking geographical skills to real people and jobs that make a difference.

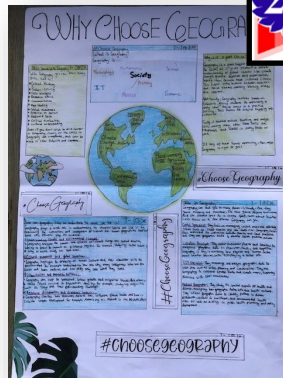
**Royal Geographical Society**  
with IBG



We are extremely proud of 21 of our KS3 and KS4 students who entered the national competition. They have all showcased Geography's relevance to help us understand the world we live in and the big issues that we face as a society. We decided to judge the entries here at SVC and here are our prize winners!



**1st Place: Sukhbir 11.7**  
Abbey



**2nd Place: Tejal 10.6**  
Watermead



**3rd Place: Zaimah 11.7**  
Abbey



## Eco Committee at SVC

The Eco Committee has grown in numbers this year. There are presently 15 members all working within 3 separate teams. The 3 strands of the ECO award that they have decided to work on this year are Global Citizens, Energy and Healthy Living.

The students have all written a letter to the local MP, campaigning for free bus travel for under 16s in and around Leicester City. Their letters have been sent and we await a response.

Over the coming weeks they will be working on various projects including a raffle event for both students and staff to raise money for charity.

- The Healthy Living team are looking to produce some plant based/vegan recipes for trial both on a panel of students and in the canteen.
- The Energy team are also looking at completing an audit of electrical devices being left on within classrooms. They intend to use this data to encourage staff and students to ensure that all electrical devices are switched off and plan to audit the energy bills within school.

The Energy team's work will also lead into the committee promoting Earth Hour on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March. The committee intend to encourage whole school participation in removing all energy use for 1 hour during the school day to review how much energy is saved, whilst thinking about the environment. Hopefully as the nicer weather comes, we all intend to get back into the school allotment to grow some produce for sale and produce some plants from seedlings for sale within school. All proceeds this year will contribute to the homeless charity the students wish to help.

## Speak Up

We were really pleased to continue with our Speak Up projects after the Christmas break. This term students continued to share creative ideas and resources and begin to finalise their finished thoughts on their projects.

We would like to thank parents and carers for supporting their children in making this regular commitment to Speak Up.

Curve Theatre is Soar Valley College's "partner theatre" for this project and we are very excited to take part in all of the opportunities that this project presents.



## Dates for Your Diary

Parents' Evenings	
Year 8	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 10	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April
Year 7	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May
Term Dates	
Spring Half Term Break	February 17 <sup>th</sup> — 21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Training Day [CLOSED]</b>	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Spring Term ends	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April
Summer Term begins	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Bank Holiday [CLOSED]</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May
Summer Half Term Break	May 26 <sup>th</sup> — 30 <sup>th</sup>
Summer Term ends	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July
Other Events Next Term	
Ramadan begins	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February
Whole School Book Club	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
KS4 Apprenticeship Workshop	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
World Book Day	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 9 Options Deadline	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March
National Careers Week	March 3 <sup>rd</sup> — 7 <sup>th</sup>
GCSE Drama Performance	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 11 Reports Home (Food)	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Eid ul-Fitr	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> April
Photography Exam	April 1 <sup>st</sup> — 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 11 GCSE Language Orals	April 3 <sup>rd</sup> — 8 <sup>th</sup>
Graphics / Art Exams	April 10 <sup>th</sup> — 11 <sup>th</sup>

