

Newsletter May 2022

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What a whirlwind Spring Term! We have so much to update you about including Governor and Parent Association opportunities and changes to the school logo, uniform and House System as well as sharing the success stories of the last few months - without even mentioning the Ofsted inspection.

For sometime, we have been seeking to develop a new school logo. Our existing 'blocks' logo (above) represented the original three houses which will be soon out of date, nor is the logo unique to SNA. We have been looking at a logo that is more in keeping with the other Trust schools but also something that is professional and represents our communities. The new design will be in the shape of a shield with a blue strip running through the background. Students, staff and governors agreed that it was a rural element that joined our communities together (river, cliffs, weir, country park) as well as our Canadian link and heritage. Therefore, the new school logo is pictured right.



As a consequence of the new school logo and due to some of the issues we are faced with relating to 'appropriate' skirts and trousers, we will be introducing new school uniform. SNA will purchase a new blazer and either a new school skirt or trousers (with logo) in readiness for September 2022 for everyone in Year 7-10 currently. We are looking into the sustainability issues of what happens to the old uniform as well as how this is managed at a local level - further details will be confirmed this term.

Also, for September 2022 and to accommodate the increase in student numbers, we will be moving to a fourth House. Our plan is that all students will be redistributed across the new four Houses whilst we try and maintain any key relationships with families and Heads of House. Mr Leaman has been successful and will be the new Head of House as well as leading the transition. As part of this work, we will need to rename each of the houses (as there is not a fourth lion) and student consultation and discussion will begin soon.



Appeal for parent support: We have two opportunities for parents to get involved in the work of SNA. The first is that of a school governor that we will write to parents separately about. Secondly, for many years we have had a thriving parents associations (SNAPS - South Nottinghamshire Academy Parents and Staff) which is in very serious danger of folding. **Please see further details about this on page 7 of the newsletter.**

And finally, we are looking forward to being able to share the recent Ofsted inspection report with you. As you would expect but we don't take for granted, the students and staff were amazing and this was supported by your positive feedback. As always, many thanks for your support of our wonderful school.

D.Philpotts

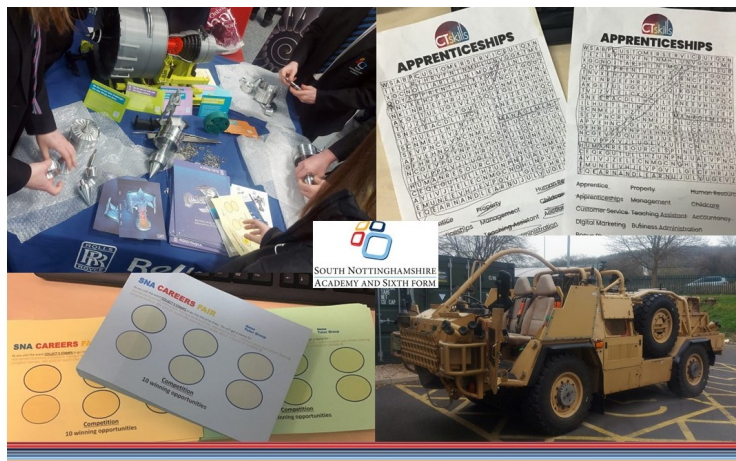
 @Head_SNA

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Skills) Week

STEM week commenced with students learning about Fire Service roles, backdraughts, flashovers, engineering, and pumping water, taking part in a maths focused activity. Students focused on wellbeing, the NHS, mental health and mindfulness. They did a desert rat planning and problem-solving exercise using maths, teamwork, and communication skills. They learned about the Great Train Robbery and did several activities with the Police, using maths skills and finger printing. They also learned about engineering roles in the Army, getting hands-on with various pieces of kit.

Year 10, 12 and 13 Chemistry students experienced a 'Spectroscopy In a Suitcase' Outreach Activity ran by Dr Peter Hoare from the University of Newcastle. This was an incredible day getting hands on with some expensive Analytical Chemistry equipment.

Our Careers Fair took place on Wednesday as we were joined by over 50 providers. All year groups had opportunity to visit the Fair, network with providers, and learn valuable insight into the many varied opportunities available to them for the future. We received fabulous feedback from providers – our students did us proud! Our year 12 ambassadors were simply amazing. They were hands-on, proactive, funny, polite, and made it their own! We are so proud of you all.



On Thursday we held a Careers and Skills Focused Challenge Day. We were joined by Captain Preet, an Army Physiotherapist who embarked on a solo trek to the South Pole. She shared her inspirational journey, talking about pushing boundaries, the challenges she faced, and her passions for the future.

A great week was had across the Academy, we are grateful to all providers who attended the Careers Fair, all speakers and visitors, and so many organisations and individuals who made it possible for us to share so much information and inspiration to support our students' futures.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold students have all been very busy and active in completing their Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections of their awards. They have been having some amazing experiences helping our community and keeping active and challenged.

The Bronze and Silver groups have also all participated in their practice walk during March and are master navigators ready for their expeditions next half term. The weather was mostly sunny and dry apart from one rainy day, but what else would you expect from a DofE expedition!



Drama Department

SNA was filled with the 'stench of rebellion' as SNA Youth Theatre performed 'Matilda JR' for three nights from 8th to 10th February in the SNA Theatre. One of the most magical moments is when Matilda sings, 'Even if you are little you can do a lot'. It's such a powerful reminder for each of us, tall and small, that we can achieve anything. Through the process of putting on this musical, our students have done just that: 75 SNA Youth Theatre students ranging from year 7 to year 12 came together and worked incredibly hard to create this extraordinary production. It has been a valuable and truly unforgettable experience for the students involved and the audience feedback has been amazing. Congratulations to all SNA Youth Theatre performers on an outstanding show!

In March we were also incredibly lucky to receive a visit from Splendid Productions, a theatre company known for creating engaging, challenging and powerful theatre, who performed their current production 'UBU' in the SNA Theatre. Following their performance Year 10 GCSE and year 12 A-Level Drama students had the opportunity to take part in a devising workshop with performers Kerry and Scott. In just a short space of time students produced some amazing performance work and certainly impressed the theatre company with their ideas and talent!



Fundraising

We raised £421 for Comic Relief on Friday 18th March, plus took part in our annual staff v students basketball match. This was a great event with students winning 22-19.



On Friday 25th March our Year 12 girls organised a bake sale raising £247 in funds for Ukraine.



At the end of Spring Term, SNAid leaders organised an Easter egg appeal for PASIC, a charity supporting families of children & young people with cancer in the East Midlands.

As always, we are so proud of our students for their thought, consideration and effort.





Music Department

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 they have recently started to use music technology to create their own contemporary songs.

Year 8 students have continued to develop their ensemble skills and have started to compose their own popular songs.

KS4 students continue to work hard on their vocational units and Year 11 students have recently performed their final pieces in the hall in front of a small audience. Their dedication and resilience this term has been commendable.

Our extra curricular ensembles continue to grow. Year 8 students have now joined the Swing Band on Wednesday lunch times and our mixed ensemble which rehearses on Wednesdays after school currently has 16 regular members. This group of students took part in the Modulo Meet at the Royal Northern Academy of Music in Manchester on Friday 25th March, which is run by the charity Orchestras for All. Our students were absolutely brilliant rehearsing with other schools at The Royal Northern College of Music. They led the way in a composition session and loved the whole experience – what an amazing opportunity!

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

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

Ski Trip 2022

A week of skiing was enjoyed during the first week of the Easter break.

Italy was beautiful, the slopes were incredible, we had lunch on the slopes, went tubing, enjoyed ski lessons, celebrated a birthday, held an awards ceremony, and danced on the slopes for our end of week party.

There were many tired legs by the end of the week, staff included. The students were simply brilliant with their enthusiasm and resilience, and some great memories were made!



Reading Festival

We went above and beyond for World Book Day, hosting not just a day to celebrate a love of literature, but a whole week of activities across the Academy with our Reading Festival 2022.

We held a number of special events and competitions throughout the week, launching with creative writing sessions. Calming music played as students were supported in the writing process – the perfect opportunity for any budding authors!

On World Book Day itself, we were visited by children's author, L.D. Lapinski. The author is renowned for writing The Strangeworld Travel Agency book series, which imagines hundreds of worlds that are just steps away from ours - all you have to do is simply jump into the right suitcase! LD delivered engaging presentations to students and signed copies of her book whilst having a chat with students.



We held a Readathon throughout the week, a sponsored read to raise money to put books in hospitals for poorly children, raising £900 for this worthy cause. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed.

We held a creative writing session in the library, a '5 or 5 or 5 writing competition' where students have to write a story in either 5 words, 5 sentences or 5 paragraphs, a 'Bookface competition', and a 'Make it or Bake it' competition where students have to make or bake something relating to their favourite book.

All in all, a great week was had celebrating books, literature, and a love of reading.

Make it; Bake it: Get Creative! Competition

Well done to all students who entered the Make it; Bake it: Get Creative! competition as part of SNA's Reading Festival.



Students in Years 7 to 10 were tasked with recreating a novel or play of their choice in an imaginative way. The English department had an influx of outstanding entries (from an icing sugar model of Ariel from 'The Tempest' to a dance routine to the

'Harry Potter' theme tune) which made it extremely difficult to choose the best ones!

Well done to the winners on your truly amazing efforts and contributions.



National Careers Week

We welcomed the Nottingham Forest Think Big team to SNA for a workshop with our Year 9 and 10 Media students. Arron Cuttriss and Craig Priest offered a brilliant session, getting students to think about the wider careers across Media. Students heard about the career journey of our visitors and worked together in mixed year groups for interactive activities.

Students looked at how technology is changing the careers landscape and employment in Nottingham. Our Year 12 students enjoyed a guidance workshop with The University of Nottingham Careers and Employability Service., focusing on career management and resources to help with decision making.

One of our Year 12 students attended a virtual careers meeting with Olympian broadcaster and Aston Villa ambassador Katharine Merry, who shared her career journey and spoke about journalism and sport media.

Our Year 9 students took part in an online talk with a second year French and International Business Student at The University of Birmingham. We learned of her study of French in school, her year abroad, combining French with Business, her aspirations for the future, and the skills she has developed through the study of languages.

Our Year 9 Business students visited PwC. Nottingham, taking part in several activities with lots of team working and problem solving. We received so much positive feedback regarding the enthusiasm, curiosity and above all politeness from our students. As always, this makes us very proud of our wonderful students.

We welcomed, via Zoom, Graphic Designer and Artist Jade Hall, to our Year 10 Art class. We heard about Jade's early career, life after university, and learned of the diversity of creative industry careers.

Year 10 Design and Technology students welcomed Neil from Rolls Royce Heritage, who shared his journey and set the students an activity, make a model engine challenge.

We welcomed back the University of Nottingham Medicine students to Year 10 Science and Year 12 Chemistry groups. We heard about studying medicine and careers in science.



On Saturday one of our Year 12 students attended a football match at the City Ground, learning more about behind the scenes on a match day, different career options, and met with an influential young person who has his own football media channel with a lot of connections and knowledge! The highlight was a surprise visit from a player and Nottingham Forest winning 4-0 – we were clearly the lucky mascots! We are grateful for the continuing relationship with the Ideagden/Forest Think Big programme.

What an incredibly busy National Careers Week. We hope to have inspired so many students to think about their future and see a variety of potential career paths.



Building Work

This half term has seen work get underway on the £2.5 million extension to South Nottinghamshire Academy.

This extension will enable us to continue to accommodate students in our catchment area.



This is to certify that

*South Nottinghamshire
Academy*

has been nominated winner in the
Climate Action Environmental School Competition
with
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

NHS Climate Action Challenge Competition Winners!

We are pleased to announce that the SNA Eco Committee were winners of the NHS Climate Action Challenge Competition.

The judges loved their presentation about the Tree Planting Project, which really stood out due to their wider connections to students in school, through assembly talks and ongoing engagement with helping towards keeping the planet healthy!

SNA Stars

We continue to award SNA stars to students who achieve excellent levels of consistency or produce work to an outstanding level. In total this year so far, we have awarded 537 stars. Every student awarded a star receives a message home, a house point and is entered into a monthly prize draw to win a gift voucher.

Congratulations to our March winner, Blake Cadman.



Parents Association Help Urgently Needed

The current SNAPS volunteer team is in serious danger of folding. The SNAPS team led by Tracey Davis are in urgent need of more help - many of the volunteers have children who have left or will be leaving SNA soon. As well as needing volunteers, we also need new people to take on the running of our parents association including the Chair and Treasurer roles.

Over the years, SNAPS have funded valuable resources including sports kits, author / artist visits, Duke of Edinburgh equipment, recycling bins, careers experiences and other specialist equipment, plus many more experiences and resources for students.

The main events that raise money for the school that SNAPS either lead or contribute to are the annual quiz, fireworks fiesta and more recently the food and gift fair.

If you would be interested in helping in any way then please do make contact with the current Chair of SNAPS (Tracey Davis) via email: tracey.davis@atos.net. Sadly, if no further support is forthcoming, SNAPS existence will come to an end.



Sports

Rugby

For the first time in SNA history, our Year 7 Rugby team have taken the treble—the Malcolm Kemp Trophy, CVL Trophy and the County Cup. We are so proud and cannot wait to see what next year brings. Well done to all involved.



Netball

The Year 8 Netball team worked incredibly hard in their first ever competitive match, despite poor weather conditions seeing them play in rain and hail stones. The team placed joint 4th place with Becket and East Leake B team. Libby was Captain throughout the games and was not only incredibly professional with the umpires but helped keep the girls focused and eager in each game.



Basketball

Our Year 8 Jr NBA team had a 20-0 win against Ellis Guilford, followed by a close contest between SNA and West Bridgford School which ended 22-12 to West Bridgford. Well done to all those who played and also our two Year 10 helpers, Alfie and Ellie.



2022

Monday 30th May	First day of Spring Half Term break
Monday 6th June	Students return from Spring Half Term break
Friday 24th June	Inset Day

Health and Wellbeing

SNA is in partnership with the Nottinghamshire Mental Health Support Team (MHST) to develop and improve our Health and Wellbeing provision.

The SNA Mental Health Newsletter Edition 2 will be out soon.

(Edition 1 is available on our website)



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