



South
Nottinghamshire
Academy



NEWSLETTER | DEC 2025

Pushing our boundaries to achieve more

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Welcome to the 2025 SNA Christmas Newsletter



As always at this time of year, the SNA community continues to consider those individuals who are less fortunate than ourselves. As part of our Christmas charity collection, our community this year has been donating to a Festive Food Bank collection. SNA is proud to support the Clifton Food Bank through our annual festive collection. Tutor groups across the school are gathering food

items, toiletries and other essentials to help local families during the winter period. Our Student Leadership Team has been actively involved, visiting tutor rooms, raising awareness and encouraging students to donate whatever they can to support the cause. Their commitment and enthusiasm has helped drive the campaign forward, reflecting our community values and the compassion at the heart of The SNA WAY. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far, your generosity is already making a real difference.

We also continue to support 'Save the Children' and will be hosting our annual Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term (Friday 19th December). For a £1 donation, students are able to wear non-uniform and we are encouraging students to wear Christmas jumpers if they can. We will donate 50% of the funds to Save the Children, and 50% to our wonderful house charities to support the important work that they do.

In the spirit of giving at Christmas time, please congratulate the volunteers who continue to ensure we have a thriving parents association. SNAPS (South Nottinghamshire Academy Parents & Staff) contribute significant funds to support our students, recently leading a Fireworks Night celebration and Christmas Fayre, both very successful events. SNA have recently benefitted from a fitness suite refurbishment, and we are currently looking at how we can develop the classroom and school experience for our students with the use of other SNAPS funding. We are very grateful for this support. If you would like to offer any support to our amazing SNAPS team, please contact s.murphy@snacademy.org.uk

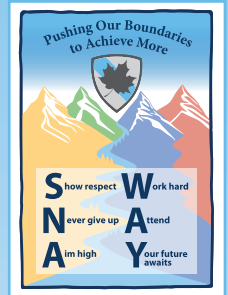
Reminder for students and parents:

- SNA will close for the Christmas period at **1.05pm** on **Friday 19th December 2025** and re-opens for students after the Christmas holidays on Monday 5th January 2026. Please refer to the Headteacher letter for further

information about end of term arrangements. All students will be required to bring a packed lunch to school on this day.

- As always, when we return we will continue to monitor uniform and jewellery to maintain our high expectations and to ensure students continue to look their best.
- In the event of any enforced school closure, parents will receive a text / email message. In addition, it will feature on BBC Radio Nottingham; the SNA website; and firstly, on X (formerly known as Twitter) @Head_SNA and then through our other social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram).

The student response to our SNA WAY continues to be fantastic. Students are keen to demonstrate the values shown, which improves both their school performance as well as preparing them for the years ahead. We are all proud to be part of a set of values which epitomises everything we do at SNA. We live and breathe the SNA WAY each day. Our mission statement of 'Pushing our boundaries to achieve more' continues to help our students to push themselves daily, in order for them to take advantage of the opportunities that come their way. Students only get one chance at secondary school and the SNA WAY will help our students fulfil their potential and shape their future. So far this academic year, staff have awarded 41,813 SNA WAY achievement points to our students, with 25,266 points specifically for students working hard. SNA WAY commendation and SNA stars continue to recognise and reward our wonderful students.



Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And as always, thank you for your continued support of our great school.

Mr M Siviter
Head of School

Mr D Philpotts
Executive Headteacher
 @Head_SNA

REDHILL
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Equality and Achievement

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Year 7 Themed Week

Year 7 students recently took part in our "Living British Values in a Global Society" Themed Week exploring Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect, and Tolerance. The week began with engaging workshops from public sector experts, including emergency services and university representatives, giving pupils real-world insights into safety, citizenship, and making positive choices.



Throughout the week, students collaborated on community projects; visited the National Justice Museum to learn about crime and fairness, and took part in sessions on healthy relationships and online safety. We are proud of how enthusiastically Year 7 embraced every opportunity, showing respect and maturity as they develop the values and skills needed to be active, responsible citizens in today's world.



Anti-Bullying Odd Socks Day

It's a simple but powerful reminder that our differences make us special and that kindness and respect should be at the heart of our school community.




Golden Ticket Attendance Prize Winners

Congratulations to our October half term Golden Ticket and SNA WAY Commendation winners. Your commitment, positivity, and dedication truly embody the SNA WAY. Well done also to everyone else for your huge effort and commitment to school. *Attendance Matters!*



Year 8 Themed Week

Students enjoyed interesting conversations and activities with employers as part of a speed networking day, with a focus on changing technologies and AI. Mrs Caunt hosted The London Stock Exchange, University of Nottingham Business School, Wilmott Dixon, Mosca Engineering, the STEM Partnership, SHARP U.K. and the Mining Remediation Authority.



Skills for Life: Thriving in a Changing World

Year 8 took part in Skills for Life: Thriving in a Changing World where they explored key life and career skills through a range of workshops including Emotional Intelligence and Growth Mindset, Digital Literacy, Enterprise Tyre Challenge, and Healthy Relationships. Students engaged brilliantly with our external providers, developing teamwork, confidence, and real-world awareness. A fantastic week all round. *Well done Year 8!*

Houses Class Charts Points	Logan	Robson	Waddington	Keele
	17869 Points	17567 Points	18956 Points	18429 Points



Mental Health Support Awards

We are now in receipt of the prestigious Mental Health Support GOLD award. Through our ongoing work with MHST, the award recognises our strong collaboration and the extensive support we offer. Huge thanks to Mrs O'Dowd and Mrs Hawksworth.



National School Attendance Award

Congratulations to everyone at SNA, staff, students and parents, for their hard work and commitment with attendance - this has been recognised with a National Award placing SNA in the top 25% of schools in England!



SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ACADEMY

This term, we celebrated an incredible Duke of Edinburgh's Award Evening, recognising the hard work and dedication of our participants. We proudly awarded 71 Bronze, 28 Silver, and 7 Gold awards – an amazing achievement! It was a brilliant evening filled with smiles, stories, and well-deserved celebration. We loved hearing the funny tales from their expeditions, as well as the inspiring things they achieved and learnt through their skills, volunteering, and physical sections.

Looking ahead, this year's DofE programme is bigger than ever, with 98 Bronze, 55 Silver, and 7 Gold participants already signed up. We can't wait to see what adventures, challenges and successes await our next group of explorers!



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



Congratulations to the 2024-25 Bronze and Silver students who achieved their award certificates and badges #SNAWAY



Willersley Castle

Year 8 had a brilliant time at Willersley Castle in Cromford during November and December. Students took part in a range of exciting activities including axe throwing, grass sledging and a blind trail. These experiences not only provided plenty of fun, but also supported the development of key character skills such as teamwork, communication, resilience and leadership.

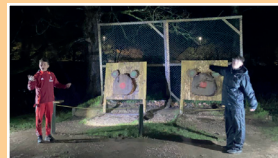


The weather was generally good, although a bit cold and rainy at times - which certainly didn't stop students getting stuck in (and a little muddy!). Despite the challenges, they showed excellent behaviour throughout and represented the academy impeccably.



A special mention goes to all the students who got involved at the disco - who knew Year 8 were such big fans of Katy Perry?

Well done to everyone involved.



James Naish Visit - At the end of UK Parliament Week, we welcomed James Naish to an extended Sixth Form assembly. He talked about his role and the work he was doing across Rushcliffe on local issues, ranging from roadworks to the extension to the Health Centre and his work at a national level which includes leading debates on how the government must stand with the people of Hong Kong who have made the UK their home under the BN(O) visa scheme and retain their five-year pathway to ILR. For an hour, he answered students' questions on a myriad of issues, demonstrating an encyclopaedic knowledge and a passion for politics. We are very grateful for the time he gives us each year to demonstrate democracy in action to the next cohort of voters.



HELLO BONJOUR HOLA CIAO GUTEN TAG NI HAO SALUT HELLO BONJOUR HOLA CIAO GUTEN TAG

MFL

World Languages Week: From an exciting treasure hunt to the delicious World Food Festival and our unique canteen menu, we embraced a variety of cultures in style at SNA. Coming together to promote respect and global understanding, the week celebrated our diverse community.



We're thrilled to announce that our school raised a whopping **£853.20** for **Children in Need!** Your energy, generosity and enthusiasm made all the difference. Together, we've helped support an incredible cause!



Staff vs Students Rowing for Children in Need - Staff and students went head-to-head to see who could row the furthest in just 30 seconds. The competition was fierce with plenty of encouragement and laughter as both teams gave it their all for a great cause. Mr Dyer took first place for the staff while the top student rower was Dilwyn.

Thank you to everyone who supported SNA's fundraising effort!

Eco Club

In July, the SNA Eco Garden welcomed a representative from Severn Trent who visited the site to see the garden's transformation. Two months later in September, students and staff celebrated a triumphant annual village show, winning first prize for their "perfect runner beans" - a testament to their hard work and dedication.



Pupils have taken real pride in harvesting their own fresh produce, some of which has been donated to Radcooks and shared at harvest festivals, strengthening bonds with the wider community. Other fruits of their labour have been enjoyed by the whole school, served as part of nutritious meals prepared in the kitchen.

Adding to the achievements, the school has successfully earned the RHS School Gardening Award Level 3.

Looking ahead, plans are already underway for another flourishing year, teaching the students the value of teamwork, patience and caring for nature. The SNA Eco Garden team is optimistic and excited for what the next season will bring.



Sports



Girls' Football – Autumn Term Highlights

Our girls' teams have shown fantastic energy and resilience this term:

Year 7 – County Cup debut vs George Spencer, scoring early but were edged out losing 8 - 3. They now look ahead to the South Notts Cup second round in February.



Year 8 - Opened with an 8 - 0 win over Newark Academy, followed by a close 1 - 0 defeat to Becket School. Round 2 vs Kimberley awaits.

Year 9 – Progressed to Round 2 of the County Cup and start the South Notts Cup in February.

Year 10 – Beat Minster School 7 - 3 in tough conditions to reach the next round of the County Cup.

Year 11 – Faced a tough start falling to Toothill in the County Cup but aim to bounce back in the South Notts Cup.

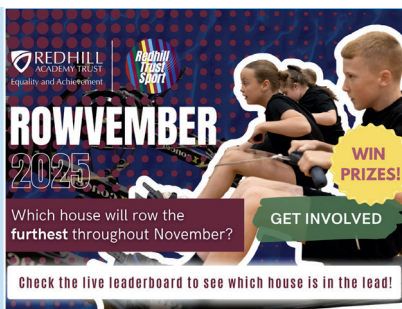
Well done to all teams for their determination and sportsmanship!

Trust Winter Games

Mrs Hawksworth led Year 9 and 10 students and Mr Lowman took Year 7 and 8 to Redhill for the Winter Games. Students competed in football, netball, rugby, table tennis, badminton, and boccia, showing outstanding commitment. Football teams were the standout success, finishing unbeaten!

Rowing Club

Our Wednesday sessions continue to grow! This term, SNA smashed the Trust RowVember challenge with 39,207 metres. Next up: Indoor Trust Rowing Championships on January 29th - let's retain our title!



Boys' Football – Autumn Term Highlights

Our boys' teams have delivered incredible performances:

Year 7 – Dominant 9 - 0 County Cup win over The Elizabethan Academy and a 5 - 2 victory vs Colonel Frank Seely.

Year 8 – Unbeaten in three games, including a stunning 10 - 0 National Cup win vs Long Eaton.

Year 9 – County Cup: 12 - 1 win and a 2 - 2 draw, clinched 4 - 2 on penalties. National Cup: Beat last year's finalists on penalties after a 3 - 3 draw.

These results showcase resilience and teamwork - well done to all involved!

Sixth Form Boys' Football

Unbeaten and into the Quarter Finals of both County and South Notts Cups. Recent wins include:

SNA 2 - 0 Trinity | SNA 2 - 1 George Spencer | SNA 1 - 0 Arnold Hill



Huge well done to all players and supporters!

Table Tennis Club

A thriving hub for all ages! Students compete socially or in weekly tournaments, with Year 7s often beating Year 13s. Sixth formers lead sessions, inspiring younger players. Congrats to champions Sophie, Joel, and Ben. Joseph (Year 9) remains the one to beat! Join us Mondays in the main hall.



Fitness Club

Huge uptake this term! Highlights include **Girls-Only Mondays** and **Whole-School Wednesdays**, plus a new dumbbell rack thanks to SNAPS. Students have shown amazing commitment - bring on next term!

Badminton Club

Badminton is booming with 40+ students most Fridays! Due to demand, sessions now run:

Week A – KS3

Week B – KS4

Thanks to Miss Wright for leading - next term promises even more excitement!



Handball

Year 7 and 8 enjoyed fixtures at West Bridgford, securing two wins and valuable experience. Handball Club launches after Christmas - don't miss out!

BUGSY MALONE

in rehearsal!

SNA's next whole school production is 'Bugsy Malone'. Set in 1929 on the streets of New York, Bugsy is a musical about a smooth-talking man about town who gets caught up in the gang rivalry between Fat Sam and Dandy Dan. It's a show full of toe-tapping tunes, lots of laughs and...custard pies!

With one of the biggest casts we've ever had and the addition of splurge guns and custard pies this show is guaranteed to be a fantastic night at the theatre! SNA Youth Theatre members have been busy in rehearsals learning the song and dance routines and are really enjoying bringing their characters to life!



Bugsy Malone runs from Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th February 2026
7.00pm in the SNA Theatre
 Tickets to the *'liveliest joint in town'* are **£5** and will be available via ParentPay in December!

Music



What a great term we've had in the Music Department! We have had record numbers of students taking part in rehearsals and community events and students have made excellent progress in their curriculum music lessons.

Our co-curricular and instrumental / vocal lesson provision continues to expand with 33 new Year 7 students having one-to-one lessons and more students due to commence after Christmas. We are very proud of the start they've made. Our musicians performed at the Year 5 and 6 open evening and it was great to see them talking enthusiastically about our excellent music provision at SNA. Our instrumentalists were invited to perform at the Radcliffe Christmas Fair again this year (with 23 drummers in the Samba band!). We always look forward to annual community events. The vocal group also performed 'Christmas Lullaby' at An Inspired Christmas



Concert. We also welcomed Emma McGann to SNA to perform and talk to Year 8 and 9 about careers in the music industry.

It has been fantastic to see so many Year 7s representing SNA in a performance for the first time this term - congratulations! There will be many more opportunities in the coming months and years, so please do get involved.

There will also be a Winter Concert in the Hall at SNA on Monday 15th December at 6pm.

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

Careers



ADA Lovelace Day

A group of Year 8 girls visited Boots Medicity for the ADA Lovelace Women in Science day. Careers in Science was on the agenda for the day,



and inspirational women showcased their careers and offered engaging activities linked to the job they do.

Themed Weeks and Careers - Careers Education is aligned to personal development, through the themed weeks that we facilitate for each year group throughout the year.



Year 7 met with a range of industry experts from the Blue Light organisations, who help to keep our communities safe. Careers with a Conscience was the focus on the first day of Year 7 themed week. Students took part in a range of informative but very interactive workshops and learnt more about Law through a fun mock court scene, at the National Justice Museum.

Year 8 were super professional when they met with a range of employers for our first Speed Networking day, which formed part of their themed week. The theme focused on Succeeding in a Changing World and employers discussed how developing technologies are changing the careers landscape.



Career Bites - With the London Stock Exchange kicking off the programme for November. Students learnt more about cyber security and ways that criminals can hack into sensitive information. Richard from the LSEG also outlined his career and spoke about the study required for the Tech industries. **All students are welcome.**



Careers and Aspirations Fair - Mrs Caunt is reaching out to providers to support our Careers and Aspirations Fair on 12 March 2026. Could you help to make a difference to our young people? We're seeking new providers from a range of sectors, to keep our event varied each year. Can you / your organisation support a great day with immersive experiences and lots of fun! Contact Mrs Louise Caunt for more details.

PwC Nottingham with Year 10

This year our aim is to offer all Year 10 the chance to visit a workplace. We started with 30 - Year 10 business students spending the day at PwC Nottingham office. Students learnt more about the firm and took part in activities relating to budgeting and financial literacy as well as learning about AI and how it is changing the whole careers landscape.



Experian Nottingham - A group of 16 Year 10 are spending the day at Experian in December, to learn about the business but also to take part in activities aligned to Lean Management and Project Management. This will link Maths to careers in the curriculum. A business insight aligned to Maths, enabling students to see how the skills from this subject are transferable to the workplace.

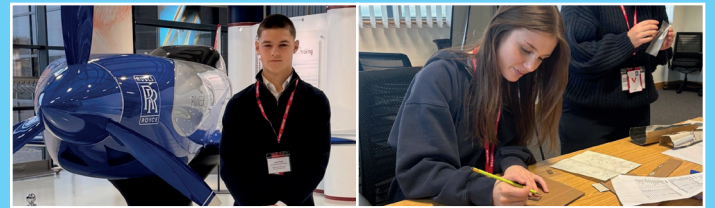
Work Experience

Mrs Caunt has secured 80 work experience placements for Year 12 to consider for summer 2026 w/c 29 June - 3 July. Last school year all our students enjoyed meaningful placements which aligned to their A Level study and career aspirations.



Parents do you work for an organisation who could offer an experience to a young person? We'd love to discuss! Do get in touch asap.

Two of our Year 13 students enjoyed a week at Rolls Royce this term. Their placement took place in the Finance Department, where they met with graduates and apprentices and learnt more about jobs within the department and wider careers across the business.



Sixth Form Trust Moving On Day

Year 13 students attended the whole Trust Moving On Day, hosted by NTU.

This annual event held at the start of the year helps students navigate around a large University; collaborate with other young people and build new friendships. Students took part in a range of informative workshops aligned to transition to HE and the world of work, as well as keeping on top of mental health and wellbeing as they prepare to leave school, for exciting opportunities ahead.

Year 12 and 13 welcome a range of HE and industry professionals into their personal guidance lessons each month.

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

English

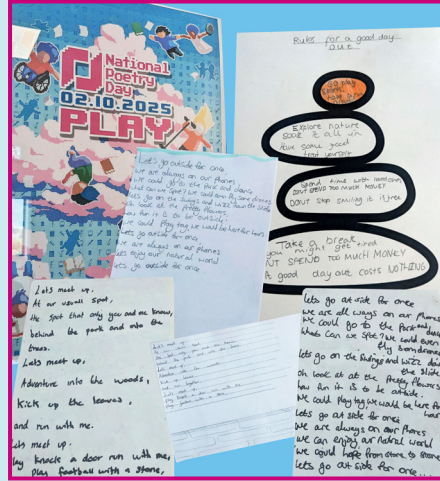
National Poetry Day Competition 2025

Year 7 and Year 8 National Poetry Day Competition

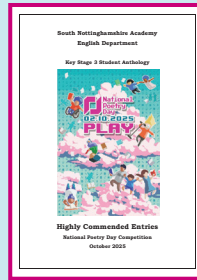
South Nottinghamshire Academy's English Department are immensely proud of the quality of entries submitted to this year's National Poetry Day competition.

Inspired by the poem 'Rules for a Good Walk' by Lucinda Jacob, students were encouraged to write a poem about an experience in nature. Students responded to this year's theme 'Play' with a range of unique and thoughtful ideas and their poems offer readers a valuable insight into what its like to be a young person in 2025.

The competition's winning entry belongs to Year 8 student, Madison. Madison's poem explores the feelings of freedom and fun associated with playing with friends outdoors. We particularly liked Madison's use of the refrain "let's meet up" which punctuates the range of activities she explores such as



"kick[jing] up leaves", "writ[jing] names in the mud" and "jump[jing] in every puddle we see". The three runners up were: Matthew, who captures the exhilarating pace of a football match; Chloe, who crafts a sensory description of a walk and Emily who describes an outdoor camping adventure.



You can read our anthology of highly commended entries in the Library and on the English Department noticeboard.

We would like to congratulate all students on their poetry writing skills – well done!

Reading

Well done for making such a great start to this reading year!

It's marvellous to see our established students back and reading with enthusiasm and to get to know our new year 7 students. For years 7 and 8, do remember to complete your AR quiz, via our school website Student Portal, as soon as you can after you finish reading a book you have understood and enjoyed. Don't delay until your next lesson, and do check the book if you need to refresh your memory – the questions are in the same order as events in the book.

Learning Mentors - This term, we have also welcomed two learning mentors, Miss Price and Miss Jeffreys, who are working to support students in their learning both during the school day and in the Library After School Study club.



Library Book Club

Our members are reading a varied selection of challenging novels nominated for the Redhill Academy Trust Children's and Young Adult Book Awards. We meet on a Monday lunchtime (first half) to chat about our books and complete book reviews for our own school and our reading buddies at Colonel Frank Seely Academy in Calverton. Members can also take part in a 'Get Creative' competition where they

can create a piece of art, a model, a cake, or anything they like, inspired by one of the books they have read for the Awards.

Finally, an enormous thank you to our wonderful Reading Leaders, Library Ambassadors and Library Prefects, who do so much to help other students. You are superstars!



Have a marvellous holiday, see you next year!

School HOLIDAY Library Safari

Congratulations to

James • Seamus • Shaheen
Lauren • Ellis • Thea • Bethany
Jace • Korvin • Grace • Abbie
Jack • Lily • Bronwen

who have each earned 5 extra house points for using their local library during the Autumn Half Term Holiday. Our School Holiday Library Safari will run again over each school holiday, so do remember to show us any evidence you have used a library over the holidays, at the start of each half term.

2026 Spring Term

Monday 5th January	Return from Christmas Break	Monday 23rd February	Return from Half Term
Friday 13th February	Break up for Half Term	Friday 27th March	Break up for Easter Holidays

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