



South  
Nottinghamshire  
Academy

# NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2025

*Pushing our boundaries to achieve more*

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At the end of another term, it is a pleasure to release our Easter newsletter to our parents and student community. It is remarkable to reflect on the number of opportunities that our students have been involved with this term. In the newsletter, you can read about students' participation in SNA's Reading Festival and World Book Day, Careers and STEM weeks, as well as the many opportunities in Sport, Art, Music, and a spotlight on our wonderful production of Legally Blonde. Many thanks to all students and parents who attended the production, it was a wonderful week.

Recently, on National Offer Day (3rd 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 500 total applications. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort at SNA for September 2025.

Our SNAPS team continue to do a brilliant job, a huge thank you to the team for their ongoing fundraising efforts. Following the successful quiz this year, SNAPS have kindly agreed to reinvest and refurbish areas of our school fitness suite, providing an enhanced experience for our students who access the suite during lesson time and as part of our co-curricular offer. If you are a parent who would like to support fundraising for SNA students, please email [snaps.pta@outlook.com](mailto:snaps.pta@outlook.com).



wonderful cause, thank you to everybody for supporting the fundraising efforts.

Can we also take the opportunity to congratulate previous SNA students who are experiencing enormous success in the sporting arena. Liam Thompson recently made his 100th professional appearance for Derby County Football Club, Ellis Mee represented Wales in the recent Rugby Union Six Nations tournament and Poppy Malik represented the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team in the 400m, alongside securing a personal best at the recent European Athletics Championships. These students are incredible role models for SNA students, and are a credit to themselves, their families and the school.

Finally, we would like to say thank you to many parents who continue to put their trust in us and continue to support our great school. We are always seeking to move forwards, and we will be writing to you in the Summer Term to request that share your feedback and experiences with us via our parent's survey. We continue to frequently hear that schools nationally are challenged by a whole host of post-pandemic effects - 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. If you do have any issues, please continue to talk with us.

On behalf of everybody at SNA, we hope everybody can enjoy a restful Easter break.

**Mr D Philpotts** Executive Headteacher @Head\_SNA  
and **Mr M Siviter** Head of School



As always, SNA continues to support the valuable work carried out by charities. As well as supporting and fundraising for our separate house charities, we once again supported Red Nose Day on Friday 21st March. As well as a tug of war competition and bake sale, a non-uniform day helped the school to raise a fantastic amount of money for a

**REDHILL**  
ACADEMY TRUST

Equality and Achievement

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**Golden Ticket and SNA WAY Commendation Winners**



Congratulations to our most recent Golden Ticket winners who were selected at random in the prize draw!

A huge well done also to our students who received an SNA WAY Commendation from your teachers, proof that hard work pays off!



**Maths Feast**

Year 10 mathematicians travelled across to Redhill to take part in the regional qualifiers of the Maths Feast. Students had to solve a range of fun puzzles and mathematical problems over 4 gruelling rounds, showing excellent determination, resilience

and teamwork in the process. One of the two four-person teams were successful in winning the qualifier!

*Congratulations to all involved!*



**Dungeons and Dragons Club** is based on Dungeons and Dragons (DnD), a fantasy TTRPG classic. An inspiration for video games galore. Students come thinking 'it may not be my thing' and then enjoy themselves. The game enables you to create your character and even your own adventure. The club runs after school on Thursdays (15:00-16:00) in room 202. All resources are provided so no equipment is necessary.

**Student Council: Making Positive Changes!**

This academic year, the Student Council has been working hard to create a better school environment for everyone. We've held three productive meetings so far, where students have shared ideas and taken action on key issues to improve school life.



Some of the exciting initiatives we've introduced include:

- *Student Attendance Prizes – Encouraging engagement and rewarding students for their dedication with new prizes.*
- *House Charities – Strengthening our school's sense of community by supporting meaningful causes.*
- *Canteen Menu Rebranding – Making our school menus more appealing and introducing new, healthier food options based on student feedback.*
- *Listening to Student Voice – Ensuring every student has the opportunity to share their ideas and influence positive changes.*

And this is just the beginning! Many more projects are in progress, all aimed at making our school a better, more inclusive place for everyone. The Student Council remains committed to representing the voices of all students and driving meaningful change.



**Cambridge: A Glimpse into Higher Education**

Year 12 High Education Plus program students visited the University of Cambridge, Peterhouse College. We were warmly welcomed for an inspiring day at one of the most prestigious colleges in the world. The Oxbridge application process session was in the morning. Valuable insights were gained into the expectations of top universities, including those in the Russell Group. Following this, students attended subject-specific lectures delivered by PhD students and professors from Peterhouse College. The trip was an eye-opening motivational experience for students to strive for academic excellence and to consider their future university aspirations.

<p><b>Houses Class Charts Points</b></p>	<p>Logan <b>34881</b> Points</p>	<p>Robson <b>32999</b> Points</p>	<p>Waddington <b>32492</b> Points</p>	<p>Keele <b>33584</b> Points</p>
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# Careers

**It's been a bumper term for SNA Careers!** What's been happening since the start of the year!

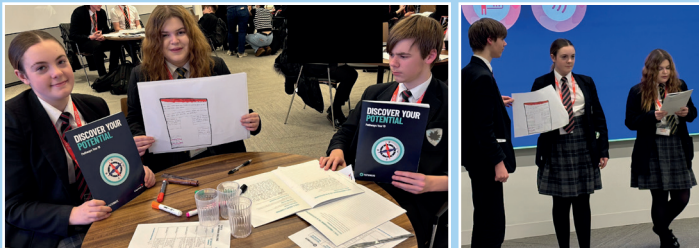
Guest Speakers - Year 12 and 13 have welcomed some interesting speakers into their Guidance Workshops.

Talks have included Technology / AI and changing career landscape, Labour Market information, work experience launch, Forensic Psychology and Values Based Living, The Power of You - Your Personal Brand, Degree Apprenticeships, Study Abroad and Year in Industry opportunities and Money Wise for University workshops for Year 13.



**Capital One** - Our partnership with this large Nottingham employer continues to offer business insights to students.

Mrs Caunt has taken the majority of Year 12 and a group of Year 10 and Year 8 students to visit Capital One since December. The fully funded insight is tailored to each year group and learning outcomes include essential skills, financial literacy, project work, a tour of the business as well as a chance to network with a range of industry professionals.



**MARS Link** - We welcomed MARS into school before Christmas and three of our Year 13 have applied for their Higher Apprenticeship Programme, which includes a valuable mentoring programme. Students have progressed to the next stage of the assessment centre journey, and we are excited to follow their next steps. Well done to Charlie, Katie and Jasmine from Year 13.

## National Careers Week 2025



Mrs Caunt hosted three 'Careers Cafe: Learn at Lunch' opportunities. Veterinary and Animal Careers; Forensics and Psychology Careers and Making Music Cool. The University of Leeds were with us for the day on 7th March, offering talks to Year 12 groups; music workshops to some of our Year 8 and 9 music students as well as an assembly to Year 11. The University of Nottingham Science Outreach team were also with us for a whole day, supporting Years 7 - 9 with STEM Can Do lessons, where students learnt more about Careers and the science and research opportunities at the University.



# Year 8 STEM Week

# Careers

During just this week alone, Mrs Caunt hosted 80 providers! Ranging from employers, universities and charities. Our thanks to, Aero Discover, Severn Trent Water, Capital One, The Academy of Artificial Intelligence, The University of Nottingham School of Pharmacy, Trelleborg Polyurethane Products, The Royal Society of Chemistry, The Army and The NHS Supply Chain for their amazing interactive and informative workshops. Thank you for the contributions to the Year 8 STEM Week and for the expertise from the variety of organisations who helped to make the 2025 Careers Fair so vibrant!



# Careers Fair 2025

Employer engagement is a strength of the school, and we are very grateful for the support. This plays a big part in reaching targets for our career's benchmarks.



**Other careers news** - three of our students have secured part-time work with local employer, The Wolds Pre School. Five of our Year 12 students enjoyed an experience day at MHR, Ruddington, taking part in their Software Academy. Two have since secured work experience with the firm for the summer term. Ten students from Year 10, supported Mrs Caunt with the Careers Fair, signing up to be careers ambassadors.

If you wish to support our careers programme, please email Mrs L Caunt [L.Caunt@snacademy.org.uk](mailto:L.Caunt@snacademy.org.uk)

# Sports



**Cross Country** - A group of Year 7 to Year 9 students took part in the Rushcliffe Schools Cross Country Championships at Ruddington Country Park. A special congratulations to Freddy (Year 7) and Finley (Year 8), who were selected to compete in the Nottinghamshire Cross Country Championships at Worksop College. Both Freddy and Finley exceeded expectations with Freddy picking up a Bronze medal (3rd place) and Finley, competing against boys in the year above, finishing in 15th place.

**Young Leaders** - 16 pupils from Years 9 and 10 have supported the delivery of Primary Schools Indoor Athletics competitions, seeing the event run through heats to finals. They have been outstanding in their engagement with the participants and in their officiating duties, contributing significant hours and gaining valuable experience of working with younger pupils. Feedback from many primary school teachers has been positive, commenting on what a credit to themselves and the school they have been.

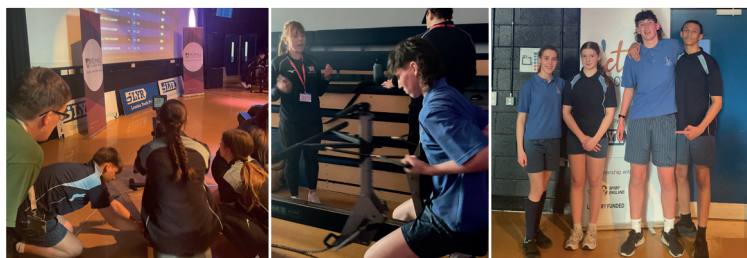


**Rowing - Life Skills Day Success at Holme Pierrepont!**

A group of 16 SNA students recently took part in an inspiring Life Skills Day at Holme Pierrepont, delivered by London Youth Rowing and Berry Global. The day was filled with creative and team-building activities, giving students the opportunity to develop key skills while also enjoying an exciting kayaking session. Both Andrew Green (CEO of Berry Global) and Ben



Cox (Regional Development Director of London Youth Rowing) were full of praise for our students. Their exceptional behaviour and growing confidence throughout the day were evident, with Andrew even remarking that he would happily employ any of the students who attended. Don't forget, Rowing Club runs every Tuesday after school with Mrs Liburd-Godbehere - come along and get involved!



**Trust Rowing Championships** - 20 of our students took part in the Redhill Trust Indoor Rowing Championships, delivering an outstanding performance. With expert coaching from Hector Duncan, the team showed incredible determination, putting in 100% effort throughout the competition. There were several standout performances, with a few students even catching the attention of British Rowing scouts! In an incredible team effort, SNA secured 1st place overall out of 10 competing schools - an amazing accomplishment! Congratulations to all students who took part; we are incredibly proud of you!

**Sports Hall Athletics** - Year 7 and Year 8 Sports Hall Athletics teams went to West Bridgford School to compete in the Rushcliffe Schools Championships. Year 7 girls and Year 8 boys emerged victorious in their respective events, securing their places to represent Rushcliffe Schools at the County Finals. We wish them luck in the next round!

**Football Success** - Our football teams have been making impressive progress in their respective cup competitions!

**Year 7 Girls** have battled their way into the quarter-finals of both the County Cup and South Notts Cup with strong performances against East Leake and South Wolds.

**Year 8 Girls** secured a quarter-final spot in the County Cup after a bye but saw their South Notts Cup journey end after a tough match against Colonel Frank Seely.

**Year 9 Girls** are flying high, reaching the semi-finals of the County Cup and the quarter-finals of the South Notts Cup after a dramatic penalty shootout win against Portland and a solid victory over Becket.

**Year 10 Boys** overcame the county champions from 2 years ago in what was a hard fought match. Despite missing a number of key players from our usual starting line up, the boys managed to take a strong Rushcliffe side to penalties where we wound up 4-2 winners.

**Year 11 Boys** booked their place in the semi-finals of the county cup with a thrilling 4-2 victory on penalties against Christ the King. The game itself saw multiple momentum shifts finishing 5-5 after normal time.

Well done to all the players - keep up the great work!



Year 7 Girls



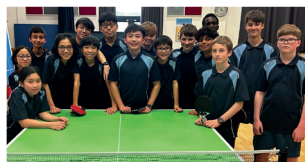
Year 8 Girls



Year 9 Girls



**Handball** - A huge congratulations to our U15 boys, U15 girls, and U13 boys for their incredible performances in the England Handball Cup! All three teams have progressed to the next stage, where they will face other schools within Nottinghamshire. No time to rest though! As our attention now turns to the Trust Handball cup on April 2nd, the teams will spend the next few weeks preparing for this and our Year 10 boys will look to retain their title.



**Table Tennis Club** - The number of students attending table tennis club each week continues to increase. As well as providing an inclusive and enjoyable experience, students can also participate in a weekly knockout competition which always has a competitive and determined feel where students show respect for each other and never give up. The investment in brand new tables means more students are welcome to attend. Isaac, Year 9 continues to lead the way with table tennis titles won, well done Isaac!

SNA Youth Theatre's production of **LEGALLY BLONDE**

**SNAPS you guys!** On Tuesday 11th - Thursday 13th February SNA Youth Theatre performed 'Legally Blonde the Musical Jr' in the SNA Theatre. 79 SNA Youth Theatre students ranging



from Year 7 to Year 12 including our student tech team, came together in this fabulously fun and feel-good show about Elle Woods who goes to Harvard Law School to prove to her ex-boyfriend Warner that she's 'serious'. There she meets new people and defies all expectations, proving that being true to yourself is the best kind of success! It has been a valuable and truly unforgettable experience for the students involved and the

audience and youth theatre member feedback has been incredible. Throughout the process SNA Youth Theatre members showed dedication, teamwork and exceptional talent. 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 plus timetable in the future or speak to Mrs Lang.



# 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 Year 8 students created their own Blues compositions. Year 9 students are continuing to develop their performance skills and ability to play in time with others by practising popular songs in groups. Year 11 students have been working hard to finish their two compositions and record performances for the GCSE



Music course. Our co-curricular offer expanded in January with the launch of a new musical ensemble – our first ever string group! Students benefit so much from playing in an ensemble with others and it will be a great addition to our concert programme.

Once again, we welcome more students to start having instrumental and vocal lessons after Easter. We look forward to seeing their skills develop over the coming months. We continue our musical links with Radcliffe Junior School as some of our woodwind players performed at the Year 5 and 6 Toots Concert in March to inspire the next generation of musicians.

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. There will also be Tune Up Live to look forward to and all the dates for these events, and more, will be released to students and parents after the Easter holidays. It's never too late to get involved! It looks like next term is going to be another busy and exciting one!

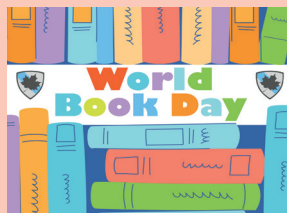
Follow us on X @Music\_SNA and/or Instagram @Music\_SNA2 for regular updates, photos and videos.

# Reading

SNA students continue to show incredible dedication to reading, with Year 7 and 8 students having read an impressive 79,835,882 words so far! A huge well done to those who have challenged themselves with thought-provoking books and quizzes.

This time of year is especially exciting as we celebrate World Book Day and our annual SNA Reading Festival. Read on to find out more about the fantastic events and opportunities that took place!

To mark World Book Day, all students received a £1 book token, which can be used at participating bookshops to claim a free World Book Day book or a discount on another title. In addition, the school library has stocked a selection of World Book Day books, which students can choose from.



## Lisa Williamson Writing Workshop

On 16th January, four talented SNA students took part in a writing workshop with author Lisa Williamson, a former Redhill Academy student. This workshop helped students develop their creativity and writing skills, with two more live online sessions planned for later this year. You can find out more about Lisa's work here: [www.lisawilliamsonauthor.com](http://www.lisawilliamsonauthor.com)

## Book Club and RAT Book Awards

Our fantastic Book Club took part in the RAT Book Awards, voting on their favourite books before attending the Grand Final at The Carlton Academy on 14th March. There, they had the exciting opportunity to meet author Simon James Green in person!

Next up, our Book Club will be reading and voting for books nominated for the Carnegie Prize 2025.

## Word Millionaires

A massive well done to all our students who have read over 1,000,000 words:

Siena • Grace • Kristof • Lily • Lydia • Arwen • Emily

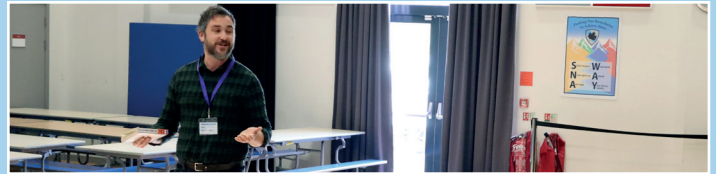
Lucy • Emily • Eve • Abbie • Rose • Bonnie

Keep up the fantastic reading!

## Upcoming Events and Competitions

There are plenty of exciting reading events and competitions coming up! For more information, speak to your English teacher or see Mrs. Palethorpe.

- Dreadlock Alien Trip
- Redhill Trust Big Quiz Final
- Carnegie Book Awards

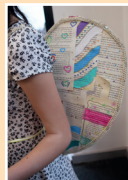


Our SNA Reading Festival took place during the week of 3rd March, packed with activities designed to inspire a love of reading. The week included: the launch of the Redhill Trust Book Quiz (congratulations to L3 and R1 scoring the highest), the launch of our Readathon campaign, which encourages students to develop good reading habits while raising money to provide books for children in hospitals, a book bistro in literacy lessons, an author visit from Ben Davis and a number of competitions. It was a terrific week – thank you to everyone who got involved!



## Thank You to Our Library Ambassadors and Reading Leaders

A huge thank you to our dedicated Library Ambassadors and Reading Leaders, who work hard every week to keep the library running smoothly and support younger readers in Years 7, 8, and 9. Your efforts make a real difference – we appreciate all that you do!



**Bookmark Competition Winners**

Congratulations to the winners of our SNARF competition to design a bookmark for the library. The following students have made bright, cheerful, eye-catching bookmarks to encourage other students in their reading. Ida, Olivia, Isabelle, Emily and Lucy. Thank you all for your beautiful design work!



**Get Creative**

Just to let you know that our Creative team, Emily, Ida, Miyo, Siena, Bianca and Isabelle won a goody bag at the Redhill Academy Trust Children's Book Award 2024-2025 Get Creative Competition! They also won a £10 book voucher for the library.

# English *We are immensely proud of you*

**Year 9 Trip to Nottingham University Jubilee Campus**

On Wednesday 26th February, ten Year 9 students were chosen to take part in the school of Education's 'Spark Something Powerful' event. Here, they worked with post-graduates to explore a range of diverse texts on the GCSE curriculum in creative ways. They considered the importance of studying diverse literature alongside Canonical texts and the impact this has on young people and society. The morning certainly did spark something powerful in our young people and we are immensely proud of their enthusiasm, engagement and contribution to an important, and complex, debate.



**2025 Summer Term**

Monday 21st April	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 22nd April	Return from Easter Holidays
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 23rd May	Break up for May Half Term
Monday 2nd June	Return from May Half Term
Friday 27th June	Inset Day

Have a lovely Break



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