



South
Nottinghamshire
Academy



Pushing our boundaries to achieve more

NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2026

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At the end of another term, it is a pleasure to release our 2026 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 Bugsy Malone. Many thanks as always to all students and parents who attended the production, it was a wonderful week. Our March Careers Fair was another highlight for the Academy, hosting over 70 businesses who kindly volunteered their services to SNA, engaging and inspiring our students throughout the school day.

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 well over 500 applications in total. We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort at SNA for September 2026.

Our SNAPS team continue to do a brilliant job on behalf of our Academy, with recent purchases including Curriculum + resources, a history library, geography atlases, an adjustable gym bench, a coloured standing LED light for photography, a theatre company to attend school, revision tools and some samba drums for the Music department. A huge thank you to the team for their ongoing fundraising efforts. If you are a parent who would like to support fundraising for SNA students, please email snaps.pta@outlook.com.

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 20th March. As well as a tug of war competition and activities during the day, a non-uniform day helped the school to raise a fantastic amount of money for a wonderful cause, thank you to everybody for supporting the fundraising efforts.

We also continue to support our exam cohorts closely as they approach their GCSE and A level exams this Summer. Lots of additional revision opportunities, mentoring and tutoring, February half term and Easter holiday programmes, as well as providing revision books for all of our Year 10 students is just a sample of how we support students to maximise their academic potential. We were recently joined by ex England/

Great Britain Rugby league player Jamie Peacock (MBE) who delivered an inspirational and motivational assembly to our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Our students enjoyed the opportunity to listen to his



words of advice, as well as receiving tips to maximise their preparation and study as they embark on the Summer exam season. We are confident that all of our students will do themselves and the Academy proud.

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. There are many challenges we hear about from schools nationally, including student behaviour, attendance, mental health, achievement gaps, recruitment issues, school funding crisis etc, but we are extremely fortunate at SNA. We know what we are doing and we have wonderful staff and students in school to help us 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 M Siviter
Head of School

Mr D Philpotts
Headteacher
 @Head_SNA



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REDHILL
ACADEMY TRUST

Equality and Achievement

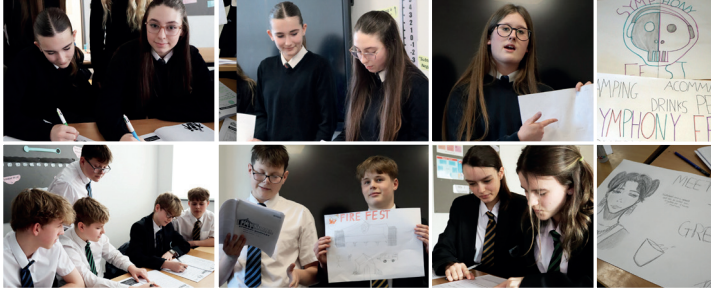
Year 9 Themed Week – Pathways and Purpose



Year 9 took part in Pathways and Purpose, a week focused on future planning and character development ahead of GCSE options. Students began with a self-reflection day exploring their strengths and potential pathways, supported by external providers including Capital One, Specsavers and the University of Sheffield. They also took part in subject taster sessions such as Business, Art, Health and Fitness, Psychology and Sociology to help inform their choices.

The Festival Challenge developed teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills through an enterprise project, while the RSHE day addressed important topics including FGM and sexual consent with maturity and respect.

Throughout the week, students built confidence, resilience and collaboration skills, demonstrating that preparing for the future is as much about character as it is about qualifications.



Attitude to Learning - Congratulations to our top achievers in Year 7 who have made a fantastic start to the year, and shown outstanding effort in their transition to secondary school. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, resilience and enthusiasm. A big well done too, to all our Year 7 students - every one of you has made impressive progress getting into new routines, new subjects, and a whole new chapter of learning. Keep up the good work; you're off to a brilliant start!



Golden Ticket Attendance and SNA Way Commendation Prize Winners - Congratulations to our winners for your fantastic commitment and dedication, your consistency truly pays off! Well done to everyone else on your effort and contributions. Keep it up! We're proud of you all.
Attendance Matters!

SNA Pledges Update

Since relaunching in June 2025, the SNA Pledge Programme has given students a clear framework to develop and celebrate their character. Students track pledges in their SNA Passport and on ClassCharts, working towards:

Bronze (3 pledges) • **Silver** (6 pledges) • **Gold** (10 pledges)

Rooted in personal growth beyond the classroom, the programme develops confidence, leadership, resilience, independence and commitment. So far, over 170 students have achieved Bronze and more than 60 students have reached Silver — a fantastic reflection of their drive to grow and challenge themselves. Special recognition goes to Lucy (Waddington), Isabella (Waddington), Cody (Robson) and Otto (Logan), who have each completed 8+ pledges.

We are proud of all students embracing the programme and continuing to build their character for the future.



Curriculum +

We've had an astounding start to the SNA Curriculum+ programme! Students have demonstrated their commitment to the SNA way by aiming high, working hard and showing their future awaits. Our most popular clubs have been SNA Youth Theatre, Library Homework Club, D&D and Chess Club. Our special thanks to the Performing Arts team for facilitating an amazing production of Bugsy Malone! The following students have demonstrated continued engagement with Curriculum+ Jace, Lily, Shaheen, Eve and Felicity. Finally, we have also launched a KS5 programme, featuring KS5 Cooking; ensuring our students don't just eat baked beans at university!

The house rankings are as follows:

Waddington 3554 **Keele 3253** **Robson 3080** **Logan 2995**



Houses Class Charts Points

Logan
32300 Points

Robson
32729 Points

Waddington
34494 Points

Keele
32863 Points

Sports

National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships (NJIRC) North 2026 - SNA Claim Medals!

Friday 27th February, students from South Nottinghamshire Academy joined nine academies from across our Trust to compete at NJIRC North 2026, held at the John Charles Centre for Sport in Leeds. With almost 800 athletes from rowing clubs, schools, Active Row programmes and other Trusts across the Midlands and the North, it was one of the largest indoor rowing events of the year.



The sheer scale of the venue made an immediate impression. SNA students described it as exciting but a bit intimidating! Once racing began, they settled quickly, showed great maturity, and represented SNA with pride and professionalism.

While it isn't possible to name every student individually, their collective effort was exceptional. They managed a loud, fast-paced event brilliantly - supporting teammates and staying focused throughout. We are incredibly proud of every SNA student who attended or has trained as part of the rowing club this year. Their commitment has helped build a genuine culture of confidence, resilience and belonging.

A huge thank you also goes to our sixth form volunteer, Hector, whose ongoing help and commitment has been invaluable in developing our students and encouraging participation.



SNA Medals Highlights	
Year 8 Boys Bronze: Tyler	Year 9 Boys Silver: Gryff
Top-20 Finishes: Year 11 Boys: Tyreece – 15th	
Year 7 Girls: Amelia – 4th, Evelyn – 14th	
Year 8 Girls: Jessica – 11th, Frankie – 12th	
Junior Boys Relay: 4th place	Junior Girls Relay: 4th place
Congratulations to all students involved - you represented SNA brilliantly.	



Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students had the privilege to watch international Handball, where they saw team GB play Latvia. The game was thrilling with lots of goals and an end result of 35-27 to Latvia. Four of our students were lucky enough to walk out onto the court with the players! Overall a great match and fantastic experience for our students.

Year 9 Boys' Football - The team produced an outstanding performance to secure a well-deserved 4–1 victory over Rushcliffe in the South Notts Cup. The team showed excellent commitment from start to finish, pressing high, supporting one another, and never easing off their intensity. Their teamwork and positive attitude were clear throughout the match and they remained focused and disciplined even when under pressure. Alongside their strong performance, the players displayed great respect towards the opposition and officials, representing the school superbly and making the win a performance to be proud of.



Handball - Our handball teams have qualified for the regional stage of the National Cup, which is a tremendous achievement. Our Year 7/8 boys' and girls' teams, as well as our Year 9/10 boys' and girls' teams, have all progressed after a series of impressive performances. Each team showed excellent skill, teamwork and determination, demonstrating the growing strength of handball across the school.



Inclusive Sports Event - Five of our amazing students took part in a multi sport event at Nottingham Trent University. We managed to win 2/4 events and also set some new records! We also came 3rd in the other 2 events. Overall a fantastic day.

Pickleball Club - has had a fantastic term, with students across all year groups getting stuck into one of the fastest-growing sports in the UK. The club has quickly become a weekly highlight, offering a fun, fast-paced mix of tennis, badminton and table tennis that students of all abilities can enjoy.

We look forward to welcoming even more students next term as we continue to grow the club, new players are always welcome!

Every Wednesday 3-4pm in the Sports Hall.

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!



Careers

Careers Week, National Apprenticeship Week and one of our most favourite events of the year – the whole school Careers and Aspirations Fair - which has attracted 80 providers!



Career Bites

This is an opportunity to experience a short Careers BURST over lunchtime. To date, Mrs Caunt has welcomed guest speakers from Software and Cyber Security, Marketing and Communications, Medicine, Psychology and Mental Health Nursing. The next career bites will be

with the RAF. The programme is offered once a month, right up to the end of the school year. We encourage all year groups to take part in these informative and interactive opportunities. A relaxed vibe and pizza and treats are the menu of the day! If you have an idea for career bites, speak with Mrs Caunt and she'll try and make it happen.

SAVE THE DATE FOR #NCW2026!

DREAM BIG AND PLAN AHEAD!

2ND – 7TH MARCH 2026



National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week

Careers celebration weeks are a UK wide initiative that help students understand their future education and job options. Apprenticeship week focuses on showing students how these work, with the combination of earning and learning. Careers Week has a broader focus on careers education, helping students explore pathways, sectors and the skills that employers value.

During NAW Year 8 winners of the Tyre Challenge Enterprise Day visited the University of Nottingham Business School.



Mrs Caunt also took a group of Year 13 budding apprenticeship students to the NTU Apprenticeship Fair, which offered an afternoon of networking and learning about a range of career sectors. We also showcased several of our Alumni apprentices from recent years, in order to inspire current students. In addition Sheffield Hallam University offered a workshop to our Year 13, about budgeting for student living.



Nottingham Forest Day

Nottingham Forest kicked off the first day of NCW, with their coding workshops for Year 10 Computer Science students and their Sport and

Technology workshops for Year 9 PE groups. They completed their visit with the 'Think Big Assembly' to all our Year 7, which is designed to raise aspirations and help students see the link between interests, skills and future careers, delivered in partnership with Ideagen Nottingham. The talk highlighted that success is not limited to one pathway, whether that's professional sport, technology, business or creative industries and the message encourages students to 'Think Big' about their futures and understand our local labour market, changes in tech and AI, and the skills employers value. We had some great questions from our curious younger years!



We are in the final 3 of the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards and remain hopeful! This award recognises our amazing partnerships with external organisations and how we work together for the benefit of our young people. Our industry partners range from employers, universities, colleges, training providers and charities and they add such value to our careers programme each year, helping us to achieve our Gatsby Benchmarks. There are many ways that businesses can support schools and if any parents work for an organisation who has a corporate responsibility programme and would like to discuss possibilities, please do get in touch with Mrs Caunt, Careers.

They learnt about degree education, the university and had a tour of the unique Jubilee campus. The students listened to an inspirational talk from an undergraduate entrepreneur, who has successfully launched his own product!



Capital One Trips

Two groups of Year 10 students were invited to spend the day at Capital One, for their Pathways employability programme. We also showcased several Alumni students who have taken the university route after sixth form and are now in employment! Exciting opportunities ahead.



Work Experience

Several of our sixth form students have pushed their boundaries and undertaken some additional work experience this year. Nathan was at Clegg Construction before Christmas, he has secured a Degree Apprenticeship within Quantity Surveying post work experience. Leah was with Vets who Care in the autumn term. Tiarna recently spent 2 days with Stephen Burdon Law and Harrison has just completed a week at Rolls Royce, with their Engineering team. Mrs Caunt is happy to support all students with connecting to employers, which can hugely enhance their portfolio.

Careers Fair 2026

Our recent Careers and Aspirations Fair provided an immersive experience for students in all year groups.

This opened students' eyes to the wide range of pathways available after school as well as the chance to learn about the work of charitable organisations. The event encourages meaningful conversations about future goals, highlighted local and national career routes and gave students the confidence to speak with external providers to explore their next steps. Providers brought in a range of activities, to help bring careers learning to life.



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

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is a time of colour, energy and tradition, and the year of the powerful fire horse is just getting started. Symbolising qualities such as strength, determination and drive that will hopefully inspire ambition and confidence for the year ahead.

Our sixth form has fully embraced the spirit of the celebration and has been beautifully decorated by our students with vibrant red lanterns and horse banners lining the walls. The decorations have brightened our sixth form and are encouraging us to learn about different cultures while celebrating the excitement and optimism of the New Year.

Thank you to Sophie who has dedicated her time to helping us learn about the Chinese New Year.



A SPLURGE-TASTIC SUCCESS!

Our Production of Bugsy Malone

What a show! This year's whole-school production of Bugsy Malone was an outstanding success and a true celebration of the incredible talent within our school community.



Performed to enthusiastic audiences from 10th- 12th February, the show transported us to the lively world of 1920s New York, where rival gangs battle it out with splurge guns and larger-than-life personalities rule the stage. From the opening number to the final custard pie, our students delivered a performance bursting with energy, humour and confidence.

A huge cast of just over 100 students from across the year groups worked tirelessly to bring this much-loved musical to life. The principal performers captivated the audience with strong vocals and characterful acting, while the ensemble impressed with slick choreography, sharp timing and boundless enthusiasm. Every musical number was performed with commitment and flair, creating moments that had audiences laughing, clapping and cheering throughout.



The rehearsal process itself has been a valuable and unforgettable experience for everyone involved. Students demonstrated dedication, resilience and exceptional teamwork, supporting one another and growing in confidence every step of the way!



What next? Every week there will be a new clue on the Drama Studio door so keep an eye out! If you are interested in becoming an SNA Youth Theatre member 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 been 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. The samba band continues to thrive and we were very lucky to be able to purchase more surdo drums for our students due to a kind donation from SNAPS. This means more students will be able to perform on these instruments during community events this summer.

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. Our links with



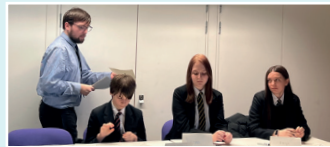
Inspire Music continues to prove beneficial for us, our rock bands have enjoyed songwriting workshops after school on Friday with two music artists, Tom and Nina, which means more bands will perform original songs this year at Radfest.

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. 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.

English

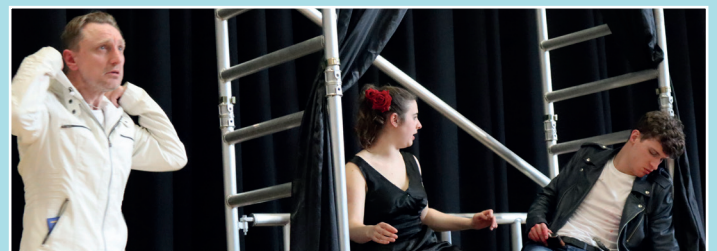


Spark Something Powerful Trip to Nottingham University

On Thursday 26th February, during Year 9 themed week, 10 students went along to Nottingham University Jubilee Campus to take part in their **'Spark Something Powerful Project'**. During the morning teachers worked with our students using creative pedagogical approaches, to help them explore texts with more agency and curiosity. They had fun making masks and using creativity and critical thinking to explore a range of diverse texts. The students were a real credit to us; the team were really impressed by their curious minds, enthusiasm and warmth - well done Year 9!



Our SNA **'Poetry by Heart'** finalists travelled to perform at Bolsover School as part of the Trust competition. They were an inspiration, described by the judges as **"commanding the stage"** and **"performing with passion."** Well done on representing SNA so fabulously!



Nottingham Shakespeare Company

We were delighted to welcome the **'Nottingham Shakespeare Company'** into school in January when they performed Romeo and Juliet to Year 10 and 11. Their energetic and engaging performance truly brought Shakespeare's play to life, helping students connect with the characters, emotions and themes in a vivid and memorable way.

The actors' enthusiasm and clear storytelling made the language accessible, and many students commented on how much easier it was to understand the play after seeing it performed. A particular

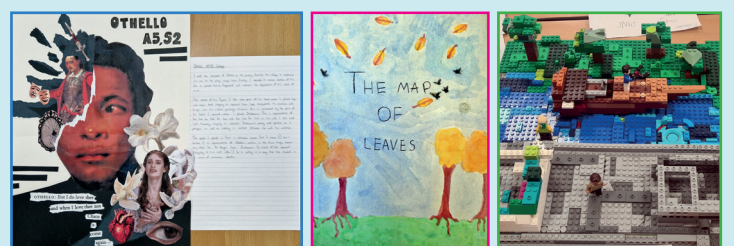
highlight was the Q&A session at the end, where students asked a range of thoughtful and insightful questions. The actors responded brilliantly, helping to deepen understanding of the play's complex themes.

It was a fantastic experience for our students and a wonderful way to support their learning of Shakespeare. We are very grateful to our amazing parents' association, SNAPS, for helping us to provide this opportunity to all students for free; your fundraising efforts are very much appreciated!



English Homework Showcase - The English department are so excited to showcase some of the wonderful homework projects students have created this year. From collages to cakes, crochet to crafting. Our students have worked incredibly

hard to produce a range of projects that showcase their individual talents and show a fantastic understanding of the texts we study. We have been so impressed by the effort and thoughtfulness that our English students have demonstrated across the school, from Year 7 all the way to Year 13.



Reading

Well done for making such a great start to your reading in 2026! For Years 7 and 8, do remember to complete your AR quiz, via our school website's 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.

School HOLIDAY Library Safari

Congratulations to

Shaheen • Lauren • Ellis
Bethany • Jace • Bronwen
Evelyn • Grace • James

who have each earned 5 extra house points for using their

local library during the February 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.

Our **Library Book Club** members have read a varied selection of challenging novels nominated for the Redhill Academy Trust Children's and Young Adult Book Awards, and travelled to The Carlton Academy on 13th March to take part in an author workshop with Ben Davis, and to attend the grand prize giving ceremony with students from across the Trust. 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 will shortly begin reading the shortlisted books for the Carnegie Awards 2026, and will then cast their votes in the Carnegie Shadowing Awards before watching the awards ceremony live online in the summer term.

SNA READING FESTIVAL 2026



The annual **SNA Reading Festival** took place in the week of World Book Day, 2nd - 5th March 2026.

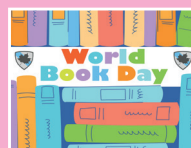
We held the first round of the RAT Book Quiz with tutors, a picture quiz in the library, students took part in a creative bookmark competition and a serialised story was read in each lesson on Thursday. We also had a special top-secret mission from football author Dan Freedman, to complete in Literacy lessons. The Readathon has also been launched.



Darren Simpson, author of **Furthermore, Scavengers, The Memory Thieves and Thirst**, gave highly engaging presentations to

Years 7 and 8, as well as meeting the Book Club and the wider school community in the library.

Every student was given a World Book Day token and may collect a free book from the library, provided by the school.



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

Have a marvellous holiday, see you next term!



**SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
ACADEMY**

Our biggest ever Bronze DofE cohort participated in a practice walk around the vale to test their navigation, teamwork and resilience ready for their final expedition in May. They did exceptionally well with minimal mistakes except Miss Keeble's group needing a mud evacuation!!



**Please follow us on Instagram @sna_dofe
See www.dofe.org.uk for more information.**



2026 Summer Term

Monday 13th April	Return from Easter Holidays	Monday 1st June	Return from Half Term
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday	Friday 26th and Monday 29th June - Inset Days	
Friday 22nd May	Break up for Half Term	Friday 24th July	Break up for Summer

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