



South
Nottinghamshire
Academy



NEWSLETTER | JULY 2023

Pushing our boundaries to achieve more



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Southnottsacademy



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Is it really that time of year again? With days left until the summer holidays, it is a great time to highlight some of the fantastic work that students and staff have been involved with. In this edition you can read about students' participation in Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, reading events, music showcases, sports competitions, Eco-Committee developments, work experience, careers events, Year 11 prom, as well as trips and visits to London, Southwell Minster Workhouse and universities – and some of our Year 10 students are currently in Paris, France.



On reflection, this year has been incredibly successful. This term, we have hosted four new House award evenings to the school calendar and our annual Excellence Evening returned. These events saw over 350 students rewarded for their wider contributions to the school, as well as their academic achievements.



Over the last few months, our Year 11 and Year 13 students have successfully completed their GCSE and A Level examinations. We don't believe that they could have worked any harder or been any better prepared, and we are confident that that will secure some exceptionally positive individual and cohort results. On the theme of Year 11, one of the highlights of this year was our annual prom event. At SNA, we pride ourselves that not only do we do a traditional evening event (at the

Nottinghamshire Golf Club), but we also involve the whole school community in an afternoon event at school that inspires all.



In September 2023, our new Year 7 intake will be 180 students and whilst we are increasing in size, both senior leaders and governors are confident that we can maintain and improve what is unique to SNA. In managing sustainable growth, we have added to our staffing provision, developed our curriculum model and we continue to enhance our facilities.

As we have a restless drive for improvement and a passion for ensuring the best possible provision for every student, we will be developing our offer in September. Our school uniform continues to enhance our overall ethos and we will continue to ensure high expectations of student behaviour and conduct. We would like to thank parents for your ongoing support of our great school and politely remind you of these expectations in preparation of a new school year.

Finally, I hope that together we can drive the school forwards to even greater heights next year and I wish you a restful, relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

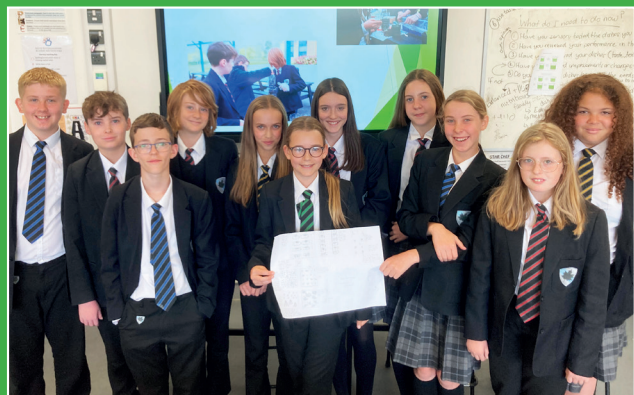
Mr D Philpotts  @Head_SNA

REDHILL
ACADEMY TRUST 

Equality and Achievement

Eco

The Eco-Committee has continued their biodiversity work on the school grounds. Planting out their vegetables into larger pots and monitoring their growth. The team has been working hard to put together their School Garden Project idea which, thanks to funding from our wonderful Parent committee SNAPS, is well on the way to becoming a reality. We look forward to watching them create SNA's very own vegetable patch and garden area out on the school grounds.

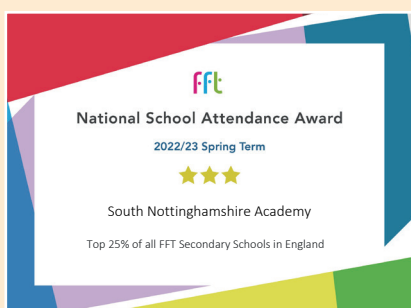


Attendance

As you'll be aware, schools nationally have been working tirelessly with the communities they serve to try to restore school attendance to pre-pandemic levels. The importance of school attendance has an obvious correlation with achievement and life chances. Attendance instils a sense of discipline, responsibility, and time management, which are valuable traits that will benefit students now, and in the future. By attending school regularly, our students are reaping the benefits of a well-rounded education.

Currently, the national average for whole school attendance in secondary schools is 90.8%. The picture for students who are persistently absent (less than 90%) in secondary schools is 27%.

We are thrilled to share a positive update regarding school attendance at SNA, with the school being above the national average for both whole school attendance and persistent absence. This is a huge achievement and is testament to the hard work of staff, parents and students.



Furthermore, South Nottinghamshire Academy has received national recognition due to our attendance being in the top 25% of similar schools nationally.

But the hard work is not over. Next year, the priority for our school is to increase the focus on students who are regularly absent and given our achievements this year, we are confident that further improvements will be seen.

It is important to remind parents that holidays or periods of extended absences during term time will not be authorised, in line with Department for Education guidelines. Unauthorised absences, including family holidays, may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued by Nottinghamshire County Council.

It is important to note that penalties are enforced by the local education authority, and the decision to issue them rests with them, rather than with the school itself.

We understand that exceptional circumstances may arise that necessitate a period of absence during term time. In such cases, we urge you to contact the school in advance to discuss your situation. We will carefully consider each request based on the circumstances presented.

Houses Class Charts Points

Robson
34525 Points

Waddington
34082 Points

Logan
33376 Points

Keele
31538 Points



SNA Vacancies

Visit the Vacancies page on our website to find out what opportunities are available.

Or for more information, please email e.punter@snacademy.org.uk





SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ACADEMY

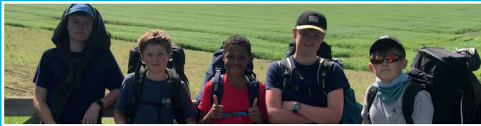
DofE expedition season 2023 is well under way with 58 students completing their Bronze expedition in the Vale on a very hot, sunny weekend - a great achievement of graft and dedication.

In July, silvers went for their practice and finals in the beautiful White Peaks and the gold students have completed their practice in the Dark Peaks before scaling the idyllic hills of the lakes at the end of the term. We wish all these students the very best of luck.

Mrs Hawksworth and the DofE Team



Please follow us on Twitter @DofeSna
See www.dofe.org.uk for more information.



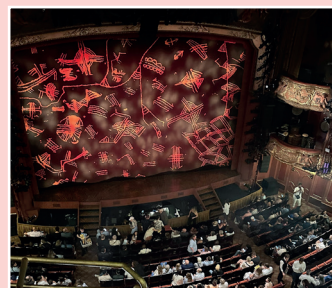
Londinium

In July, Year 9 enjoyed a magical two - day trip to the capital and experienced some of the most exciting elements of this historic city. A carefully choreographed programme of events began on the London Eye with a bird's eye view of historic landmarks. Next stop: the National Gallery. Students took part in a quiz that directed them to iconic artwork from Holbein to Van Gogh! Covent Garden for sightseeing and shopping before a light evening meal ahead of the main event - 'The Lion King' in the West End. The show surpassed all expectations and had us singing in the aisles!



On day two, we were off to the Science museum and for some, an unforgettable experience in a flight simulator. A highlight for many was a riverboat cruise along the Thames, where we learned about the historic buildings and saw close up Shakespeare's Globe, the Houses of Parliament and the Tower of London, to name but a few.

Students and staff had a tremendous time and returned home with many happy memories. Thanks to the staff for their energy and ensuring students were always safe. A special thanks to Mrs Sharpe for organising, coordinating and managing both London trips! She is already scoping out next year's trip... **This year's London trips truly were sublime!**



Careers

SNAid were runners up in the Regional Finals, 4 awards across this year and Nottingham Post's Spotlight Project!

SNAid swooped another 3 awards at the Regional Finals of the Next Gen Leaders programme in May.



Ayva H won Changemaker of the Year, SNAid won the Reducing Inequalities Award, and the team were overall runners up for their focus on Meaningful Occupations – raising the awareness of the barriers that people with Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties face and their struggles to access the world of work. Earlier in the year, SNAid won the Specsavers Marketing Campaign and they have been chosen for the Spotlight Project for 2023 which will feature in the Nottingham Post. Team SNAid have shown commitment to a project and have demonstrated courage and determination throughout the programme, becoming dynamic changemakers who have made a difference within their community. Mrs Caunt has thoroughly enjoyed working with Ayva, Noah, Elinor and Rowan (Year 10) and Zoe and Leah (Year 9). Recruitment for SNAid Gen3 will commence in the autumn.



Whole School Careers and Aspirations Fair 2023

What can we say! Our biggest ever event of the year, packed with employers, universities, charities, colleges and training providers. There were 73 in total. Each offered mini Have a Go experiences, as well as information and guidance about routes into HE/FE and the world of work and apprenticeships. We were thrilled to host two Alumni students (S Kitchener - Aston Martin Degree Apprentice) and A Cooper (Ryanair Cabin Crew).



Super Learners – Year 9

A group of 21 super learners took part in a week of careers learning recently, helping them to understand more about post 16 and 18 options. The group enjoyed a look inside the University of Nottingham, where they learnt how university life really is for all, with a focus on student finance, uni life and ambassador engagement. They undertook a range of activities and a campus tour.



University Information Evening – KS4 and KS5

On 22nd June, universities were invited into school for our University Information Evening which students in Years 10-12 and their parents were invited. Several top universities along with two degree apprenticeship providers took part. Nottingham Trent University opened the evening, with a talk about Considering University, Student Finance and other HE topics. We received positive feedback and we will build on this for next year. **Thank you to:** Uni of Nottingham, NTU, Northampton Uni, Lincoln Uni, Bishop Grosseteste Uni, Aston Uni, Lancaster Uni, Derby Uni, Huddersfield Uni, Coventry Uni, Civil Service and NTU Degree apprenticeships.



Year 10 Careers Themed Week

During Careers Themed Week, students learned about post 16 and 18 options. University of Leeds and our Enterprise Adviser, J Monaghan, spoke about The Power of You. A Nottingham Trent University trip plus Social Impact Enterprise Day from Skills Builder took place. Students learned how to prepare a CV and interview skills, labour market information, mock interviews and meaningful conversations with employers. As financial literacy is vital in today's modern world, Equifax ran a Money Wise workshop. The whole week was mapped to the Gatsby benchmarks, ensuring students experienced a wide range of opportunities, and help focus on future aspirations and skills for their journey through life.



Year 12 Work Experience

Year 12 will be out on placement this term. We are most grateful to our employer links across the local and wider area. Our wider careers programme will bring Year 12 into the mock interview day and after their work experience week, they will be supported by external providers who will lead workshops about the Power of LinkedIn, Money Wise and Psychometric Assessments in the recruitment process.

If you wish to support our careers programme, please email Mrs Louise Caunt L.caunt@snacademy.org.uk



Knowing you all and seeing you flourish through challenge and enjoyment is a privilege for anyone working in a school environment, and we are confident that you will all go on to do something very special. I hope you look back with pride on your time here and reflect on all the good times that you have experienced. We wish you all the very best for the future and look forward to seeing the majority of you in the Sixth Form.

Music

We have had a brilliant summer term in the music department, it is always our busiest time of year!

The samba band performed at the Radcliffe on Trent Infant School Fair and also at the Radcliffe Carnival. Two bands performed at RadFest as well as a solo set by Ewan M. Their songs were well received by the audience and this community event is a great place for them to perform live.



Our musicians also performed at the Excellence Evening. The woodwind players provided welcome music during the drinks reception and a vocal group performed a beautiful rendition of 'Circle of Life' during the evening.

Music events this summer included the annual Music Department Summer Concert as well as performing in our feeder primary schools. We have also introduced two



new events this summer: Tune Up Live for our pop / rock musicians and a piano recital concert to give a range of students the opportunity to perform to an audience.

It has been a productive term in curriculum music lessons. Year 8 students have been learning to play popular songs in groups and Year 9 students continue to develop their composition skills. Year 7 students are challenging themselves in every lesson, learning to read sheet music and playing film music themes on the keyboard. Their determination has been admirable. It was also great to teach Year 6 students on their transition day. We have many great musicians are joining us in September!

Finally, we congratulate the following students on their exam results from this year: Esme A (clarinet grade 4), Ben B (saxophone grade 4), Robyn D (clarinet grade 3), Bethany H (clarinet grade 3), Henry L (drum kit grade 8), Rory L (piano initial grade), Jamie P (saxophone grade 4), Lara P (violin grade 1), Troy P (vocals grade 3), Ruby R (guitar grade 5), Amos S (piano grade 1), Harriet S (flute grade 2), Emma F (piano grade 3) and Annabel D (flute grade 3).

Follow us on Twitter @Music_SNA and / or Instagram @Music_SNA2 for regular updates, photos and videos.

Sports

KS3 Trust Summer Games



Our KS3 Trust Summer Games team travelled to Tupton Hall School to participate in a competition against the other Trust Schools. Competitions included rowing, quad athletics, rounders and tug of war. All students were a credit to SNA, working hard to overcome competitors from other schools.

Year 7 Cricket Team



Our Year 7s eight-a-side cricket team participated in the Rushcliffe School's cricket competition. They played against some strong competition and finished in 6th place.

Year 9 Cricket Team



Our Year 9 hardball cricket team took part in the county competition. Convincingly beating Toothill, but narrowly missing out to Arnold Hill finishing second in the group.

Year 8 Cricket Team



The Year 8 cricket team recently represented SNA in the Rushcliffe Schools competition. They finished in 6th place after beating Southwolds and narrowly missing out on wins against West Bridgford and Becket. Well done!



London Youth Rowing

We were lucky to be visited by a rowing coach from London Youth Rowing. Pupils were given the opportunity to participate in taster sessions, with a view to attending an after-school club on Thursdays. We are entered into the National Schools Indoor Rowing competition in the new academic year. Pupils who might want to represent SNA at this event should attend the Thursday after school club.

Reading

A hugely successful year for reading.
well done, SNA!

SNA students have continued to show their exceptional enthusiasm for reading. SNA were the proud winners of the Redhill Trust Big Quiz beating a number of schools in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. This phenomenal achievement sums up the remarkable achievements that SNA students have had this year with reading. In total, SNA students have read an incredible 88,448,675 words compared to 33,430,094 words last year. This means we have more than doubled our total word count this academic year. Below are some of the reading events and celebrations that have happened this term. Well done SNA!

Readathon 2023

In March, SNA celebrated World Book Day and our annual reading festival. During this time, Year 7 and 8 raised money for Read for Good. We are proud to announce that SNA raised an incredible £540. Thank you to every student who participated in the fundraiser and to anyone who donated.



Carnegie YOTO Awards

The Yoto Carnegies are the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards. As part of this, SNA formed a Yoto Carnegie Book Club where students met and discussed this year's shortlist. Our group chose 'I Must Betray You', by Ruta Sepetys and 'The Light In Everything', by Katya Balen as their favourites. There were also votes cast for 'Medusa', by Jessie Burton, and 'The Blue Book of Nebo', by Manon Steffan Ros.



On Wednesday 21st June, the members of the Yoto Carnegie Book Club met for lunch in the library to watch the final awards ceremony. The readers who voted online in the 2023 Shadowers' Choice Awards chose 'I Must Betray You', by Ruta Sepetys, for the Shadowers' Choice Medal for Writing, and the judges chose 'The Blue Book of Nebo', by Manon Steffan Ros, for the 2023 Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing.

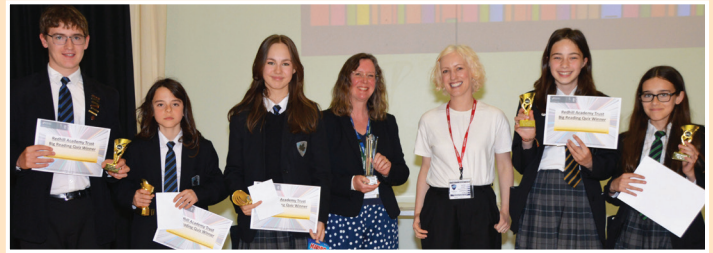
A huge well done to our team for reading, critiquing and exploring this year's shortlist.

Reader Leaders

At SNA, we have a fantastic reading leaders programme that is led by Year 10 and Year 12s. The students leading the programme have been outstanding this year. They have been punctual, responsible and have shown exceptional



leadership skills. A huge thank you to the Year 10s and 12s leading the programme for our KS3 students.



Redhill Trust Big Quiz

We are thrilled to announce that South Nottinghamshire Academy were the proud winners of this year's Redhill Trust Big Quiz awards. A huge congratulations to our SNA team!

Each school in the Redhill Academy Trust ran three rounds of the quiz: in tutor groups, in each house and then a school final in the library, to find the five students in their school who were the most knowledgeable about books. Our school team was made up of Ewan from Year 7, Sylvie in Year 8, Esme and Franny from Year 9 and Hector in Year 10. All of our students were an absolute credit to the school, concentrating hard on the quiz and taking part in the engaging and stimulating activities organised by our Patron of Reading, Lisa Williamson, an author of novels for young people and also a former student of the Redhill Academy Trust.

The students were presented with a trophy a piece, as well as a £20 book token, a certificate and a packet of sweets. We now have a beautiful glass trophy which the school will keep in pride of place in the trophy cabinet. Another triumph for SNA - well done, everyone!

Lisa Williamson Writing Workshop

Over the last few months, four of our Year 8 students have been participating in creative writing workshops led by our trust patron of reading, Lisa Williamson. The sessions aim to teach students an aspect of creating writing to support their imaginations and craft. Our students produced some exceptional pieces of writing that were shared across all Trust schools. A huge congratulations to the following for taking part: Owen, Emma, Sonny and Harriet.



Get Caught Reading
Congratulations to Isobel W for winning our termly raffle.

Our Word Millionaires!

Well done to all the pupils who have read over a million words: Emma F, Meredith H, Sam P, Phoebe H, Annabelle B, Sylvie M, Owen C, Amy L, George S, Anaelle H, Casey R, Lucy T, Molly A, Lucy W, Orla S, Harriet P, Esme B, Esme A, Sophie B, Hayden M, Mia R, Harriet T and Ewan M.

Our Reading Progress

SNA has celebrated many reading events and victories this year, but fundamentally our aim is to support student's progress of reading. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 on their reading assessments this year – students have shown incredible progress and we are extremely proud.

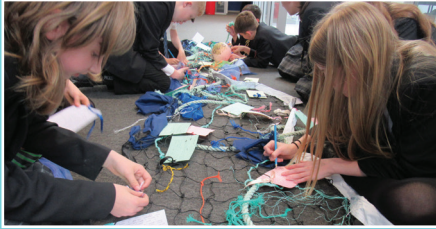
English

A Gabardine of Narratives

As part of their study of Shakespeare's comedy, 'The Tempest', Ms Seaton and Miss Wilkinson's Year 7 English classes took part in a workshop that encouraged them to reimagine their understanding of the play's setting: a bewitching and enchanted Island.

Students worked collaboratively to complete a carousel of four activities that used a variety of 'found' objects washed ashore the beaches of Snowdonia to explore various tropes of descriptive writing. Students particularly enjoyed crafting incantations to chant, giving inanimate objects voices and digging up examples of susurrations from a sandpit.

The magic of the workshop was then brought into the classroom, where students used their new-found skills to craft the narrative of how an object of their choice came to be washed up on the Island. Students then wove the postcards that told the various tales of these travels onto a 'gabardine' made from 'found' objects to create a beautiful installation.



Examples of student work:

The sea, fierce and relenting, clawed at our ship while I pulled on ropes over and over again. The rough material scraped my skin, shredding it to pieces as a colossal wave crashed over me, enveloping me in dreaded darkness. I felt myself being separated from all I had ever known. I plummeted into the abyss which enveloped me in its cold grasp. Ripped and shredded, I wondered if I would ever see the sun again. Weeks, months, maybe years later, I felt the gentle touch of sand on my skin. I was safe.

By Otto J

I emerged from the azure ocean with jagged sides but with the glistening of an emerald reflecting through me. My face sat in the sand which carpeted the shore that stretched for miles on end. Seeing the world for the first time, my eyes widened. There's so much to explore.

By Izzi B

Year 7 Visit to Southwell Minster Workhouse

Year 7 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Southwell Minster Workhouse with the English Department to discover more about the experiences of the poor in the Victorian era and to support their explorations of Dickens' novels. They undertook a scavenger hunt to find key information; had great fun playing Victorian yard games and experienced what school in the workhouse would have been like. We also had a great picnic with ice-creams and swing-ball. Several members of the public commented on how beautifully behaved and well-mannered our students were. We are so proud of them - super job Year 7!



2023 Autumn Term

Wednesday 6th September	Return from summer break
Friday 22nd September	Inset day
Friday 20th October	Break up for half term
Monday 6th November	Return from half term
Friday 22nd December	Inset Day



Inset Days 2023 - 2024

Monday 4th September 2023
Tuesday 5th September 2023
Friday 22nd September 2023
Friday 22nd December 2023
Friday 28th June 2024

South Nottinghamshire Academy

Glebe Lane, Off Cropwell Road, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham NG12 2FQ
Tel: 0115 9110091 Email: main.office@snacademy.org.uk

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