



# Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**

Newsletter Issue 4, May 2021

## Message from the Principal

As another half term comes to an end, we wish our Year 11 students all the very best for the next stage of their lives. They have been a credit to the school, their parents/carers and themselves, handling what has been a challenging time for them in a mature and sensible way. There have been numerous assessments over the last few weeks, most of which will contribute to their final grades, and teachers are now working hard to mark and moderate those assessments, to ensure all grades are accurate and fair. The Leavers' Assembly was a lovely tribute to all the students and we look forward to seeing smiling faces on results day in August.



As we all slowly emerge from Covid restrictions extra-curricular activities are beginning to come back. Obviously this will be done in a planned and safe way, and it is wonderful to see students being able to be more involved in their school once more. This newsletter has some great examples of what students have been doing over the past few weeks, as well as some important information on term dates, free school meals, etc., for parents.

As always, thank you for the support of all parents and carers, it is only with this that we can be the great school we are!

## Consultation on School Term and Holiday Dates

Leicester City Council is consulting on school term and holiday date patterns for the academic years from 2022/23 up to 2026/27. A key factor in previous consultations has been whether or not the dates set by Leicester City Council should match those used by Leicestershire County Council, as this can affect staffing recruitment greatly.



Leicestershire County Council are currently consulting on the same options as those included in the city's consultation. There are three options available and your views on which set of term dates you would prefer for the next five school years are invited. The proposals can be viewed online by going to: [consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sce/termdates](https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/sce/termdates)

The consultation runs from Monday 24 May and will close at midnight on Sunday 18 July.

## Free School Meal Applications for 2021/22

Situations for many people have changed since the onset of the pandemic. Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive any of these benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- National asylum seeker support
- Child tax credit (provided you're not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- The guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Working tax credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit.
- Universal credit with annual net earned income of less than £7,400

Please apply online on the City Council website or contact reception at the school for further information.

## Geography Fun

Geographers love to take part in fieldwork but due to the pandemic over the last year this hasn't been possible, so this half term the Geography team have been busy creating experiential learning in the classroom. Firstly we carried out earthquake drills and packed an emergency rucksack based on our learning from the Restless Earth unit.



We then went on to carry out an experiment with different types of river sediments to help us understand the 4 different types of transportation that take place. Finally we finished off by getting creative and working in teams to create our own long profiles of a river. This gave us the opportunity to revise everything we had learnt in our Rivers unit and



apply it to our models. Below are our winning entries....

## Sports Day 2021

Sports Day this year will not run in its usual format but will be equally as fun and competitive. As usual it will revolve around as many students as possible being involved and House rivalry, and will begin after half term. Students in Year 7,8, 9 and 10 will compete in cricket and rounders competitions in



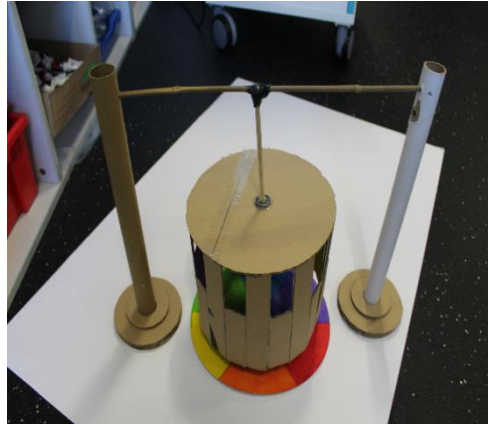
their PE lessons, with the addition of an after school Tug of War contest. The results from the three competitions will be combined in order to crown the House champions before the end of term.

More information will be given out in the coming weeks. May the best house win!

## News from Creative Arts

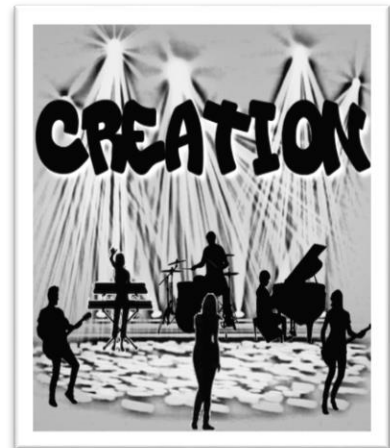
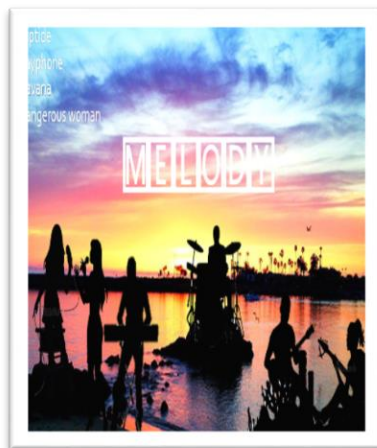
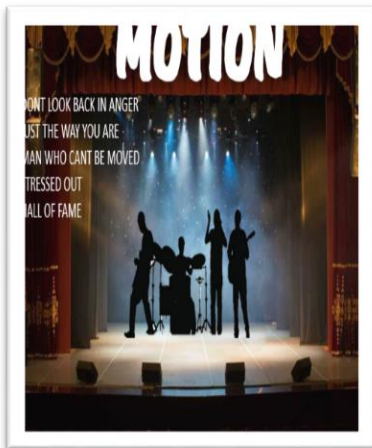
### Year 7 Art

Students have been learning about colour theory this half term and to consolidate their learning they were asked to make a colour wheel at home, being as creative as possible. These are some wonderful examples from 7.7.



### Year 11 BTEC Music

This term Year 11 have been finishing off recording and promoting their music albums. Below are some excellent examples of posters created by students.



### Year 10 BTEC Music



This term the students have been recording their music album in our professional recording studio. It is great seeing all the students being able to make music again, and enjoying working collaboratively together. There have been many memorable moments and lots of smiling faces. Brilliant work everyone!

## Drama at Key Stage 3



Last half term has seen Year 7 students exploring Horrible Histories in lessons. They have been exploring various topics and creating their own drama in groups. Students are learning all about different time periods and some of the gruesome things that went on in History and telling their own versions of Horrible Histories!

In Year 8, students have been working with script and creating improvisation and developing their creativity. As part of their unit of study, they have been learning about the careers in different sectors of the Creative Arts

industry, such as set designers and directors.

Year 9 students are working their way through various workshops to build confidence and team skills in order to help them become better prepared for Key Stage 4 study. This last half term has seen them working on their stage combat and make up skills, culminating in them choreographing their own fight sequences for performance. This involved learning about the job role, health and safety and how to teach and direct others in a piece of work.

## Key Stage 4 BTEC

Our Year 10 students are finishing off the first of their examined components. They have all chosen different plays to explore and/or perform in their chosen field as actors or designers, with some opting to dance for their assessment. The flexibility of the course is fantastic for students as it allows them to experiment within their specific areas of interest.

Year 11 students have one final performance to use as evidence for the grading process and have been developing and devising performances in order to meet the requirements of a brief set for them, the culmination of their study over the last two years.

## Bronze Award

The students in Year 7 who are undertaking their Bronze Award have learnt all about different arts skills and people who inspire them, and in the last half term have looked at developing their communication in order to teach a skill to other people. This resulted in students teaching others how to ride a skateboard, create origami and learn other creative skills. Great fun was had by all!

## Participation – one of our Core Values

Year 9 students have been working extremely hard to earn hours for their Participation Passports. They have been volunteering and creating form time quizzes, delivering certificates, counting voting slips for Year 11 and designing our reward board. They have also been participating in mindfulness sessions, homework club and taking part in the exciting Leicester City Kicks Programme.



## Debating

Over the course of this week students in Years 7-10 are getting the fantastic opportunity to compete in the House debating competition during registration times. They will be learning key debating skills, preparing and then holding debates in their form groups. Students will learn about and develop compelling proposition and opposition arguments, along with key skills like how to deliver an effective rebuttal, and the importance of articulation and projection. The best arguments in a range of areas will be awarded house points accordingly and results will be announced on the school bulletin and Twitter after the half term break.

Soar Valley College A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE		Soar Valley College A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE	
<b>Years 9 &amp; 10</b>		<b>Years 7 &amp; 8</b>	
<b>“The government has suggested that due to the pandemic school should be extended by 2 weeks into the summer holiday.”</b>		<b>“The government has suggested energy drinks should be banned in the UK”</b>	
<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• E.g. It is a great way to catch students up on lost learning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• E.g. Students still worked from home during the lockdown</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• E.g. Energy drinks are full of sugar and very unhealthy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• E.g. People should have the freedom to make their own decisions about what to drink</li></ul>
ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE		ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE	

## Extra-Curricular Activities in PE

This latest half term has been the busiest one so far this year. We have had hundreds of students across Key Stag 3 sign up for at least 1 sport this block, with many signing up for more than one. Basketball has proved to be the most popular sport this time around, with cricket a close second. As ever, the behaviour, attitude and commitment shown by the students at all sessions has been fantastic. The PE team would like to pay particular thanks to two of our amazing Teaching Assistants – Miss Crane and Mr Kalyan – who ran a very successful Year 7 boys’ football club during the last block and an equally successful Year 7 girls’ football club this time. Their time and commitment is much appreciated by the department and the students who attend.

Extra-curricular PE is for everybody – if you haven’t been before, sign up, come along and have some fun.



## Library News

### Carnegie Award



A group of Year 10 students have been 'shadowing' the Carnegie Medal this term. This is the biggest UK award for children and young people's books, and in 2021 eight fantastic books have made the shortlist. Students have been reading the books, and debating which one should get Soar Valley's vote for the national prize.

The group were also excited to have a video call recently with Cassie Kemp, a local librarian who is currently representing the East Midlands region on the award's national judging panel. She told them about all the books, and also gave them a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to judge the Carnegie Medal, including reading more than 140 books in one term! This is especially exciting for our own librarian, Ms Codling, who has recently announced that she will be taking over Cassie's position as the East Midlands judge next year, a tremendous honour!

The winner of the Carnegie Medal will be announced on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. We can't wait to see if the book Soar Valley has selected will be the overall winner.

### Library stocktake

We will now be conducting our annual library stocktake. This will involve closing the library for two weeks from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June while all our books are checked. This helps us discover if any books are missing, as well as giving us time to update our collection and replace any well-loved books.

This does mean all library books should be returned by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June, please. If your child has misplaced a book, please ask them to visit the library as soon as possible. And don't forget, while students can't borrow physical books for now, they can still read our ebooks online – just have a look at the library page of the school website for more information.

### Wanted: Student Library Assistants

Our Student Library Assistants have made the best of the situation this year. They haven't been able to carry out their normal duties, but they have been helping with making displays, recommending books to other students, and working on various projects.



We are now looking ahead to the next school year, and have several vacancies for new Student Library Assistants in the current Years 7, 8, and 9. These students take on a range of roles in the library, including helping issue books to other students, running activities, and representing their year group when we make decisions about the library.

Students who are interested in being an assistant can pick up an application form from the library. The deadline for entries is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

## House Competitions – an update

### History Department Easter Egg Competition results

The challenge was to design and make an egg to represent a famous character from History. We had some fantastic entries, but the winners are below.

- 1<sup>st</sup> 150 – ABBEY - Radhika Patel and Simran Chauhan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 120 – BEACON – Heneil Maisuriya
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 100 – CASTLE - Anisha Kuvendran and Kiesha Pal
- 4<sup>th</sup> 90 – VICTORIA - Zara Wasim and Menaka Vassaram
- 5<sup>th</sup> 85 – WATERMEAD – Alex Porter
- 6<sup>th</sup> 80 – BRADGATE – Hannah Lane

Everyone who entered the competition received house points for participating. Well done!



Alexander Graham Bell

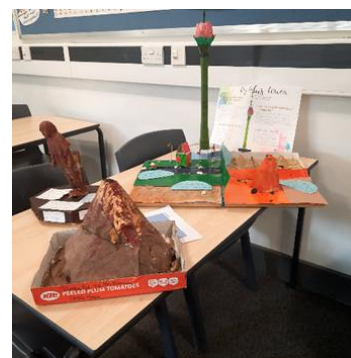


Jack the Ripper

It has been a fantastic few weeks for the Soar Valley Houses, with students from each House demonstrating skills, knowledge and creativity in the various House competitions that have taken place. Lockdown became a distant memory with students fiercely competing to push their House to first place.

The History department gave a completely new meaning to the term “Eggheads” with students using the humble breakfast ingredient to represent iconic historical figures. Needless to say there were some cracking entries. An “eggcellent” entry from Abbey landed them top spot.

Budding Geographers made some superb models for the ‘Superlatives’ competition. Students were encouraged to think about showing, in a creative manner, how something or somewhere had more of a particular quality than something or somewhere else. Entries included the Lotus Tower in Sri Lanka being the tallest self-supported structure in South Asia, a model showing the longest river, the largest volcano and desert, the Statue of Unity in India and Mauna Loa volcano in Hawaii.



House	Rank	House Points
Castle	1	150 pts
Abbey	2	120 pts
Victoria	2	120 pts
Bradgate	3	100 pts
Watermead	4	90 pts
Beacon	4	90 pts

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Keeping fit and active has been on the agenda to improve health and wellbeing. Year 10 students showcased their racket skills in a table tennis tournament. The points were close with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place being tied giving Castle House a narrow, but well deserved victory.

**Exciting new House Competition!!!**

Students at Soar Valley have been given the opportunity to decorate a model rocket which will be displayed in the City as part of an Arts trail to raise money for LOROS.

The theme for the rocket is going to be 'My Space'.

Students will collect a circular piece of paper from the Art dept and fill it with with a:  
 Drawing  
 Photograph  
 Poem  
 Quote  
 Painting  
 of something from the 'space' you live in.  
 EG: your family, culture, house, town, religion, personal space, dreams, hobbies ETC.

The circles will be collaged onto the surface of the rocket which will then be displayed for thousands of people to see!! You could be an exhibiting artist!

The more circles your house submits, the better the chance that you will get house points!

Prizes for the best entries!

See your Art Teacher or Mrs Wilde to collect your circle and start creating!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MAY

Coming up - A fantastic opportunity to help raise money for a local Leicester charity and have your model prestigiously displayed in the City.

Currently the standings for overall points means that Abbey House remain in the lead, but with many competitions yet to take place, this could easily change. Keep the entries coming in and score some points for your House!