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Nottinghamshire
Academy



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It's been another whirlwind spring term and it's hard to believe that Easter is nearly upon us. In this newsletter, you can read about students' participation in SNA's reading festival and World Book Day, Careers and STEM weeks, as well as a host of opportunities in Sport, Art, Gardening and a spotlight on our English department.



Recently, on National Offer day (1st March), many families again opted for SNA as their first-choice preference secondary school and subsequently, we are once again oversubscribed. Our Published Admission Number (PAN) is 150 students and we received over 550 total applications. Over the next few months, we'll work with our feeder schools and NCC admissions to try and ensure that catchment students secure a place at SNA for September 2024.

Continuing to support the school, our new SNAPS team have really hit the ground running and we must say a huge thank you to Sarah Kingwill and the wider team for their fundraising efforts. This year alone, SNAPS have kindly agreed to fund a 3D printer (D&T), an



author visit, resources for Curriculum+ activities, Art equipment, sensory items, a digital piano for Music, Careers online resources and sourced sponsorship for four new football kits. If you are a parent who would like to support fundraising for SNA students, please email snaps.pta@outlook.com

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the majority of parents who put your trust in us and continue to support our great school. We are always seeking to move forwards and we will soon be writing to you with an update on what we are doing to improve following the result of the recent parent survey.

Over recent years, schools nationally have been challenged by a whole host of post pandemic issues - attendance, mental health, achievement gap, recruitment issues, funding crisis to name but a few - but we are extremely fortunate at SNA - we know what we are doing and have the staff in school to continue to be a success. But where you might disagree with our high expectations, please come and talk to us rather than posting on social media platforms. The pressures, challenges and goalposts have shifted dramatically. So please let us thrive at school by allowing us to focus on the important things.

Mr D Philpotts X @Head_SNA

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Equality and Achievement

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Year 8 STEM Week

Recently, we held STEM Week for Year 8 students, collaborating with industry experts and educational institutions to ignite their passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Activities included sessions with The British Army, Games Design with the University of Arts, and Digital Finance with Capital One. Students also participated in an Enterprise Challenge Day and engaging STEM activities led by school subjects. The highlight was a Careers Fair attended by over 68 employers, universities, and training providers which will be featured in the next issue of the newsletter.



Attendance Matters!

Congratulations to the following 4 students who won the first Golden Ticket Draw for Attendance. Daniel - JD Voucher, Sophie - Cineworld Voucher, Denys - Gaming Voucher & Esther - White Fox Hoodie. New golden ticket prizes are on offer this half term with a possible five to collect for each full school week. Students who manage to be in school every day for the whole half term will also be in with an additional chance to win. These 100% attenders will receive a platinum ticket and will qualify for an additional prize draw for a mystery prize!



Houses Class Charts Points

Logan
35273 Points

Robson
34474 Points

Waddington
32961 Points

Keele
31991 Points



SNA Gardening Club

We are thrilled to announce that the SNA Gardening Club has kicked off this term with tremendous enthusiasm and energy. SNA pupils have eagerly rolled up their sleeves and started setting seeds in earnest. We have exciting plans to build SNA's very own school garden this spring which will provide our club with a dedicated space to nurture and cultivate our green thumbs further.

We are reaching out to our wonderful community for support. If you have any spare gardening equipment lying around, we would be immensely grateful for donations. Your contributions will enable us to take the next steps in our gardening journey.



Drama Department

The Addams Family: School Edition



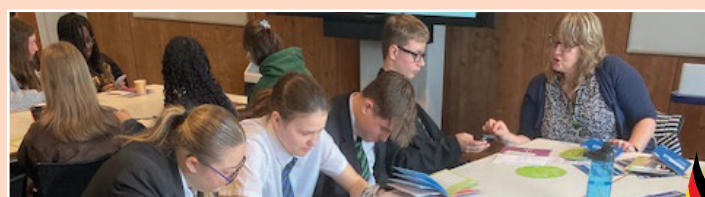
On Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th February SNA Youth Theatre performed the wonderfully wicked 'The Addams Family the Musical- School Edition' a show full of mischief, mayhem and malice! The audience were invited to the Addams family mansion for a special dinner party as they attempt to appear 'normal' when meeting their daughter, Wednesday's fiancé's family, and in true Addams family style, not everything goes to plan. 75 SNA Youth Theatre students ranging from year 7 to year 11 came together and worked incredibly hard to create this extraordinary production including stage management and our student tech team. It has been a valuable and truly



unforgettable experience for the students involved and the audience and youth theatre member feedback has been amazing. Throughout the process SNA Youth Theatre members showed dedication, collaborative skills and exceptional talent, as the company sings-'It's family first and family last and family by and by' Congratulations to all SNA Youth Theatre performers on an outstanding show! Now we need to think about the next one. Any students interested in becoming an SNA Youth Theatre member need to look out for 'SNA Youth Theatre' on the Curriculum+ club timetable in the future or speak to Mrs Lang, Head of Drama.



Wir lernen Deutsch in der Universität !



On Tuesday, Mrs Parris and Mrs FitzGerald accompanied a team of Year 10 linguists to a Language Roadshow with the renowned Goethe Institut which took place at the University of Nottingham.

This was a superb opportunity for our pupils to immerse themselves in the German-speaking world. Some chose a workshop on German Culture, and others attended one on German Enterprise, which included them interviewing providers (in German!) to find out about their companies and then reporting back. They were mature, focused, and did a great job!

Next up was a Careers Workshop in which pupils worked on how to best develop their personal skills for the workplace

(again in German). They learned about both the importance of languages in the World of Work and also how their German could help them secure some fabulous positions in the future, both here and abroad.

The final event was a general knowledge quiz about Germany. Our three teams were up against some stiff opposition from other schools who had come from far and wide, some of whom had sixth formers in their teams. But one of ours won, and another took second place!

Some of our pupils completed more tasks in their workbooks than those from other schools and so came away with some excellent "merch" as a memento of a great day.

Es war wunderbar !!



Careers

Careers Goes LARGE!

This term is always jam-packed with careers celebrations in the calendar.

A great opportunity to make sure we're hitting those all important Gatsby benchmarks, but also allowing students to learn even more about the world of work and wider study.

February and March - we had National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week. A time to celebrate everything that is great about careers guidance and education in schools.

Year 8 STEM week and the big Careers Fair took place in March and we will bring you up to date with all of that in the summer term. For now, here's a snapshot of what's been happening across SNA Careers.

Classroom to Courtroom

Ayva - our SNAid changemaker went from classroom to courtroom. Our year 11 student, who has a very keen interest in Law, secured a place on the Reed Smith LLP Law work insight. She travelled to London to spend the day with this global firm and learnt so much about the sector from top industry professionals. She's looking forward to progressing her career and taking part in more meaningful work experience in Year 12.



Careers After the Bell

Small group workshops, after the school day, giving all years the chance to listen, take part and feel confident to ask questions to industry experts. This term we've been supported by ENSEK - offering a Product Design activity and had the chance to learn about wider careers in Tech. We also had an insightful talk from the RAF and students enjoyed some fun team building activities. The Law at Lunchtime workshop attracted 26 students, who went above and beyond during careers week, hearing about Law at university and through solicitor apprenticeships, during a visit by the University of Law.

Later this month, we will welcome back an ex student / now lecturer - who will share his journey and offer a workshop about his specialism; Criminal Investigations / Forensics and Policing.

Mrs Caunt is currently liaising with a female TUI pilot, who has kindly offered to attend a session in order to talk about the aviation industry.

Keep an eye out for this exciting opportunity!



National Apprenticeship Week

We Welcomed a Maths Professor

Peter Rowlett, from Sheffield Hallam University spoke to Year 10 and 12 students about careers for maths lovers, and at the same time, offered interactive student engagement through puzzles and problem solving exercises.



A group of Year 9 boys attended the **SECRET SCIENCE** morning, at Wollaton Hall, as part of the science and curiosity celebration. Here, they networked with top scientists and took part in engaging 'show and tell' workshops.



Sheffield Hallam schools team supported Year 12 with workshops about Degree Apprenticeships, CVs and application hints and tips.

They also visited some of our younger years' classrooms on that day, for a talk about the benefits of a strong growth mindset, university life and having a degree.

32 of our Year 10 students were invited to spend the day at Capital One HQ, where the focus was employability skills, financial literacy, business expectations and routes into a career with this amazing employer in the heart of our city.



VIA International offered an assembly talk to sixth form students about their apprenticeships and early careers, as well as giving some sound advice about What Employers Want, when they're looking to recruit.

National Careers Week 2024

Recently, our Year 12 students attended the Build Your Career event at the University of Derby. A large free flowing arena, where students could learn about a modern university, attend subject related seminars, chat with Gogglebox star Bassit Sadiqui and network with employers.

Capital One

Mrs Caunt and Miss Wilkinson were over at Capital One HQ, with a group of Year 8 pupils, for an engaging morning of financial literacy, personal development activities, an insightful tour and a chat with some of the associates from the firm. Again, employability skills was a key feature of the day!



Mrs Caunt's new link with the University of Arts, allowed us to focus on Creative Careers. The university schools manager visited the academy and offered workshops across Art, Media, Drama and Tech!

We are very fortunate to have strong partnerships with so many business organisations and so many organisations offered their expertise at the 2024 Careers and Aspirations Fair on 14th March.

Keep an eye on our social media to see updates from careers.

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



PwC

Through our ongoing partnership with PwC, we were pleased that 30 students from Year 9 signed up to the New World New Skills event at the PwC East Midlands office. It gave students a chance to engage with directors and other associates throughout the day, who facilitated excellent mini activities, focusing on hot topics, such as sustainability, inclusion and diversity in the workplace. These aligned to the skills builder framework and enhanced problem solving, presentation and teamwork skills. Associates also offered an insight into their individual career journeys.

Let's Deep Dive Into Technology

Four of our Year 12 boys, studying A level Computer Science, brushed down their prom suits on 7th March, ready for a professional day out at the MHR business in Ruddington.

The boys took part in the Software Academy, which enabled them to learn about software engineering and future careers in Tech. They networked with graduates and apprentices and took part in small workshops whilst gaining so many tips for fine tuning their CV!

Music

The spring term has been a very busy time for the Music department. Year 7 students have spent time developing their composition skills by composing in the style of Beethoven and are now starting to use music technology to create their own contemporary songs. Year 9 students have also been developing their composition skills by creating popular songs. Year 8 students have been working extremely hard to develop their keyboard skills by practising video game themes; their progress has been phenomenal. Year 10 students have made a great start on their free composition for the GCSE Music course while continuing to improve their knowledge of the musical elements and choosing their performance pieces to record in Year 11.

It is exciting that five more students in Years 8 to 11 will be starting instrumental lessons after Easter on flute, violin, piano and drum kit. We look forward to seeing their skills develop over the coming months. We continue our musical links with Radcliffe Junior School and the saxophone ensemble and clarinet ensemble performed at the Year 5 and 6 'Toots concert' in March to inspire the next generation of woodwind players.

We are now preparing for our summer music events and we look forward to performing at annual community events such as Radcliffe Carnival in July as well as the Music Department Summer Concert at SNA. It's never too late to get involved! It looks like next term is going to be equally busy and exciting!

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

Sports

Football Success (County Cup / SN Cup)

A huge well done to the Year 11 boys Football team who reached the county cup semi-final. The boys should be extremely proud of themselves for all they have achieved this year.

We have two girls' teams (Year 7 / 8 and Year 9) who have made the quarter finals and the boys' Sixth Form team have made the semi finals of the South Notts Cup. All teams will be playing their next games soon. We would like to congratulate them both for their performances for getting this far and wish them luck in their games!

Year 7 Football Festival

On the 29th of February we held a Year 7 football festival here at SNA. Four different schools took part and we managed to enter two teams! The students showed fantastic levels of teamwork throughout and scored plenty of goals.

WELL DONE to all involved.

Cross County

Mr Duffy had the pleasure of taking Year 7-10 students to the Rushcliffe Schools XC at Rushcliffe Country Park. Big congratulations to Otto, Finley, Sylvie, Reece and Jacob who were all selected to represent Rushcliffe at County Schools Cross County Championships.



Sports Hall Athletics Success



In January, we had Year 7 and Year 8 students represent SNA in Rushcliffe Sports Hall Athletics competitions at West Bridgford. Our Year 7 girls finished first and have been selected to represent Rushcliffe in the County Sports Hall finals at Harvey Hadden in April.

Congratulations and good luck!

Go Lead



A few weeks ago, we attended a GO LEAD event at the University of Nottingham, where 160 students took part in a girls' football initiative program. The day started with the students planning their mission and what they wanted to achieve. The afternoon was a practical session where students took part in four sessions to develop their ideas of activities they could deliver in school.

We selected 10 students to take part in the event, who have now officially become football activators! Their role as activators is to develop girls' football within school and will be planning several events throughout the year...so keep your eyes peeled. They all represented the school extremely well and understand what a fantastic opportunity this is to make a difference to their favourite sport.

Well done activators!

Multi Skills Event

We attended a multi skills sport event at Nottingham Trent University a few weeks ago where students took part in several different sports such as, Boccia, Curling, Football, and Basketball. The event was delivered by students at Nottingham College as part of their BTEC course.

Overall it was a really successful day and a massive well done to all of the students who took part.



Rowing

Annabel was selected to compete at the National Junior Indoor Rowing competition in the Junior Girls relay. The event was held across two sites in Leeds and London on different dates. Annabel and her team won the event in Leeds on the 23rd Feb but had to wait until the completion of the London event on the 1st of March to find out their overall standings. Annabel's team ended up winning by 3 seconds against 113 teams racing in their category.

Well done, Annabel!

Reading

SNA students have continued to show their on-going commitment to their reading. So far, Year 7 and 8 students have read an impressive 74,321,785 words. A huge well done to those of you who continue to read and quiz on challenging and thought-provoking books.

This point in the academic year is always extremely exciting for us as we celebrate World Book Day (Thursday 7th March) and hold our annual SNA Reading Festival (Monday 18th March – Friday 22nd March). We are pleased to announce a week full of activities and competitions, and a very special visit from the author of Boy, Everywhere, Fight Back and Boot It!, A.M. Dassu. Dassu will be speaking to all Year 7 and 8 students on Friday 22nd March about her story, how she became an author and how you can become an author too.



SNA READING FESTIVAL 2024

DESIGN A BOOKMARK COMPETITION
Design a bookmark in the library during break and lunchtime with Mrs Hall! The winner will have their bookmark added to our bookmark collection for students to choose from!

SERIALISED READ, THE LANDLADY
During each lesson your teacher will read you a very short extract from a story. By the end of the day you will have heard the whole story. Enjoy!

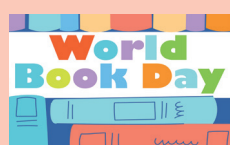
READATHON
All KS3 students will be involved in a readathon - read as much as you can at home and in school and raise money for charity.

TUTOR READING QUIZ
All tutor groups will be completing our Tutor Reading Quiz! There will be prizes for the winning tutor!

A.M. DASSU AUTHOR VISIT
Year 7 and 8 will be involved in a talk by A. M. Dassu on Friday 22nd March.

READATHON CHAMPIONS
Selected students will be invited to the library to be our Readathon champions and help raise as much money for charity as possible!

LIBRARY COMPETITIONS, GUESS WHO TEACHER EDITION, BOOK BISTRO... AND MUCH MORE!



As part of our World Book Day celebrations, all students have been given a £1 book token which can be used in participating retailers to pick up a free World Book Day book or for discount on a full-price book. We have also purchased a range of World Book Day books for our students, which will be available to be chosen in the library from World Book Day onwards. We hope you enjoy the celebrations on World Book Day and during our SNA Reading Festival Week!



Book Club

Every week, we hold Book Club on a Thursday tutor time where Mrs Hall and students across all year groups discuss everything reading. Recently, pupils have been taking part in the Redhill Academy Trust Book Awards where they have had to read a number of books and decide on a winner. On Friday 15th March, all students involved will be attending a trip to The Carlton Academy to celebrate the winners in the Redhill Academy Trust Book Awards, and to meet the author of 'The Chime Seekers', Ross Montgomery. If you would like to be involved in Book Club, please go and see Mrs Hall or Ms Sin in the library.

Word Millionaires

Well done to all of our students who have read over 1,000,000 words!

Cadence • Isaac • Meredith • Eva • Bonnie • Lily • Lydia
Madelyne • Ava-Mae • Sophia • Saskia • Lucy • Rico
George • Amy



Redhill Reads Competition

Last year, all of our Year 7 and 8 students took part in a Redhill Trust Reading competition where we attempted to read and quiz on the greatest number of books in the trust. We are really pleased to announce

that South Nottinghamshire Academy was awarded 3rd place in the competition. Well done to all of our students who contributed to our success.

Upcoming Events

We have a number of exciting events and competitions coming up this year. If you would like more information please see your English teacher or visit Mrs Palethorpe.

- Carnegie YOTO Awards
- Dreadlock Alien Trip
- Redhill Trust Big Quiz
- SNA Reading Festival
Monday 18th March – Friday 22nd March

Accelerated Reader Awards

Every term, teachers of literacy award students who have excelled in their reading. A huge congratulations to last terms winners:

Most Engaged Reader

Lee • Noah • Olivia • Madelyne • Theo • Ella • Issy
Millie • George • Aidan • Annabelle • Mae-Ling • Jameel

Outstanding Contribution

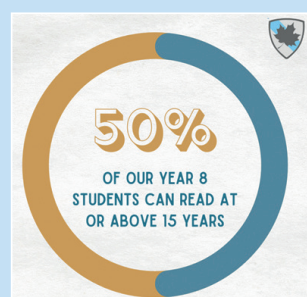
Freya • Olivia • Lexi Louise • Lydia • Jenson • Kian
Lillie • Otto • Aidan • Isaac • Felicity • John

AR Quiz Star

Lily • Oscar • William • Cadence • Evelyn • Lily • Matthew
Lola • George • Pearl • Isaac • Lexii • McKenzie

Year 8 Reading

At South Nottinghamshire Academy, we regularly test students on their reading to ensure they are being supported as much as possible throughout their time in secondary school. Year 8 students recently took their reading test in February and the results have demonstrated that they are making huge progress. Well done to all of our Year 8 students!



English *congratulations*



On Tuesday 26th February, a small group of Year 9 students visited Nottingham University to explore the diverse texts that have been added to the GCSE English Literature curriculum. The theme of the day was to 'spark a powerful light'; our students worked with student teachers and pupils from The Fernwood School and Alderman-White School in Nottingham, using creativity to develop their appreciation and exploration of texts. We are really proud of the contribution our students made, they were a real credit to us and themselves. *Well done!*



Film Club

Every Wednesday 3-4pm film club happens in 206. Popcorn (sometimes!) supplied, and we watch an array of films for all tastes! Since September we have enjoyed Fantastic Mr Fox, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Marley and Me, The Boy who Harnessed Wind and Jurassic World: The Lost Kingdom. If you enjoy watching and discussing films then this is the Curriculum+ club for you!



English Stars

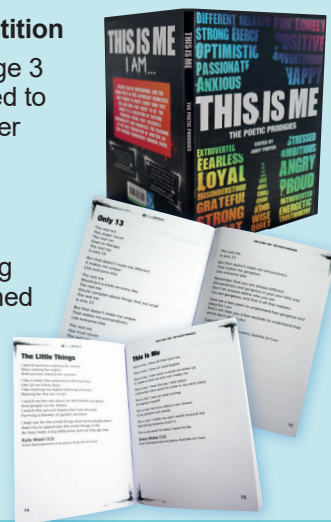
We have had some fabulous pieces of classwork and homework created this half term, including these 'Romeo and Juliet' pieces. Can you guess which character each mask belongs to? Well done also to Colton for his visual representation of the plot.

This is Me Competition

This term, Key Stage 3 students were asked to write a poem to enter into the 'This is Me' writing competition.

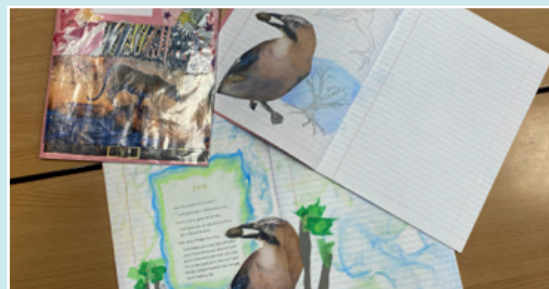
58 students were successful in getting their poems published and a copy of the anthology can be found in the SNA library.

Well done to all the poets involved!



Po-art Club

The English department have started an exciting, creative, extra-curricular lunchtime club for Year 7 and 8 students. We explore poetry and students demonstrate their personal responses to these through creative methods such as collage and drawing. Have a look below at some of the fantastic pieces that have been created. Come and join us on a Thursday lunchtime in room 208!



2024 Summer Term

Monday 15th April	Return from Easter Holidays
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 24th May	Break up for May Half Term
Monday 3rd June	Return from May Half Term
Monday 1st July 2024	Inset Day

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