



# Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**



Newsletter

Spring Term

March 2023

## Message from the Principal

It may be the start of a holiday for most, but our Year 11 students will be back in school during the break for additional revision sessions with their teachers as they continue to prepare for the exams starting in May.

Our students have a great approach to their studies and I know they will work hard over the holiday to give themselves the best chance of success. However, it is vital that they, and we, remember that it is very important for them to have 'downtime' too!

We wish them all the best at this important time and know they will make the most of the opportunities in school over the break and in the term ahead.

Year 10 Exams are also on the horizon, starting on April 24<sup>th</sup>. This is their first chance to get a taste of the examination papers that they will face next year when *they* are in Year 11. We know these students will also be working hard over the break on the high quality revision activities that their teachers have prepared for them.

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Our governors are a crucial part of the leadership structure of the school. Working completely voluntarily, they have three main roles:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- holding the Principal to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- and overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of our parent governors, Mrs Sam Rogers, who steps down from her role after many years of loyal service to the school. Mrs Rogers has been a regular and valuable contributor at governing board meetings, taken part in high level decision-making, and has represented the governors at celebration events. If you are interested in being involved, please look out for information about the election of a new parent governor which will be emailed out soon.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a good holiday and to wish Happy Easter and Ramadan Mubarak where this is relevant to you and your family.

Best wishes,

Mrs J. Robinson

## Unlock Oxford Residential



We are incredibly proud that a number of students from Soar Valley have been chosen to take part in a programme run by the University of Oxford. Called *Unlock Oxford*, the aim of the programme is to equip students both with knowledge about university and the confidence to see themselves as future Oxbridge scholars.

The programme will engage with these students from Year 10 right through to the end of their Post 16 education, offering advice throughout and supporting them to apply to Oxbridge should this be their ambition.

The programme launched this month with an overnight residential to St Edmund Hall, one of the Oxford colleges. After settling in, and an orientation meeting, students enjoyed a relaxed evening.

Day 2 is an opportunity to find out about:

- university life;
- student finance;
- and A Level choices.

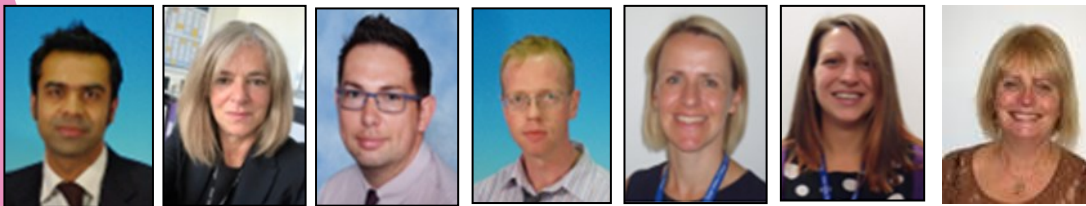
Students have also had the chance to tour the college with a student guide, to look around Oxford, and to have a taster session of an Oxford tutorial.



**St Edmund Hall**  
*University of Oxford*

## Spotlight On...Safeguarding

Safeguarding is central to everything that we do here at SVC. If you have any concerns about a child please contact a member of our team of Designated Safeguarding Leads:



<b>Mr Pabari:</b> DSL	<b>Mrs Robinson:</b> Deputy DSL	<b>Mr MacDougall:</b> Deputy DSL	<b>Mr Ridgeway:</b> Deputy DSL	<b>Ms Newbery:</b> Deputy DSL	<b>Ms Swain:</b> Deputy DSL	<b>Ann White:</b> Chair of Governors
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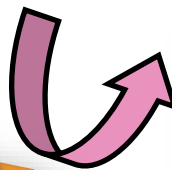
## Spotlight On...Our Welfare Team

Mrs Danson and Ms Bailey are our Welfare Officers, they work tirelessly to support students who are feeling unwell or require First Aid treatment.

Amongst the many other roles of the welfare team, they coordinate the NHS vaccination programmes in our school. The next HPV Vaccination is due on the **18<sup>th</sup> May**. You will have received information from the NHS vaccination team if your child is eligible.

Additional information [in a range of home languages] about the HPV Vaccinations can be found by clicking on this leaflet.

## Spotlight On...Staying Safe Online



We take online safety seriously at Soar Valley College and explicitly teach it to our students in computing and ICT lessons and across the school via assemblies and through the pastoral and PHSE curriculum.

Navigating safety in the online space can be tricky so we have a range of useful resources on our school website, like the ones shown below, to support parents to be confident when helping children to stay safe online.

Clicking on this **TALK** diagram will take you to a really helpful resource for parents and carers from the Internet Watch Foundation



**WHAT CAN PARENTS AND CARERS DO?**

**TALK**

<b>TALK</b> to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.	<b>AGREE</b> to ground rules about the way you use technology as a family. word word word word.	<b>LEARN</b> about the platforms and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.	<b>KNOW</b> how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.
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Spotlight On...Student Welfare @SVC

# Library News

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

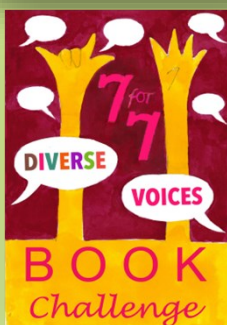
## Spring Update

Over the last few months, students have been really busy completing a number of reading challenges in the library, including Bookbuzz, which involved all of Year 7 being given their own book, the Reading Rampage, and 7 for 7, which this year focused on Diverse Voices.

The whole school enjoyed some World Book Day fun with students trying to solve the Murder by the Book scenario, attending the book tasting event, and participating in the House quiz.

A number of students were inspired to get writing their own poetry following our in-house author event with published poet Ms Hainsworth.

Students also took part in a STEM Week reading challenge, and celebrated International Women's Day with some inspirational true stories!



**COMING SOON**

- **Library Assistant** applications are due by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

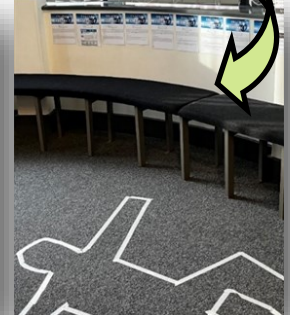
Our student Library Assistants are an essential part of ensuring that the library is engaging and inclusive.

We look forward with real interest to reading the applications for this popular post.

- **100 Word Story Competition** entries are also due in on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

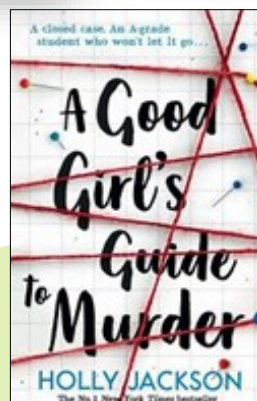
Students have been challenged to write a story in 100 words or fewer inspired by numbers.

## Murder by the Book



### Review by Danisha (8.6)

A thriller about a young boy named Charlie who hopes that a school trip will help him escape from a troubled homelife. But there is something strange and eerie about the remote village of Kaldgellan. There is something among us; something mysterious lurking in the distance. When the wind blows Charlie and his mates wake to find the resort deserted. Cut off from the rest of the world who knows what will happen next.



### Review by Tejal (8.6)

This is definitely one of the best books I have ever read. The story is about Pippa Fitz-Amobi, a 17 year old girl doing a project on the murder of Andie Bell, for which her boyfriend is a suspect!

Along the way she partners up with her boyfriend's brother, faces dangers and death threats, and unearths a surprising killer.

The characters are so likeable, and the ending so good, that I can't wait to read the sequel.



# 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.

## The House Cup

We are almost two thirds of the way through the school year, and as things stand it looks as though Watermead and Abbey will be fighting it out in a two-horse race for this year's title. However, there are still loads of points up for grabs so get involved to give your house a much needed boost in the remainder of the year.

House	Points Received	Overall Ranking
Abbey	10084	2
Beacon	9766	3
Bradgate	9536	4
Castle	8344	6
Victoria	9287	5
Watermead	11869	1

## Languages Spelling Bee

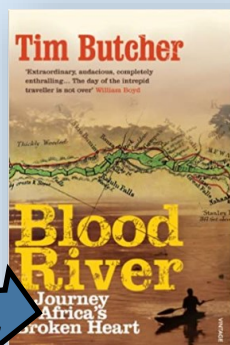
Year 7 French students have once again been taking part in a national French Spelling Bee competition run by Routes into Languages.

For **Stage 1** the students learned 100 words and were then given only 1 minute to translate and spell as many of them as possible in their class. The top 3 scorers from each class then progressed to Stage 2, where they had an additional 50 words to learn.

All students in Stage 2 of the competition clearly put in a lot of effort: they practised every Tuesday after school as well as Thursday lunch time for over 6 weeks!

After a very close tie-break, our top 3 winners from **Stage 2** of the competition are: Abdirahman Duale, Moosa Safreen and Shuada Montokim Begum. These 3 super Spelling Bees will now go on to Stage 3 of the competition on May 10<sup>th</sup> where they will compete against schools from across the East Midlands.

Will any of them be victorious and make it to the grand final at the University of Cambridge? We will soon find out!



The Stage 2 Spelling Bee competitors

## South African Author Zooms in for 'Visit'

A group of year 10 geographers in Miss Wood's GCSE Geography Book Club were lucky enough to have a Q and A session led by the celebrated author and journalist Tim Butcher. Since November students have dedicated their own time to reading about his journey through the Democratic Republic of the Congo in his book 'Blood River'. Students also attended several book club meetings where the team discussed questions and themes within the book.

The book directly links to our GCSE case study, so students have been able to benefit hugely from hearing from Tim first hand about his experiences. Tim led a fascinating session online all the way from South Africa and the students prepared questions to ask him, ranging from, 'Would you ever do it again?' to, 'What impact do you think colonialism has had on the DRC?'. Well done to all involved!



**It's been another busy term in PE with lots of extra curricular sport on offer, as well as some very special opportunities for students to step out of their comfort zone and do great things!**

### **County Champions**

Having already been crowned East Leicester champions, our Key Stage 4 boys' badminton squad travelled to the County Finals on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

In order to win the event they first had to qualify from the group stage, and then win a semi final, before progressing through to the final.

At the group stages we comfortably beat Lancaster School and Redmoor Academy, which meant we then met Loughborough Grammar in the semi final. The match was very competitive and nervy, but ended up with us winning 3-2.

In the final we faced last year's runners up, and the much fancied, Brockington College. After losing our first two games we knew that we had to turn the tide and win the final three games. Brilliantly drawing level at 2-2 the match went into the deciding doubles game.

It was tense and closely fought **but** we eventually won the game 21 -20, and with it the championship!



Congratulations to Krish S, Bhargav, Dhruvit and Krish V

### **Further Successes in Badminton**

The Key Stage 4 girls' badminton team are city champions Well done girls! And the Key Stage 3 boys' badminton team are city champions and came third in the county finals. Fantastic effort all round!

### **Primary Dance Festival**

On Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, we took nine Year Nine students to Taylor Road Primary School to act as sports leaders at our annual Primary School Dance Festival.

The girls all did a fantastic job throughout the afternoon, offering lots of support, praise and advice to the dancers. They also helped to prepare and distribute the much welcome afternoon snacks for those taking part.

The primary school pupils loved having the girls there, and really appreciated the help and feedback that they were given.

Each primary school had prepared two dances, and they performed them exceptionally well. The leaders were fantastic role models, and represented Soar Valley College excellently.

### **Extra Curricular Sport**

It may have been a short term, but PE has been as busy as ever. Extra curricular activities have, as usual, been extremely well attended. Mr Badshah's Breakfast Clubs continue to go from strength to strength.; this half term has involved badminton and cricket. It is so inspiring to see how hard some of our students can work at 8am!

Volleyball is a new addition to our after school programme, and has proved to be incredibly popular. It is always good to see



students prepared to step out of their comfort zone and to try a new sport. The students attending fitness sessions in the Fitness Suite have been following self-prepared training plans, and the high quality of these has been really impressive. Football continues to see fantastic numbers attending. When we return after Easter, there will be an all new Summer Extra-Curricular Timetable, including some exciting news about the changes we are introducing. More news to follow...

It's been a busy term in Design and Technology with students working on a range of exciting projects in extra-curricular clubs.

## Textiles Club - Drawstring Bags and Sock Puppets

The textiles club have been busy this term making drawstring bags and finishing off their sock puppets.

For the bags students chose patterns to print on the sublimation printer so that they could create the panels. They then used the embroidery machine to add their names.

The students have all worked really hard to produce colourful and functional items.



## Saw Club - Block Bots

In Saw Club students have been making Block Bots [that's little robots made from scrap materials] which has allowed them to both be creative, and to learn additional design and tooling techniques. Next up for the club is making wooden necklaces.

## Food Technology GCSE - Fish in School Hero Programme

Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition students have been the lucky recipients of wild Alaskan pink salmon to use during their practical lessons, in a bid to improve their fish cookery skills.

The initiative is part of the 'Fish In School Hero' programme which is run by the Food Teachers Centre, in partnership with the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute.

The programme aims to ensure that every child gets a chance to prepare, cook and eat fish before they leave school. Students gained knowledge and developed a range of technical skills whilst making some delicious salmon fishcakes.





## Budding Artist Impresses Team

Miss Horsley Jones was so impressed by these two pieces of artwork from one of her Year 7 students that she felt that they deserved to be celebrated in the school newsletter.

Anthony Kokkinidis has reproduced two of the world's most famous paintings, *The Scream* by Edvard Munch and *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gogh, in his own time. Miss Horsley Jones said, "We are pleased to share his work as we think they are fantastic and we love to see our students participating in hobbies outside of school. Well done Anthony and keep creating fantastic art!"



## A City for Tomorrow



For their termly competition, the geography department called upon all aspiring urban architects to design **A City For Tomorrow**. By 2050, 2 out of every 3 people in the world are likely to be living in cities so we asked students to show off their inner architect and to create a sense of place, connecting urban dwellers with a new community, and to have a strong emphasis on sustainability running through their design.

The geography team we hugely impressed with all of the entries received and the creativity shown from all competitors!

- 1<sup>st</sup> prize was awarded to **Sukhbir Patel** in 9.7 for her model of a Smart City. Sukhbir's emphasis on agro-farming for a city that can feed itself was very progressive.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was awarded to **Richa Deepak** in 9.11 for her architectural vision in urban design, using sustainable building materials.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize was awarded to **Kavya Bharatkumar** in 7.1 for his model city and the balance achieved between people and conservation.

## Maths Feast 2023

Four of our talented Year 10 mathematicians represented Soar Valley College at **Maths Feast 2023** this term. Maths Feast is a fun educational challenge which tests problem-solving and teamwork skills, with teams of four students working through an 'all-you-can-eat' feast of mathematical problems. After four rounds of competition the SVC team placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of the 13 teams taking part **and** were awarded certificates for *Scoring Highly in All Rounds of the Maths Feast*. We are proud of their brilliant effort, great teamwork, and fantastic result. Well done!



Lohan, Rijanjeet, Wafa and Vinisha hard at work solving puzzles



This Term our Refugee Welcome School Ambassadors visited Leicester Newarke House Museum to look at the exhibition to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the much loved children's book 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'.

This exhibition tells the story of author Judith Kerr and her journey as a refugee during WW2. Students learnt about the challenges her family faced and how her personal story impacted on her life.

Students are now preparing an assembly to share what they learnt at the museum with all year groups during Refugee Awareness week in June.

As well as their trip to the museum, the ambassadors also held a cake sale during Year 8 Parents' Evening, raising £62 for a charity that supports refugees in Leicester city centre.

## Community Dig Day 2023

### Dig Day

SAT 4TH MARCH  
10.30-1.30

SOAR VALLEY COLLEGE ALLOTMENT

Our Allotment needs some community spirit to help get it in shape for spring. Whether you can spare an hour or three, pop in to help on the 4th of March and lend a hand.

Drinks and refreshments provided. Children welcome - must be supervised by an adult. Bring a garden tool if you can.

Please register your interest with Miss Kenning if you intend to join us.  
skenningsoarvalley.leicester.sch.uk

Our **Community Dig Day** saw 14 members of staff, and numerous students and family members come together to work in the school allotment.

We were lucky to have great weather on the day. The Plus Group in Year 7 and some of our Year 11 students have put seedlings in for a summer crop of tomatoes, beans, peas and onions. We intend to gift our produce to local community services.

Another dig day will take place in the summer term. Look out for the next date on our student bulletin.



## Dates for Your Diary

Parents Evenings	
Year 7	May 4 <sup>th</sup>

Term Dates	
Spring Term ends	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Summer Term begins	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April
Bank Holiday	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May
Bank Holiday	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May
Summer Half Term Break	May 29 <sup>th</sup> – June 5 <sup>th</sup>
Summer Term ends	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July

Other Events This Term	
Culture and Identity Day	April 21 <sup>st</sup>
Year 10 Exams	April 24 <sup>th</sup> - May 5 <sup>th</sup>
School Show	June 7 <sup>th</sup> and June 8 <sup>th</sup>
Reports Home (Yr7-10)	June 9 <sup>th</sup>
Year 7 Celebration Evening	June 20 <sup>th</sup>
Year 8-10 Celebration Evg	June 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 6 Transition Day	June 27 <sup>th</sup>
Year 10 WOW Week	July 10 <sup>th</sup> - July 14 <sup>th</sup>
Sports Day	July 11 <sup>th</sup>