



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Newsletter

Autumn Term

December 2022

Message from the Principal

A long and busy term draws to its close. Our term ends on Friday at 1.15pm, with lunch then available for those wishing to stay. There will be the usual House quiz on the last afternoon, always a very competitive event. Good luck to all!

One of our core values is ENJOY, and students being involved in their school adds significantly to this, and definitely contributes to their overall achievement. The range of extra-curricular activities on our weekly school bulletin never ceases to amaze me, there are so many things for students to be involved in. There are clubs and activities to cover a range of interests and you can see information on some of these in this newsletter, and we hope to see many more students involved next term.

Our Year 11 students have had mock exams this term and conducted themselves in an exemplary fashion. It bodes well for the final exams in the summer, and I know they will continue to work hard as we move closer towards those exams.

We were delighted to welcome back the class of 2022 in November, all students to collect their examination certificates and a small number who attended our Celebration Evening and received some prestigious awards, such as the Philip Goyle Shield for Excellence, the Lady Osborne Cup and Lady Osborne Shield. It was great to see our ex-students, who achieved so well in the summer and have gone onto the next stage of their education or training and will, I am sure, continue to be successful.

As we end the term, we would like to wish all those connected with Soar Valley a very enjoyable holiday, and we look forward to seeing students back with us on Wednesday January 4th at 8.45am.

Best wishes,

Mrs J. Robinson

Open 33 Art Competition

We are very lucky to have such talented artists at Soar Valley College. Once again we have entered some of the stunning work produced by our Key Stage 4 students into the Open 33 Art Competition, and once again we have had work selected for exhibition.

The panel of judges chose work from three students to be exhibited at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery. The exhibition runs from December 10th 2022 until January 20th 2023 and is well worth a visit.

Congratulations to Megha, Bhavya and Starr-Blu whose chosen work can be seen above.



Megha 11.10 'Together'



Bhavya 11.4 'Light'



Starr-Blu 10.1 'It's Just Art, Innit'

The House System @SVC



Yr 7 Basketball

- 1st Bradgate
- 2nd Beacon
- 3rd Watermead
- 4th Victoria
- 5th Abbey
- 6th Castle

Yr 8 Basketball

- 1st Watermead
- 2nd Bradgate
- 3rd Abbey
- 4th Castle
- 5th Victoria
- 6th Beacon

Yr 9 Basketball

- 1st Abbey
- 2nd Castle
- 3rd Watermead
- 4th Beacon
- 5th Bradgate
- 6th Victoria

Yr 10 Basketball

- 1st Bradgate
- 2nd Castle
- 3rd Abbey
- 4th Victoria
- 5th Watermead
- 6th Beacon

Yr 11 Basketball

- 1st Victoria
- 2nd Watermead
- 3rd Abbey
- 4th Bradgate
- 5th Castle
- 6th Beacon

Inter House Basketball

Competition was fierce for the inter house basketball this term, with all teams being very strong. The games were fought out in good spirit and in true Soar Valley style with lots of **EFFORT** being put in by all the students. Whilst some of the layups were questionable, and there were lots of double dribbles, it was lovely to see the students enjoying themselves.

The results were mixed although Bradgate stood out with two wins. The top three sides overall were Bradgate, followed by Watermead, with Abbey in third place across the five year groups.

The Heads of House would like to thank all of the students involved, particularly those who volunteered to help referee the matches.

Pumpkin Carving

This term had another Taskmaster style challenge for the Heads of House. As it was Halloween they were asked to carve their best pumpkin. There were several creative entries but there can only be one winner. This went to Miss Wood who is the Head of Abbey House. The Heads of House are left in suspense again as they await the new Taskmaster Challenge for next term.



The Great SVC Bake Off

If you were lucky enough to be around the Design and Technology corridor after school you would have enjoyed the tempting aromas of the Great Soar Valley Bake Off. This year the cakes on offer included mint, biscoff, strawberry, vanilla and chocolate flavours.

The Heads of House were very impressed with the quality of the cake designs. We have some talented bakers in school and I am sure Mrs Robinson and Mr Cumming, the designated cake tasters, would say they tasted just as good as they looked!

The standard was high in both presentation and taste, so it was tough deciding who would win, but in Key Stage 3 the Greatest Baker Award went to Victoria House and in Key Stage 4 the to Beacon House.

Firework Safety Posters

The Firework Safety Poster competition was a great success. We speak a lot about **EFFORT** at Soar Valley and we had a lot of that but we also had an enormous amount of **PARTICIPATION** around this competition!

Putting the results aside the Heads of House are very proud of all 121 entries. It was a long but enjoyable task narrowing them down to the top 6. We will now be putting forward some of these posters for the national competition, which is very exciting!

The winners were Summayah M in 8.8, Jaine P in 8.1 and Jasleen K in in 9.10. Well done to everyone who took the time to create an entry!



HOUSE	PLACE	HOUSE POINTS
ABBEY	2 nd	120
BEACON	1 st	150
BRADGATE	3 rd	100
CASTLE	5 th	85
VICTORIA	6 th	80
WATERMEAD	4 th	90

HOUSE	PLACE	HOUSE POINTS
ABBEY	3 rd	100
BEACON	5 th	85
BRADGATE	5 th	85
CASTLE	4 th	90
VICTORIA	1 st	150
WATERMEAD	1 st and 2 nd	270

LIBRARY NEWS

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

Book Talking

In the final week of November, the English department welcomed the Creative Learning Services team (Cassie, Jo, Marissa and Claire) who visited all Year 9 English lessons to promote reading.

The team recommended 10 books of varying genres and topics, including books such as *Ink* by Alice Broadway, *Kerb-stain Boys* by Alex Wheatle and the thriller, *It's Behind You*, by Katheryn Foxfield. The team also suggested a few classic texts but in the form of graphic novels, such as *1984* by George Orwell.

One student from Year 9 said, 'I didn't know we had half of these exciting books in the library. I used to sometimes struggle finding an exciting book but now I've got a long list I want to read!' Since then, Year 9 have been set a House reading challenge to read as many of the 30 books on the recommendations list by February half-term. Good luck!



COMING SOON

A new reading reward scheme and more competitions!

Year 7 students will receive their Book Buzz books in January.

Board Games Club every Friday break, starting in January.



A New Competition Each Month



Review by Kareena (9.3)

This is a story about a child of immigrants (Shadi) forging an identity, falling in love, and finding hope in the midst of a modern war.

Shadi is named for joy but haunted by sorrow, with a bother who has died, a father who is dying and a mother who is falling apart.

I adored this amazing, heart breaking read!



Review by Kabis (7.12)

One of my favourite volumes of the series!

We see how the alchemists became who they are and the training involved in learning their art.

And they are set the goal of getting Alphonse's memory back as well as repairing their bodies.

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.

RE: Inspirational Photography Competition

For this amazing competition students were encouraged to find beauty around them, either natural or man-made, take a picture and send it in. There were so many entries, from over 55 students, which showed a fantastic level of participation across many forms and year groups. The winners were as follows:

1st Place	Arav Joshi (9.7)	Abbey
2nd Place	Ammar Mukarram (10.1) Jasleen Kaur (9.9)	Abbey Bradgate
3rd Place	Ronya Ibrahim (7.5) Vaishnavi Gajjar (9.12)	Victoria Watermead



CREST Awards in Science

Our Year 8 students have completed the discovery project on 'Machines for the Future' for the national CREST Award. Their project was based on improving sustainability of clothes in order to reduce the levels of landfill.

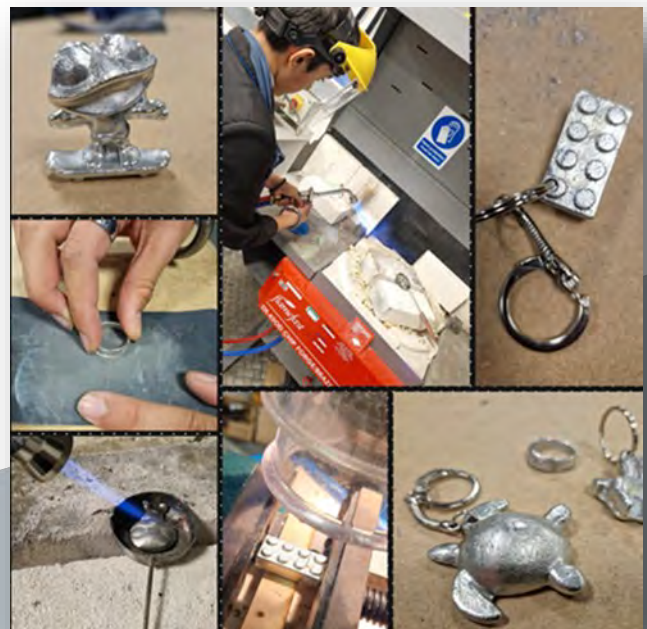
Initially, they designed the product and gave a presentation explaining the importance of their machine. This was followed by risk analysis of the product ensuring the safety of customers, and the final stage was advertising the product.

The project was approved and students have received their certificates, ready to start the Bronze Award. Well done to all.

Trying Out New Things in D&T

The Design & Technology department has been busy with numerous clubs running this term. The students who have attended have shown great resilience and team work, creating some amazing things!

The new 'SAW Club', specifically for Year 9, has seen students creating metal keyrings with the brazing hearth. Using kinetic sand, extreme heats and molten metal, they have been pewter casting items. Several fabulous metal castings were created and taken home. This club will continue every Week 1 on a Tuesday with anyone in Year 9 welcome. Activities will include electronics, sawing, crafting, quilling and woodwork. All items will be completed in one or two sessions with something to take home; come and see if you enjoy doing something new and learning a new skill.





Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Update

Last year our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors gained accreditation from the Diana Trust for their Anti-Bullying work. They shared their success with all students in assemblies during the Anti-Bullying week on the 14th November. They spoke to students about how bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless but, if we challenge it, we can change it, and it starts by reaching out.

The theme of the week was 'Reach Out'. In assembly the message was clear, anti-bullying awareness doesn't stop with young people. From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a part to play. Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk. Reach out to someone if you know they're being bullied. Reach out by being the change you want to see. It takes courage, but it can change lives.

During the week a large number of students came together and took part in numerous anti-bullying activities to help raise awareness. On Monday 14th November students and staff were encouraged to wear odd socks to school. On Tuesday 15th students took part in a treasure trail around the school. On Thursday lunchtime, students met in the library to make friendship bracelets and to do some mindfulness colouring. To round up the week, 35 students came to an Into Film Club celebrating 'Friendships' and 'Reaching Out' to view the film 'Luca'.



The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have also come up with a schedule of days across the academic year to continue raising awareness as part of their RESPECT action plan.

- Monday 16th January- Martin Luther King Day
- Wednesday 1st February- LGBT+ History Month
- Tuesday 2nd February- Time to Talk
- Tuesday 14th February- Safer Internet Day
- Thursday 2nd March- World Book Day
- Wednesday 8th March- International Women's Day

This work all ties in with our Soar Valley Way. Our final message from the Anti-Bullying Team is 'If you hear or see something you are not happy with- challenge it and REACH OUT'.

Art Club

This year, Year 7 and 8 students have been making their own sketchbook and drawing autumnal natural forms. There is some fantastic talent on show!



Last year's Art Club students can be seen here displaying their charity certificate for money raised selling cards they had made. Well done all.





Active Citizenship

As part of the 'Active Citizenship' element of their course, Year 11 GCSE Citizenship students have organised and led activities after school at Vista's New Wycliffe Home.

The students started their active citizenship projects by interviewing two members of staff from the Wycliffe Home to assess the needs of the residents before planning activities for them. Students then spent lessons and much of their own time planning and making activities which ranged from bingo and quizzes to food tasting and tea parties. Students have forged meaningful links with the Home and integrated with residents, which is what they initially set out to do.

The SVC Eco Team



The SVC Eco Team is up and running again this term. Students from across Years 7-9 volunteered to be part of the important task of getting Soar Valley reaccredited as a Green Flag Eco-School this academic year. Working with the global educational programme, Eco-Schools England, the Eco Team are leading initiatives in school to make us more environmentally friendly. This year's focus will be on healthy living, global citizenship and waste.

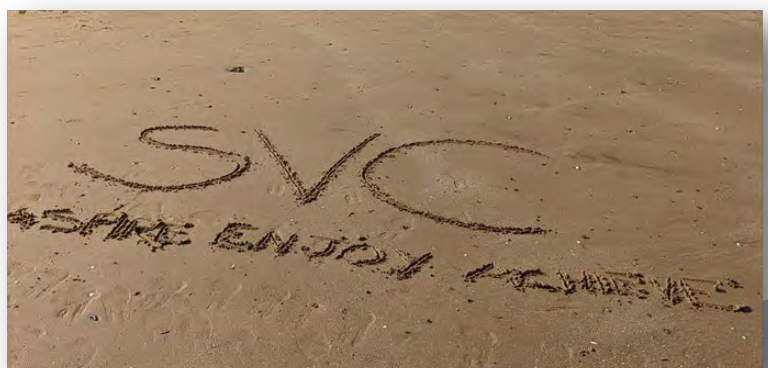
Examples of the work conducted by the Eco Team this half term include:

- Conducted a review of the plastic bottles of water sold during a school day over break and lunch. A phenomenal amount of 273 was recorded. This review has enabled two students from the group to meet with the G4S site manager to lobby for recycled bottle bins to be placed within school.
- Conducted a review of the number of students who bring a sustainable water bottle to school and those who either bring in a bottle that is not sustainable or no bottle at all. Many do not have a sustainable water bottle and so the team now plan to campaign for all students to be issued with one, so there is less plastic to recycle.
- Met with the G4S site manager to see how much food waste there is at SVC. The site manager informed the team that there were 1.03 tonnes of food waste during the month of October. The team now plan to meet with the catering team to look at ways of reducing the food waste. They are also planning to work with the House teams to collate dry food/cans which equate to the amount of food waste we had in October and give it to a local food bank.

There are lots more activities that the Eco Team plan to get involved with next term including visiting and working with a local food bank, visiting a waste recycling plant to gain an insight into the work they do, 'Earth Day' and work within the outdoor spaces at SVC.

Geography Fieldtrips Return!

All Year 11 Geography classes enjoyed a day out at the seaside to carry out their GCSE fieldwork requirements. Our new fieldwork location at Hunstanton, North Norfolk provided the opportunity for our students to carry out both their physical and human fieldwork components and proved to be a really valuable day out.



In the morning, students were able to see coastal processes and management strategies at work, carrying out a range of data collection methods on Hunstanton beach. This included calculating the direction and speed of longshore drift and evaluating the effectiveness of the groyne in trapping sediment on the beach. Despite wet and muddy shoes, we were then able to collect data to help assess the urban sustainability of Hunstanton in the afternoon.

Students represented the school extremely well and we were also able to share our Soar Valley Way on our travels!



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!

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Bronze Award process is well underway for this year. 77 students from Years 9 and 10 have signed up and started to build their online profile, which is a key component of the award. Some of the students have decided to help at our local weekly Parkrun event at Watermead Park as part of their volunteering requirement. They started this on Saturday 3rd December and received a glowing report from the event Director. Well done to all – keep up the good work!



Key Stage 3 Disability Sports Hall Athletics Event

Our team of 8 students from Years 7 and 8 did a fantastic job of representing the school at this great event. Individually, we had some outstanding performances, most notably Jharonel Wells-Williams, 7.8, in the Standing Broad Jump event. Collectively, the team performed well enough to qualify for the county finals. A great achievement – well done, we're very proud of you all.



Year 9 Leadership Academy and Primary Festivals



The Leadership Academy continues to go from strength to strength. We currently have over 50 Year 9 students who have volunteered at a festival this year. The quality of their leadership, their communication skills and their level of empathy with the primary pupils is growing all the time, making each festival a pleasure for all involved.

Our latest two festivals have been a Year 5/6 football festival and a KS2 multi-skills festival, and the feedback from the primary school staff about our leaders has been amazing. A great job, well done everyone.

Visitors from Wyvern Primary School



Dates for Your Diary

We were really pleased to welcome pupils from Wyvern Primary School to our IT/Computer Science department in November. The children completed an introduction to microbots, work they can now follow up at their own school. Thanks to Mrs Mistry for organising the visit.

The BBC 100 Share Your Story Tour



We were delighted to be part of the BBC's celebrations for their 100 year anniversary. We welcomed actor and ex Soar Valley student, Rakhee Thakrar. Rakhee has starred in shows such as Eastenders and Netflix's Sex Education, and shared her story with three year groups. She also answered questions from students and even met up with some of her ex-teachers, who she remembered fondly.



And Finally...

Christmas crackers are a traditional Christmas favourite in the UK. They were first made in the mid-1800s by a London sweet maker called Tom Smith. He had seen sweets wrapped in pretty paper on a trip to Paris in 1840, tried to do the same in England, but they didn't sell very well.

Legend says that, one night, while he was sitting in front of his fire, he became interested in the sparks coming from the fire, and he thought what a fun idea it would be if his sweets and toys could be opened with a crack when their fancy wrappers were pulled in half. This could be just a story of course!

When Tom died, his expanding cracker business was taken over by his three sons, one of whom introduced the idea of hats in the crackers. He also travelled the world looking for ideas for gifts to put in the crackers. There were special crackers for occasions, such as coronations. The British Royal family still has special crackers made for them today!



Have a happy and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing you in 2023!

Parents Evenings

Year 11	January 19 th
Year 8	March 2 nd
Year 10	March 23 rd
Year 7	May 4 th

Term Dates

Autumn Term ends	Friday 16 th December
Spring Term begins	Wednesday 4 th January
Spring Half Term Break	February 20 th – 27 th
Spring Term ends	Friday 31 st March
Summer Term begins	Monday 17 th April
Summer Half Term Break	May 29 th – June 5 th
Summer Term ends	Friday 14 th July

Other Events This Term

Year 11 Targeted Mocks	W/B 6 th February
Year 7—10 Reports Home	Monday 6 th February
Year 9 Options Evening	Thursday 9 th February
'Matilda'	15 th to 17 th February
Year 9 Options Deadline	Friday 10 th March
Year 11 Reports Home	Friday 24 th March