



# Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**

Newsletter

Summer Term

July 2024

## Message from the Principal

As yet another busy and very successful year draws to a close I would like to thank everyone for your support and commitment to making Soar Valley the great place that it is! This includes parents, teachers, support staff, students, governors, visitors, and everyone else connected with the school in any way.

We have now completed our first year in our Trust, Aspire Learning Partnerships, and have seen both schools, Soar Valley and The City of Leicester College, go from strength to strength. Here at Soar Valley we have seen our students continue to thrive, developing both academically and in character, growing into the young people of the future. We await examination results with bated breath, but are confident in the fact that many of our students worked exceptionally hard and definitely aspired to do their very best, well done!

At the end of this term we say au revoir to a few staff, some of whom have been with us for many years. We wish a very happy retirement to Ms Grainger (Music), very well-deserved after 35 years at SVC! We also bid farewell to Mrs Currie (Cover Manager, with us for 24 years, moving north), Mrs Newbery (Assistant Principal, successfully gaining a promoted post), Mr S. Patel (Mathematics, moving to teach post-16), Mrs James (Teaching Assistant, moving to be closer to family) and Mr Tory (IT Technician, also moving for a promoted post). We have a number of temporary staff leaving us – Miss Stafford (Art), Miss Pandya and Mr H. Patel (D&T), Ms Scott (English), Miss Joshy (Teaching Assistants), and Ms Malekar (Science Technician). Our warmest and sincere thanks go to all of these staff who, whether they have been with us for just one year or for a LOT longer, and whatever the role, have been committed to ensuring our students have the highest quality of education.

We are fully staffed for next academic year, having appointed some high quality staff to fill vacancies. Recruitment is not easy at the moment, and the success is testament to the school's excellent reputation.

In other staffing news, a key change for next academic year is that Mr Oxspring, currently Head of Year 8, will be moving to an academic leadership role in History, and his pastoral role will now be taken by Ms Rodway. Ms Rodway is an excellent and very experienced teacher, and I know she will work very effectively with all to ensure the year group are a great success.

Mrs Withers, one of our most established Associate Heads of Year, will also be taking on another role next year, that of Attendance Improvement Officer. Whilst attendance levels at SVC are very high, and well above national figures, we are never complacent and Mrs Withers will be working with other key staff to further improve this. Our new Associate Head of Year for next year's Year 10 is Mrs Collins, a current member of staff with whom many of the students will be familiar.

We look forward to seeing the students back after the summer break on Tuesday August 27<sup>th</sup>, at times which will be shared in an email or text message to parents. In the meantime, we wish all of our readers a very happy and, most importantly, safe summer holiday. Hopefully there will be some sunshine at some point!

Kind regards

Mrs J. Robinson

## Spotlight on Safeguarding

During the summer holidays young people may have more time online and it can be daunting as parents to know how best to support your child.

The most important thing is to talk to your child regularly about online safety and to get to know the things that they engage with online.

Here are some excellent links to resources to support parents in managing this issue:

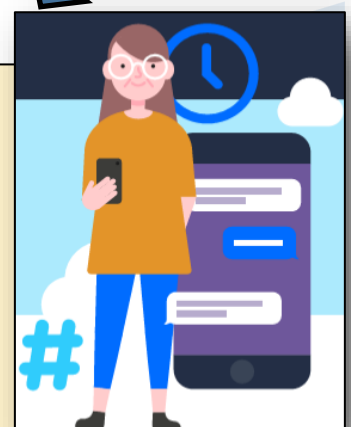
[LiveSafe](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[CEOP](#)

[Internet Matters- apps guide](#)

[Internet Matters- guides](#)



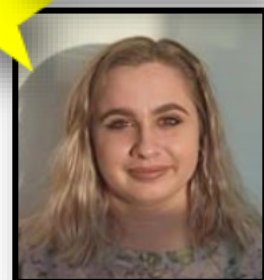


## The House System @SVC

The final half term of this year has most definitely been a busy one full of lots of different house activities. From debates to sports competitions, our students have showcased their talents, skills, and teamwork in an impressive display of school spirit.

### Debate Competition

A particular highlight was the Year 9 and 10 Debate Competition which saw students addressing the question, 'Should the whole world be forced to be vegan?'. Students from all houses came together to share their opinions and engage in lively discussions, and the level of maturity, knowledge and passion demonstrated by our students was truly impressive. The debate saw great arguments and lively rebuttals throughout: well done to all that took part!



### Interhouse Sports: Softball

There has been a series of brilliant interhouse sport matches this half term including endball [a variation on netball] and a particularly competitive Year 10 softball competition in which Abbey proved victorious!

Themed house events are a speciality at Soar Valley including the National Numeracy Day relay race making its debut. The Key Stage 3 narrative writing competition had some exciting student entries, with the winners being chosen by our judge from the LA's Creative Learning Services. Overall Victoria were victorious so a big well done to Denson in 7.5.

### Olympian Efforts

In a thrilling display of knowledge and teamwork, Beacon House took the top spot in our recent Olympic-themed quiz competition! During form time students from all houses tested their skills and knowledge to see which house could reign supreme. The quiz was a thrilling celebration of the upcoming summer Olympics, with questions covering a range of topics from sports and athletes to Olympic cities. Beacon House emerged victorious, showing off their impressive knowledge and quick thinking. We can't wait to see how our national team will do when the real Olympics kick off this summer, and we hope our students will be following the event.

### Olympic House Competition Results

Rank	House	House points
1 <sup>st</sup>	Beacon	150 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Victoria	120 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bradgate	100 pts
4 <sup>th</sup>	Castle	90 pts
5 <sup>th</sup>	Watermead	85 pts
6 <sup>th</sup>	Abbey	80 pts







# Six Houses, One Community, Thousands of Opportunities

## Library Competitions

In the varied Library House competitions, we saw some outstanding displays of creativity and skill. The final results are in for Reading Rampage, the Year 7 and 8 reading challenge. Watermead took first place for the total number of book reviews, with 7.5 having the highest number of participants overall, a big well done to them. One of the tasks was to create a book in a jar, and Sahia [7.9] won with 'House Trap', a truly imaginative creation, and secured the number one spot for Abbey House.

In our comic book story competition to celebrate World Comic Day, Amani and Sumayia from 10.12 secured a win for Watermead with some fantastic illustrations from Sukhleen in 8.11. It was an amazing entry which really showcased their artistic talents and skills. Finally, in our bookmark design competition, Sukhbir from 10.7 took first prize with a truly creative design that showed inspiration and creativity and got another win for Abbey.

Place	House	Reviews	Participants
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Watermead	22 reviews	150
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Castle	31 reviews	120
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Bradgate	20 reviews	110
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Abbey	14 reviews	100
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Victoria	13 reviews	90
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	Beacon	8 reviews	85

Why not pick up a SUMMER READING CHALLENGE sheet from the library and earn some early participation points for your house next academic year.

## Year 6: Getting into the House Spirit

On July 3<sup>rd</sup> we welcomed the Year 6 students joining Year 7 to Soar Valley for Transition Day. They competed in their forms to represent their new houses in a series of problem solving and team building activities. This included new age curling, marble runs, toxic waste challenge and a game of 'The Floor is Lava'. The winners on the day were Victoria, closely followed by Watermead. We are looking forward to seeing them all compete against each other next year; they definitely have the competitive Soar Valley spirit!



## And finally...

As we approach the end of the school year, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements and memories created by everyone who contributed to the House system. A huge thank you to the staff and students who made this the best year ever for the Houses by demonstrating the values of teamwork, friendship and determination.

From interhouse sport competitions to charity initiatives, the Houses have come together to make a positive impact on the school community over the course of this academic year. We have seen students from all backgrounds and of all abilities come together to support one another, fostering an environment of inclusivity and respect. We're incredibly proud of every student who has participated in our House system this year, whether it is through representing their House in sports matches, leading events, or simply being a supportive peer to their fellow House members. Your hard work and enthusiasm have made this year truly unforgettable!

**Have a restful and well-deserved holiday.**

# Sports Day 2024



What a fantastic day! The college grounds were transformed into a carnival of sport, with KS3 students participating in a wide variety of inclusive and fun events, including seated volleyball, football, relay rowing, golf chipping, fairground fun and dodgeball. With students dressed in their House colours, waving banners and cheering on their friends it created a lively festival atmosphere that was a delight to behold. Nonetheless, this was a competition between the Houses and the rivalry was fierce, particularly between the Heads of Houses. After rotating through 4 zones and taking part in 25 different events the competition concluded with one overall winner - Beacon!!

Year 7 Winner: **Beacon**

Year 8 Winner: **Beacon**

Year 9 Winner: **Beacon**

Overall Winner: **Beacon**



Well done to all of Key Stage 3 for participating with fantastic team spirit and being gracious in both victory and defeat. You were a credit to the school. Thank you to all staff who enthusiastically supported on the day. Without you the event would not be possible.



## County Athletics Success

Following their success at the City Championships in May, we took a 7 strong contingent to represent the City at the County Championships on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June. 4 of the 7 students came away with a medal! We are over the moon for them, particularly as there was such strong competition from all of the Leicestershire districts.



Naseema 7.3 won the U13 Girls Javelin

Maxwell 7.6 finished third in the U13 Boys Long Jump

Dhrudip 10.6 finished third in the Inter Boys Javelin

Sukhbir 10.7 finished third in the Inter Girls Long Jump

Jay (7.1), Krish (10.1) and Ishani (9.8) also represented the City with enormous credit.

## Girls Cricket Success

Our Under 13 Girls Cricket team are officially the second best team in Leicestershire! We are so proud of them. In the County Championship group stages they won all of their matches but narrowly lost to Lutterworth College in the final (a team that they had had already beaten!)

On Monday July 1<sup>st</sup> they travelled to the Regional Finals to represent Leicestershire and got to play on the pitch at Trent Bridge!

The girls U13 cricket team came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Chance to Shine Leicestershire Cricket Competition on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June. This meant they qualified for the regional finals and had the exciting opportunity to represent Leicestershire and play at Nottingham County Cricket Club. The girls had a fabulous experience looking round the test ground and playing on the pitch. Well done girls!



## Gold again!

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award 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 into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

With an enormous number of young people competing in local intra and inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work and commitment of the students has been rewarded this year.

A special thanks to the PE department for all of your hard work, enthusiasm and dedication, without you none of this would be possible. We look forward to applying once again in 2025!





## Year 7 Girls Rounders

The Year 7 girls rounders team played in two tournaments this term. They improved in skills and tactics throughout the two tournaments and eventually finished in second place. Well done to all that played.

## 12 Hour Sports Event

On Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, the 39 Year 10 students below took part in our 12 Hour Sports Event. They were all in the Netball Centre by 6.30am, ready for the big start at 7.00am. Each student was part of a team and they played the following 6 sports for 2 hours each: Short Tennis, Rounders, Basketball, Netball, Football and Ultimate Frisbee. The 4 teams were superbly led by the captains – Taib, Dhruvip, Ousmaane and Aden. The standard throughout the day was absolutely fantastic, with everybody contributing to their team. As the hours passed, it became clear that the Yellow and the Blue team were in a battle for first place, and the Red and the Green team were fighting for third. The final order at the end of 12 gruelling hours was:

First Place: Yellow  
 Second Place: Blue  
 Third Place: Red  
 Fourth Place: Green



All the students raised sponsorship money for the event – all of which will go to Cancer Research UK. Between them, they have managed to raise a staggering **£3300.68**. This really does make a fantastic day even better. Well done to each and every one of you – you should be very proud of your achievement. Huge thanks to the PE Department for organising this and to all the staff who came over during the day to offer their support to the students.

The teams:

Red	Green	Yellow	Blue
<b>Taib 10.11(C)</b>	<b>Dhruvip Mahesh (C)</b>	<b>Aden 10.4 (C)</b>	<b>Ousmaane 10.5 (C)</b>
Asiya 10.9	Sukhbir 10.7	Tia 10.6	Aisha 10.4
Krishna 10.8	Nikita 10.11	Ameerah 10.8	Richa 10.12
Regan 10.11	Zayd 10.12	Riyan 10.11	Marwan 10.5
Abdoulkarime 10.12	Jankil 10.9	Devak 10.1	Dhruv 10.4
Krish 10.1	Rasheed 10.3	Jay 10.7	Anish 10.1
Dharmik 10.7	Dev G 10.7	Sharad 10.1	Khushal 10.6
Aymen 10.12	Prince 10.2	Shaheer 10.5	Jaymin 10.6
Harshal 10.8	Jaineel 10.12	Joshua 10.6	Kacper 10.5
Sukhcharan 10.7	Varun 10.11		Andrei 10.11



# Careers Round Up

## World of Work Week 2024

We are very pleased to be delivering World of Work Week for our Year 10 students from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

World of Work Week aims to provide students with an insight into the world of work. Through workshops, visits and employer encounters students will develop key employability skills to help them transition into Year 11 and to prepare them for their life after Soar Valley College.

During the week, students will write a CV, have a mock interview with an employer, speak with a range of professionals from a range of different industries, visit a workplace and gain further understanding of their own skill set, all of which aims to stand our Year 10 students in good stead for the start of their college application process in September.

We wish our Year 10 students lots of luck for the week and trust that they will approach all opportunities with a high level of professionalism.

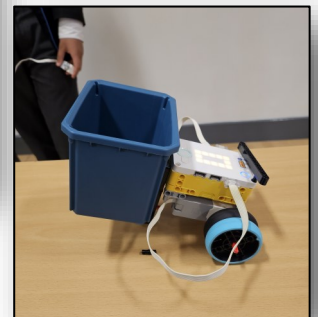


## Robotics Day

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July Year 8 students took part in a STEM Robotics session where students had the opportunity to design, build and program their own Robots. The students constructed a Robot and used coding software to create a route for the robot to travel. Once programmed, the students modified their designs by incorporating motors and sensors enabling their robots to take on missions such as lifting and moving objects.

The students had an incredible experience and were praised for their ability to: think for themselves, work as a team, calculate a mathematical problem in their heads before programming it into their robots along with their high levels of focus, enthusiasm and determination.

This workshop gave students the opportunity to really enhance their skills and inspire them to become the next generation of engineers.



## Industry Day

As one of the Industry Day visits for WOW week, some Year 10 students had the privilege to spend the day at Leicester Tigers.

The day consisted of learning about what life is like working in the sports and leisure industry, playing some inclusive sports and having a tour around the stadium and facilities. Students were also treated to a Q&A with some senior academy players hearing first-hand what it takes to make it as an athlete!



Should you have any questions, please do email; [careers@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk](mailto:careers@soarvalley.aspirelp.uk)



# 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.

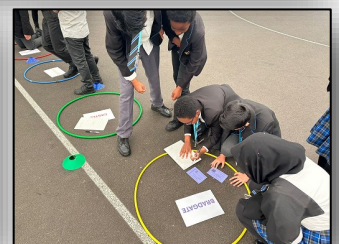
## National Numeracy Day Relay

As part of the National Numeracy Day celebrations, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May brought about Soar Valley's first National Numeracy Day relay race, where 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. To add a little extra competition, students could double their points by shooting a ball into a basket.

Watermead took the title for Year 7, whilst Bradgate pipped Abbey to the post for Year 8; a mighty achievement by all who participated though!

The event was a triumph enjoyed by all! We look forward to next year's race to see if our winning teams can retain their titles!



## Speak Up!

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July, Speak Up Drama students who have been working on the project all of this academic year had the opportunity to celebrate their work when students and staff travelled to Curve, Soar Valley College's partner theatre to spend the day with the 6 other Leicestershire schools taking part in the project this year.

Students took part in creative workshops in the morning and afternoon and shared a lovely lunch provided by Curve. During the afternoon, all schools congregated in the auditorium to share the successes of the year of Speak Up.

Huge congratulations to all Speak Up students for a great year of fantastically creative work. Speak Up will continue next academic year.

## Spelling Bee

Earlier this term, Yashee 7.5 took part in the national final for the French Spelling Bee at the University of Cambridge. She competed against schools from all over England and had 1 minute to translate and spell as many words as possible from a list of 300 possible words.

Yashee was amongst the final 96 students out of the 17,904 that took part in the competition: a truly amazing statistic! She really was incredible having worked super hard throughout the year. Yashee did herself and Soar Valley very proud.





## Eco Club update

The Eco Club have finished off the year by selling off some of the produce they have been growing. They ran an afterschool event by selling an array of plants such as sunflowers, parsley, chives, thyme and tomatoes. Other produce in the allotment like carrots and parsnips were not quite ready so will therefore be sold off at a later time.

With the money raised from both the plant sale and cake sales earlier in the year, the team raised £70.00 which has been sent off to the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature).

The team have worked really hard over this academic year and have completed everything that was set out on their action plan. After submitting this year's evidence and application, we now await a reply from Eco Schools to see how we have been accredited for this year's work.



## Geography Fieldtrip

Year 10 Geography students experienced the delights of the British seaside on their recent fieldwork visits to Hunstanton, Norfolk. Over 140 students attended the trip over 2 days. Students carried out data collection as part of their geographical enquiry for both their physical and human components of familiar fieldwork required for the OCR B examinations.



The physical fieldwork investigated the effectiveness of coastal management strategies along Hunstanton Beach. This involved students getting their hands and feet a little wet and sandy by measuring the speed of longshore drift, the build up of sediment either side of the groyne and measuring the size of lots 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. Obviously, being day trippers ourselves, we made sure that we did what all tourists do and made the most of sampling the local chips and ice-cream! The students were a credit to the school and definitely succeeded in demonstrating the "enjoy" core value of the Soar Valley Way!

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

Many thanks to all the Geography teachers involved in the trip and making it such a success.

## Watermead Country Park

To celebrate the success of our Year 7 students completing their first year at Soar Valley College, the students all went on a lovely walk to Watermead Park. The walk was long but the students were resilient and had a lot of fun on the way; they went to see the mammoth, climbed through a rope bridge and even took a slide down a hill!

As well as the walk, students took part in a 'Wacky Sports Day'; we had students completing an elephant race, tug of war and even a wacky relay! Overall, the students were able to continue to develop their character and build resilience, understand the importance of teamwork and demonstrate kindness throughout the day.

We thoroughly enjoyed the day, the students' behaviour was superb and the weather was great too! We wish Year 7 a lovely summer break and can't wait to see them in Year 8.



# Active Citizenship

## Year 8 Active Citizen Project

The 3 winning forms from the 'Dragons Den' style project completed their fundraising events during this half term. The fundraising took part over a Friday lunchtime and was well attended by both Year 7 and 8 students.

- Form 8.10 raised £29.00 making silk flowers to sell to students in school, with proceeds going to the charity 'Make a Wish'.
- Form 8.6 raised £89.50 by sponging the teacher, both Ms Bloxson and Miss Underwood had many sponges thrown at them during the course of the event and came away extremely wet! All proceeds are on the way to the 'Midlands Air Ambulance'.
- Form 8.3 raised £66.80 for their chosen charity 'Wishes for Kids'. They had many small stalls for their fundraising which involved a cake stall, blindfold hook a duck and basketball shots to name but a few.

All 3 forms worked extremely hard to put their fundraising events together which were all a great success on the day.

## Year 10 Active Citizenship Project

This year, all Year 10 students have taken part in an Active Citizenship activity. At the beginning of the year, the students chose from 5 groups: International, Hope, Green, Environment and Thanks. During the year all Year 10 students took part in chain reaction activities that led to some fantastic outcomes not only for our school community but also for our local and international communities.

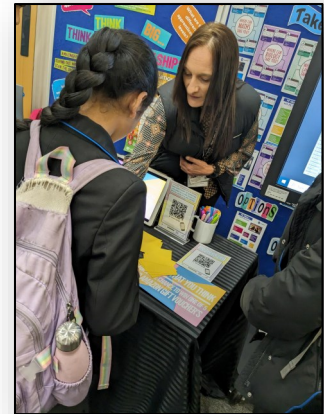
The International team led a 'News Day' attended by over 150 students across the school and supported by three local journalists from the Documentary Media Centre. In total, 16 year 10 students independently planned, managed and led the event. Students and staff had the opportunity to engage in real investigative journalism and used media equipment to produce a podcast on the themes of genocide, conflict, fake news and women empowerment.

The Hope team visited the Hope Hub in Wigston to donate £120 that was raised over 6 cake sales during the academic year. Some students were involved in baking, whilst others helped to sell the cakes. A group of 12 students visited the Hope Hub to learn about the work done there to support refugee families. Our Year 10 and Year 8 anti-bullying ambassadors also delivered an assembly on Refugee Awareness week and spoke eloquently about the positive contributions refugees have on their host countries.

The Environment team have done a fantastic job with litter picking within the school grounds, the allotment and at Watermead Park. Their hard work was noticed and particularly appreciated by the park rangers at Watermead Park following the floods.

The Green team have been active in the school allotment this year and have planted crops such as strawberries, lettuce, garlic, potatoes and broad beans. This group collected an early crop in June and their produce was delivered to the community food bank and kitchen for vulnerable adults and families at Kings Coffee House, Leicester.

The Thanks team have identified local support services over the year that have helped our students. Student teams have then sent thank you cards and gifts to these services for their input and help. The Thanks team have also been active in promoting a Mental Health Online Directory for Youth. The directory is planned to be launched across Leicestershire by the NHS in Aug 2024. However, our students have piloted a launch in school and have started to promote this amongst different year groups.





## Mock Election

As part of our commitment to fostering a culture of active citizenship and civic engagement, Soar Valley held a mock general election in the run-up to the UK's General Election. We shared the various parties' manifestoes during a special assembly and then encouraged students to vote during their lunchtime.

This unique opportunity allowed them to exercise their right to participate in the democratic process and have their voices heard. The event was a resounding success, with a significant turnout of students from across the year groups eager to make their mark on the outcome.



By participating in this mock election our students demonstrated an understanding of the importance of democracy and the value of every individual's voice in shaping the future of our country. This experience aligns with our school's commitment to promoting British Values, specifically respect, tolerance, and active participation in the democratic process.



## Dates for Your Diary



Parents' Evenings	
Year 9	Thursday November 21 <sup>st</sup>
Year 11	Thursday January 16 <sup>th</sup>
Year 8	Thursday February 27 <sup>th</sup>
Year 10	Thursday April 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Year 7	Thursday May 8 <sup>th</sup>
Term Dates	
<b>Bank Holiday [CLOSED]</b>	Monday August 26 <sup>th</sup>
Autumn Term begins	Tuesday August 27 <sup>th</sup>
Autumn Half Term Break	October 21 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Training Day [CLOSED]</b>	Friday November 1 <sup>st</sup>
Autumn Term ends	Friday December 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Training Day [CLOSED]</b>	Monday January 6 <sup>th</sup>
Spring Term begins	Tuesday January 7 <sup>th</sup>
Spring Half Term Break	February 17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Training Day [CLOSED]</b>	Monday March 31 <sup>st</sup>
Spring Term ends	Friday April 11 <sup>th</sup>
Summer Term begins	Monday April 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Bank Holiday [CLOSED]</b>	Monday May 5 <sup>th</sup>
Summer Half Term Break	May 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>
Summer Term ends	Friday July 11 <sup>th</sup>
Other Events Next Half Term	
Y11 Information Evening	Tuesday September 10 <sup>th</sup>
Y10 KS4 Transition Evening	
Open Evening	Thursday September 19 <sup>th</sup>
French Residential Trip	September 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>
Post 16 Evening	Wednesday October 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Year 7 Reports home	Thursday October 17 <sup>th</sup>
Year 11 Reports home	Friday October 18 <sup>th</sup>

It was heartening to see students engaging with political issues, forming their own opinions, and exercising their right to vote. This event not only helped to educate our students about the electoral process but also instilled in them a sense of responsibility, empowering them to take an active role in shaping their community and society as a whole.