



# Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**

Newsletter

Summer Term 2

July 2025

## Message from the Principal

As I change roles slightly at the end of this year, I would like to start this final message with an enormous thank you to everyone associated with Soar Valley, both now and at any time past. It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Principal of Soar Valley for the last 11 years, and the previous 9 years as Vice Principal. The people make the school the success that it is, and no one could ask for better students, staff, parents, governors and wider community members, all of whom have contributed to our special ethos and fantastic achievements. Thank you!

Next year I will still be at Soar Valley, in the role of Executive Principal, overseeing developments and progress here, as well as working with other schools in our Trust, Aspire Learning Partnership. The daily running of the school is in extremely safe hands with Mr Pabari as our new Principal. He is another long-serving member of the leadership team and someone who knows the school inside and out. We will also be joined by new senior leaders - Mrs Noble (Vice Principal), Mrs Green (Assistant Principal) and Mrs Wilde (Assistant Principal), who will all bring fresh ideas to challenge and develop us further, which we look forward to and welcome.

We say goodbye at the end of this term to some teaching assistants, apprentices, and also some teaching staff. In particular, we wish Miss Matharu (IT/Computer Science, 4 years), Ms Tierney (Head of Music, 6 years), and Mr MacDougall (Vice Principal, 12 years) all the very best as they move on to pastures new. Along with all members of staff leaving us they will be greatly missed and have played a significant role in our successes, for which we are very grateful.

We have had such a very busy end to the school year, with a fantastically successful sports day, the transition day for Year 6 children, an information evening for their parents, a marvellous music concert, ice skating trips for Year 10 students, a trip to Curve, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, and much more – and all of this in the last two weeks! The dedication and commitment of our staff is incredible in providing so many opportunities for our students and all deserve our thanks.

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

**Please note that students return on Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup>, with a staggered start.**

**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.**

With very best wishes,

Mrs J. Robinson

Principal

## Active Citizens

The three winning forms from the Year 8 Active Citizen's 'Dragons Den' have been busy completing their fundraising events for their chosen charities. All winning forms worked hard to ensure that their events were advertised within school. The 1<sup>st</sup> place form [8.8] completed their event on the MUGA over a lunchtime. This involved a cake sale, a football shootout and the bedazzling of both Mr Thomas's and Mr Cherrington's heads. Over a very hot lunchtime both teachers looked amazing with brightly coloured gems on their heads! Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> place forms [8.3 and 8.4] have completed a guess the items in the jar competition and a 'Street Fighter' knock out competition to raise funds for their chosen charities. A huge well done to all three forms and thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the money raised.





# Six Houses, One Community, Thousands of Opportunities

## 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.

### House Spirit Soars at Final Assembly!

As the final bell of the year approaches, you might expect things to be winding down - but not at our school! The final House assemblies of the year were anything but a quiet affair, as our Heads of House took to the stage with one clear mission: rally the troops for the upcoming Sports Day and stake their claim for House glory.

With the House Cup still very much up for grabs it was a full-on battle of pride, passion, and – yes - perfectly pitched chants. Each Head of House gave an impassioned speech, revving up their teams with rousing words and the kind of competitive energy that would make even a professional sports coach proud. Rumour has it some of the chants were as intimidating as they were enthusiastic - though all in the name of friendly rivalry, of course!

Mrs Richardson even made a surprise appearance as Castle House's mascot [a phoenix] in a moment that certainly lifted spirits.

This wasn't just an assembly - it was a celebration of the dedication, teamwork, and participation that has defined the year. Whether it's been in the classroom, on the pitch, or in House events, students have shown what true community looks like.

### Cricket, Rounders and a Victoria Clean Sweep

The final inter-House sporting events of the year - cricket and rounders - were nothing short of thrilling. With all year groups getting involved, competition was fierce. Victoria stormed to victory in both events, earning vital points and celebrating an impressive double win. Every House played with heart, skill, and true team spirit, making it a fantastic finale to the year's sporting calendar!

All years

	Total	Rank
Abbey	778	6
Beacon	877	4
Bradgate	1027	2
Castle	889	3
Victoria	1155	1
Watermead	874	5

All years

	Total	Rank
Abbey	22	3
Beacon	20	5
Bradgate	27	2
Castle	22	3
Victoria	31	1
Watermead	19	6

### Belief Through Art – The R.E. House Competition

In R.E. students turned their creativity inward, producing beautiful and thought-provoking posters based on the theme of 'belief'. They explored what belief means to them personally, what they believe in, and why. The results were deeply reflective, personal, and powerful offering a glimpse into the strong ideals and values our students hold close.



## The House System @SVC

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### Brick by Brick – The Lego House Competition

Putting communication and collaboration to the test, the Lego House Competition challenged teams of three to build the best Lego house - each student taking on a role as engineer, supplier, or builder. It was a battle of bricks and brains, and in KS3, Beacon built their way to glory, while Abbey took the top spot at KS4. Creative teamwork has never looked so colourful!



### A Thank You – and a Challenge

As the Houses gear up for the all-important Sports Day, the Heads of House would like to thank every student for their hard work, effort and relentless enthusiasm this year.

Now, let the games begin—and may the best House win!



## Geography – Turning Grey Spaces Green

Students entering this term's geography competition were tasked with submitting a design specification to turn a grey, concrete site within the school **green** by encouraging biodiversity, ecology and horticulture. The joint winners were Dene 10.10 [Castle] and Shrutika 10.8 and Sumayyah 10.8 who submitted a joint effort on behalf of Beacon. Beacon and Victoria really boosted their participation points with multiple entries contributing to their domination of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places in this competition.



## Geography Fieldwork

As part of GCSE Geography fieldwork, over 100 students attended a trip over 2 days to Hunstanton on the north Norfolk coastline. Students carried out data collection as part of their geographical enquiry for both the physical and human components of fieldwork required for the OCR B examinations.

The physical fieldwork investigated the effectiveness of coastal management strategies along the Hunstanton Beach. This involved students' measuring the speed of longshore drift, the build up of sediment either side of the groynes and measuring the size of pebbles.

For the human fieldwork, students were asked to assess whether Hunstanton was a sustainable urban environment all year round. They collected data on the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of the town and considered the impact of tourism at different times of the year. On both days we enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day and students enjoyed the culinary delights of fish and chips and plenty of icecream! The students were exemplary, and the Geography Department was very proud of their conduct.

Since their return, students have completed their write up of the investigations and practised applying their understanding to exam questions.





# 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.

## French MFL Club

This academic year, the introduction of an MFL *Blooket Club* focused on French language learning has been a huge success. Held weekly, the club has provided an engaging and fun environment where students can strengthen their French vocabulary and practise 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.

The enthusiasm of our Year 9 Language Leaders and the support of students completing the Duke of Edinburgh award have also played a pivotal role in the club's success. These students have benefited from the opportunity to lead sessions, to support younger students, and to consolidate their own language skills in the process. Their involvement has not only strengthened their leadership experience but also fostered a sense of community within the languages department.

With its mix of fun, collaboration, and educational value, the French Blooket Club has become a much-loved feature of the school week. It's clear that the initiative has had a productive and lasting impact on students across different year groups—and we look forward to seeing it continue to grow in the next academic year!

## Speak Out Challenge

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, Year 10 student Anaya delivered an exceptional speech at the East Midland's Speak Out Challenge. The event, run by The Speakers Trust, was the culmination of months of hard work and preparation.

Way back in January, 30 Year 10 students were taken off timetable for the day to work with a coach from The Speakers Trust. They spent the day doing a range of activities to develop their confidence and broaden their knowledge of public speaking. By the end of the day, they'd written and performed a 90 second speech on a subject of their choice. Four finalists, Jia, Aman, Chiara and Anaya were selected for our internal assembly final, in a bid to compete to progress further. Our winner, Anaya, progressed through to the East Midland's regional final.



The East Midlands final was held at the Y Theatre in front of an audience of over 100 people, including 6 judges and the City Mayor Sir Peter Soulsby. The final involved 13 students from schools all across in the East Midlands. Anaya was tremendous and delivered a thought provoking and hugely confident speech about the importance of religion in modern living.

The event was a forum of resilience and bravery and a genuine privilege to watch. Well done to all of the students from SVC who participated in the workshop: it was a day where they pushed themselves out of their comfort zones. Well done to our four SVC finalists for putting themselves out there and inspiring some of our Year 9 students in the assembly final. A special well done goes to Anaya for being such a fantastic role model to students and adults alike, as well as being a fabulous ambassador for young people.



## Speak Up Theatre Day

The students involved in the Speak Up project went to Curve Theatre on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June for a theatre day. Students had a wonderful time taking part in a two-hour workshop with the talented Amber Sinclair-Case, Associate Director of Pig Heart Boy.

They were then able to watch the matinee performance of the show. Pig Heart Boy is a novel by Malorie Blackman which has been adapted for the stage to create a brilliant production which tells the story of thirteen-year-old, Cameron. All he wants is to be normal – to have friends, to go to school, and to dive to the bottom of his local swimming pool. But he desperately needs a heart transplant and time is running out. When he is finally offered a new heart, Cameron must choose how far he'll go to get his life back. A great summer read if you get the chance.



## Students' View

*My trip to Curve Theatre to watch Pig Heart Boy was a truly memorable and thought-provoking experience. From the moment we entered the theatre I was struck by the impressive theatrical setup: the lighting, the staging, and the atmosphere all worked together to bring the story to life in a powerful and immersive way. I loved how the production used creative techniques to draw us into the emotional world of the characters. The actors delivered incredibly moving performances that made the moral dilemmas feel very real and relatable.*

*Before the play, we took part in a workshop that really deepened the experience. We explored the characters thoughts and emotions, stepping into their shoes and discussing what we might have done in their place. It was eye-opening to hear different perspectives, especially when we talked about the decisions made throughout the story. It helped me see the complexity behind the choices and how every action has consequences.*

*What I appreciated most was how the play made me reflect on the ethical side of medical science. How far should we go to save a human life? Is it okay to take an animal's life to save a human? These questions stayed with me long after the play ended.*

*Overall, I had a great time. It was both entertaining and meaningful and I left the theatre with a lot to think about. I'd definitely recommend it to anyone who enjoys stories that challenge your thinking and touch your heart at the same time.*

Sohipreet 8.11

## Speak Up Celebration

The students involved in the Speak Up project had an absolute blast at Curve Theatre on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July as students celebrated the three year project in style. Workshops in arts and crafts, beatboxing, graffiti and photography kept students busy until lunch time. Leicester Speak Up schools then had shared lunch before the celebration of work.

Soar Valley students were proud to share their Numz Protein Balls cookery show with the audience and deliver a Q and A. We were also privileged to be able to see the work from The City of Leicester College, Sir Jonathon North and Winstanley College. All students then gathered on the mezzanine for the final disco and Speak Up cakes. The whole event was compered by our wonderful ex-student, Akshay Sharma.

A great send off for Speak Up and well done to all students who made a commitment to the project.



## Year 9 Careers – Sport at Loughborough

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, a group of Year 9 students were invited to Loughborough College for a full day of sporting activities and to learn more about Sport as an option at Post 16 education. Loughborough College hosted an excellent day with lots of different activities to make the day fun as well as educational.

The day began in one of the classroom spaces and Soar Valley students gained an insight into Post 16 courses, opportunities and grades expected to get into college. They had a look at a timetable of a student's typical day at college and Loughborough College staff explained on line learning, time off timetable for completing work, managing workload and shared all the extracurricular opportunities on offer.

Our students then had the opportunity to take part in lots of different sporting activities and gave Year 9 the chance to discuss and improve techniques and skills being used.

This was a great opportunity, and we are thankful to Loughborough College for hosting Soar Valley College.

## Year 10 Careers – The Pathway Project

We have been fortunate this last academic year to be working on The Pathways Project. This project aims to further support and provide opportunities for specific students in Year 10. The Careers and Enterprise Hub visited school and encouraged students to think about all of the transferable skills they have that will help them in the workplace. Students enjoyed being able to link their recent work experience with their future plans.

Next, they will be working with 2 local employers to explore all the jobs available working for a company. Students will be completing an "Apprentice" style task to see if they would be hired or fired.



## Year 10 Careers – Work Experience

This academic year Soar Valley College delivered work experience for our Year 10 cohort. Students, together with their tutors had been preparing for this event for the last few months. Work experience ran from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June. All students received a visit from a member of staff to see how they were getting on.

There have been so many wonderful reports on our student's showing initiative, resilience, great time management which is exactly what this week was designed to bring out. Well done to all of Year 10 who approached this week with professionalism and maturity. Many thanks also to parents / carers who supported their child in this challenging process.

It was great when Year 10 returned to school to hear their work experience stories. We are sure that this process will prove invaluable as they move into Y11.







## East Leicester Athletics Championships

We are delighted to report on the outstanding performance and conduct of our students at this year's East Leicester Athletics Championships at Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium. Our school team represented us with pride, displaying impeccable behaviour throughout the event.

In terms of results, our Year 7 Girls team secured **first place overall** in their category.

A particular highlight is that 11 of our students were selected to compete in the County Championships at Loughborough University, recognising their exceptional talent and potential at a higher competitive level.

We are extremely proud of all students who participated and grateful to the staff who supported them. Their achievements and conduct continue to enhance the school's reputation for excellence in sport and character.

Overall, Soar Valley College finished in second place out of the nine teams competing. Well done everyone!



## Students Shine at SEND Athletics Festival

On June 19<sup>th</sup> a number of Year 7 and Year 8 students proudly represented the school at the SEND Athletics Festival at Loughborough University Sports Campus, organised by School Games a collaborative initiative between Leicester City, Leicestershire, and Rutland local authorities. The event brought together over 1000 students from schools across the county for a day focused on participation, fun, and physical activity.

Our students enthusiastically took part in a wide range of inclusive sports including seated volleyball, handball, judo, and cycling. The day began with an energetic Zumba warm-up under the blazing summer sun - it was truly a scorcher! Despite the heat, every student gave their all and embraced the spirit of the festival.

Rather than focusing on competition, the emphasis was on engagement, personal effort, and trying new experiences. One of the biggest highlights was the adaptive cycling area where students enjoyed riding lying-down bikes, tandems, and trikes—an exciting and empowering experience for many.

Staff and organisers praised our students for their outstanding behaviour and positive attitude throughout the day. Each student pushed themselves to achieve their best, demonstrating resilience, enthusiasm, and teamwork.

It was a fantastic day of inclusion, activity, and celebration—well done to all who took part!







## Rounders

Rounders has been a popular extra-curricular activity over the summer term, which has enabled SVC to enter two teams for both the Year 7 and the Year 8/9 competitions. These were development events so no overall winner was given but all of the girls showed an improvement in both their skills and their tactical awareness. The girls worked really well together, showing excellent cooperation and communication skills. Well done to all of those that took part, in particular to the Year 8 girls who were undefeated throughout the event.

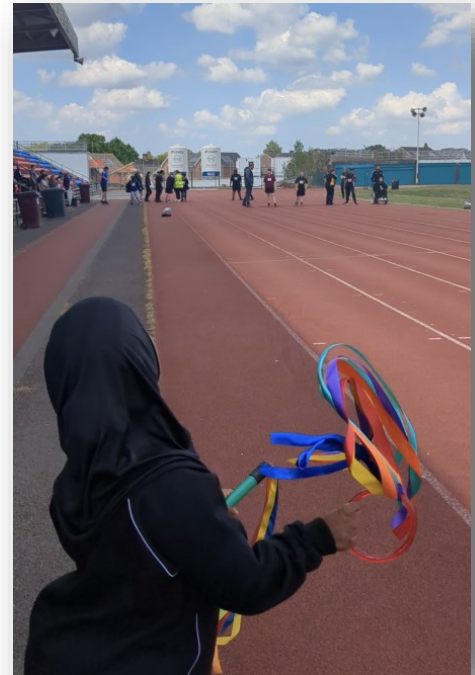
## Inspiring Day of Athletics at Saffron Lane Sports Stadium

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 12 students from Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 took part in an unforgettable SEND Athletics sports trip to Saffron Lane Sports Stadium. Competing in a range of summer athletics activities—including the 100m sprint, 500m run, long jump and wheelchair slalom—the students demonstrated exceptional determination, effort, and team spirit.

The event brought together participants from twelve different schools, creating a vibrant and supportive atmosphere. From the moment the races began, the stadium was filled with cheers and encouragement, reflecting the true spirit of sportsmanship and inclusion. Each event showcased the students' individual strengths. Competitors pushed themselves and celebrated each other's achievements.

The day was about more than just competition. It was also about building confidence, fostering friendships and nurturing a love for physical activity among students who often face unique challenges. Teachers and other staff praised the event for creating an enjoyable environment where every student could shine.

The experience highlighted the importance of inclusive sporting opportunities. It was a brilliant day that celebrated effort over outcome and helped instil a lifelong enjoyment of sport in our students.



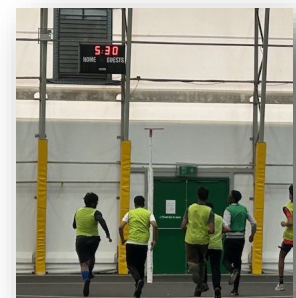
## 12 Hour Sport Event

On Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 40 Year 10 students took part in our annual 12 Hour Sports event, raising money for Cancer Research UK.

The first challenge for students was arriving at school for 5.30am ready for a 6.00am start. They then had 12 hours straight playing netball, short tennis, football, basketball, rounders and ultimate frisbee for 2 hours each.

The 4 captains – Om 10.5, Viyan 10.10, Mit 10.7 and Benjamin 10.5 – each led their teams superbly throughout the day. Each sport was competitive, but played with a great attitude all the way through to the 6.00pm finish. At the end of the event Om's team were victorious, but every single one of the 40 had done a great job and made a real contribution.

As things stand, we are on course to smash our target of raising £1000. Well done all!





## Primary Festivals

This has been a busy end to the year with the final three primary school festivals taking place in June. We have had pupils from Mellor, Rushey Mead, Sandfield, Taylor Road and Wyvern join us for Year 6 Cricket, Year 3 SEND Athletics and Year 6 Rounders Festivals.

All three festivals were fantastic events, with pupils showcasing a real range of talent. The Year 3 SEND Athletics Festival was a particular highlight, as a large number of the pupils were attending their first ever school sports event. They all did so well and worked so hard during the afternoon.

The Rounders Festival took place on a gloriously hot afternoon, and the pupils had to show a high level of resilience to keep performing during their three games of rounders. It would have been easy to let the standard drop as they got tired, but this didn't happen at all. The standard of rounders on show was really high and great to watch.

As ever, all three festivals were supported by our amazing group of Year 10 Sports Leaders. They have been absolutely fantastic this year – it has been a real pleasure working with them and watching them develop as leaders. The feedback from the primary school staff about how the leaders have supported their pupils has been so positive this year. They are a real credit to Soar Valley and the PE Department would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their help and support with the primary festivals this year. They should all be very proud of themselves.





# Library News

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

Once again, it has been a very busy half-term in the library. We have celebrated: National Careers Week, International Women's Day, Science Week, World Poetry Day, Women's History Month, Shakespeare Week, and of course – World Book Day!

## Paired Reading Success

Our Paired Reading Programme has enjoyed another fantastic year, thanks to the dedication of Mrs. Pickering and our brilliant Year 10 reading mentors. Their support has made a real difference to younger readers – well done to everyone involved.

## Library Stocktake & SVC Library Lost & Found Book(s) Request

Each year Soar Valley College Library completes a stocktake. Library loans are recalled, so staff can check the condition of stock, replace resources where needed, and purchased new titles for students to enjoy. With 10,000 titles to process it is no small task. We would like to extend our thanks to students and parents/carers for the swift return of library books.

There are always a few books that take a little longer to make their home to SVC library. If, over the course of the summer, you come across any SVC stamped library books we would be grateful if these could be returned once school returns in the new year.

## Author Visit and Expedition Writing Challenge

This term Year 7 students were treated to an inspiring visit from award winning filmmaker, director, author and Mount Everest adventurer Matt Dickinson. Students learnt many fun and fascinating facts and about the level of determination and resilience required to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

During the event students took part in an Expedition Everest themed letter writing competition for a chance to win a signed copy of The Everest Files and a bounty of House points. Well done to all who entered: your creativity and imagination hugely impressed us! Congratulations to our top three winners: Tanvi, Bren & Okeoghene.

A poster titled "Expedition Everest competition results" featuring a background image of Mount Everest and a climber. The results are presented in a table with five columns: Place, House, winners, House points, and Entries. The table has six rows of data, each with a different background color.

Place	House	winners	House points	Entries
1 <sup>st</sup>	Beacon	Tanvi, K (7.6)	150	2
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Abbey	Bren, M (7.3)	120	13
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Victoria	Okeoghene (7.5)	110	9
4 <sup>th</sup>	Castle	Samir, B (7.4)	100	10
5 <sup>th</sup>	Watermead	Lujana, A (7.6)	90	1
6 <sup>th</sup>	Bracegate	Noorjya (6.9)	85	1



EVEN MORE...

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## Reading Rampage & 8 for 8

As our Reading Rampage challenge drew to a close, and votes were counted from across Leicester and Leicestershire, excited students were keen to find out which author would win the students' choice award, and which Soar Valley House had won the Reading Rampage Challenge? The results are now in and we can announce that:

The students' favourite Reading Rampage title was **Nush and the Stolen Emerald** by Jasbinder Bilan.

The winning House, who read and reviewed the most Reading Rampage titles, goes to **Castle House**. Special mention must go to Shreya (8.1) who read and reviewed 7 Reading Rampage titles, and Liyana (7.6) who received the SVC Reading Rampage 2025 Champion Award.

Our **8 for 8 Reading Challenge** also drew to a close this term, and what a broad selection of books we have enjoyed with crime, dystopian tales, sci-fi and so much more shared with our Year 8 participants [and a few honorary Year 7 students] who accepted the challenge to read all eight of the books. Special mentions go to Pari and Saarah (8.8), Heli (8.10), Saara and Brindal (8.3), Bhavya. D (7.4), Pranay (7.6) and Thakshuitta (7.3).



### READING RAMPAGE

### PARTICIPANTS 2024 – 2025

Student First Name	Student Surname	Form
Thakshuitta	Ganeshan	7.3
Kesh	Ahwal	7.6
Sani	Jani	7.5
Vig	Vindokumar	7.6
Liyana	Adani	7.6
Manish	Enani	7.9
Shiv	Racka	7.9
Sacchi	Dandi	7.10
Manish	Manohar	7.10
Anish	Anand	7.10
Harsh	Bakumra	7.10
Harsh	Alkumar	7.10
Shameen	Mahmoud	7.10
Tahira	Wahid	7.10
Ashar	Sani	7.11

Student First Name	Student Surname	Form
Shreya	Chakran	8.1
Ash	Shameen/Spencer	8.2
Arshad	Mahmoud	8.2
Anshika	Sengupta	8.4
Abdur	Rahman/Babula	8.4
Saarah	Khalifa	8.8
Pari	Panholi	8.8
Sakia	Muhammad	8.9
Nathaniel	Lawson	8.9
Alyiah	Dahir	8.9
Gautham	Santharam	8.11

Well done! Thank you for taking part.  
Thank you to 7.10 for highest form participation.  
Special mention to: Shreya 8.1 who read & reviewed 7 books  
& Liyana 7.6 who was selected as the SVC Reading Rampage 2025 Champion.

## Summer Reading: Read it, Watch it, Love it!

In addition to creating a fabulous **Happily Never After** display, our student librarians helped curate our 'Summer Reading: Read it, Watch it, Love it' display which aims to inspire students to enjoy the extra reading time afforded to them during the summer break by selecting a book that has been made into a film/ tv show or vice versa, or simply getting stuck into that series they have been meaning to read when time allows.



## Annual Bookmark Competition

Each year students take part in the much-anticipated bookmark competition. With the chance to win lots of points for their House, and to have their entry turned into bookmarks for the whole school to use, students are keen to show off their artistic skills.

The standard of entries was, once again, extremely high. With designs including intricate artwork, beautiful calligraphy, inspirational quotations and lots of fun colourful designs. The judges found it a challenge to choose the winners. However, our top three are: 1<sup>st</sup> place Mithun (7.3); 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Shasmeen (7.10); and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Sunshine (7.7). Well done, and thank you, to all those who took part.

## Happily Never After

What if Hansel and Gretel took a different path through the woods? What if Sleeping Beauty was a prince instead of a princess? What if Red Riding Hood was the hunter instead of being hunted by the wolf?

Many students [and adults] enjoy reading a happily ever after tale but here at SVC Library we like to encourage our students to explore different genres and titles that offer up different perspectives. And so we have released the 'Happily Never After' collection which explores what would happen if the story were told from a different character's point of view or simply branches off in a different direction. The collection also includes dystopian tales, short story collections and book series.

## Students Support Refugees Through Fundraising and Volunteering

This term, ten Year 10 students from our school visited the Hope Hub in Wigston, a centre that provides vital support to refugees in the local community. The visit was a chance to see firsthand how the centre operates and to deliver donations raised throughout the year.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of 42 students, who baked and sold cakes during parents' evenings, an impressive £112 was raised. This money was donated to the Hope Hub to help them continue their important work.

In addition to fundraising, students collected and donated toiletries, showing a real commitment to supporting those in need. During the visit, they toured the centre and learned more about the experiences of the refugees who rely on its services.

Students are now thinking ahead and planning even more ways to support the Hope Hub next year. Whether through new fundraising ideas, donation drives, or awareness campaigns they are determined to make an even greater impact.

This experience has not only helped others but also brought our school community together in a shared goal of kindness, compassion, and action. Well done to all involved!



## Gold Medal Performance Again!

We are delighted to announce that Soar Valley College have once again achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award.

The School Games Mark is a government-led awards scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust, to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and in the community and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

With over 800 young people taking part in extracurricular activities and competing in inter-House and local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of

As part of our application we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

A special thanks to the PE Department for their hard work and dedication in providing the students at Soar Valley College with so many opportunities to be involved in physical activity and sport both during the day and after school.

We look forward to applying once again in 2026!





## National Numeracy Day

As part of the celebration of National Numeracy Day, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May saw us holding Soar Valley College's second National Numeracy Day Relay Race. So, once again our six houses put their mathematical minds together to compete for the title of best in brains and brawn!

The event saw teams of eight Year 7 and eight Year 8 students racing through cones to grab their question before working together to solve a variety of numeracy problems. Our double point basket shoot-out was also available for additional reward, although most students were too focused on answering questions to give this a single glance!

This year saw Watermead's Year 7 retain their title, whilst Victoria took Bradgate's trophy for Year 8; a fantastic achievement amidst the huge enthusiasm demonstrated by all who participated!

The event was an enormous success enjoyed by all! We look forward to next year's race to see who the new victors will be and to seeing some cunning tactics enabling teams to gain double points!

## ECO committee

As part of the Global Citizens strand the ECO committee put together two raffle baskets at the beginning of the summer term to raffle off to both staff and students. The raffle raised £94.00 for the Help the Homeless Charity, where funds were greatly appreciated. The winner of the staff raffle was Mrs Houlton, Head of Drama, and the student basket winner was Pal Dharmesh [8.3]. Congratulations to both!

Sustrans East Midlands have had a further visit this academic year to work with a number of students in Year 7 and 8 to improve their skills in bike riding. A survey went out to students in Year 7 and 8 to see whether students had ever ridden or sat on a cycle before. There were 18 students who were identified as benefiting from this exciting opportunity.

Students worked in 2 groups in 45-minute sessions on the school playground. The morning was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The team have completed this year by counting and packaging all used pens in school to be recycled. The team will be sending just over 2400 pens that have been saved from landfill.

The Green Flag award is on its way to being completed for another year. The students have worked really hard this year to bring about positive improvement to the environment in school and beyond. For example, they planted seeds some weeks ago into small plant pots and will be donating them to staff at the end of term to add to the biodiversity to gardens far and wide.

## Dates for Your Diary

Parents' Evenings	
Year 9	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 11	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 8	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 10	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 7	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October
Term Dates	
Autumn Term Begins	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Bank Holiday [CLOSED]</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> August
Autumn Half Term Break	October 20 <sup>th</sup> — 24 <sup>th</sup>
Autumn Term Ends	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
Other Events Next Term	
Year 8 Outdoor Pursuit 1 & 2	8 <sup>th</sup> —9 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Year 8 Outdoor Pursuit 3 & 4	15 <sup>th</sup> —16 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Open Evening	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September
Post 16 Evening	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 8 RE Places of Worship	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October

