

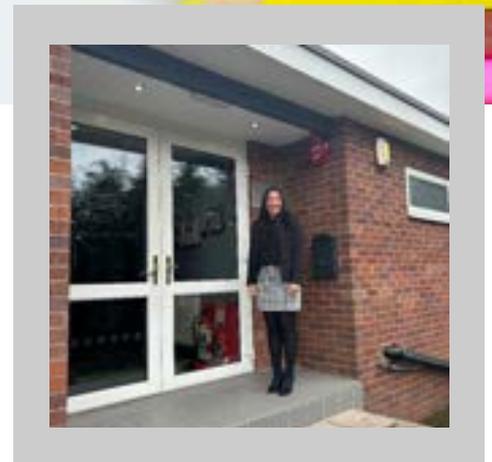
# NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER TERM 2024



Welcome to the latest edition of the Sporting Stars Academy Newsletter.

As we bring a close to the academic year, I am delighted to bring you all the highlights from our school community over this Summer term. This term has been an incredibly eventful one, not least for our previous Year 11 students who have sat their GCSE exams. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and hard work leading up to this momentous milestone and have no doubt that their efforts will be rewarded. We wish them the very best of luck and look forward to welcoming them back to collect their results.



This term has seen the introduction of the Student Council. Representatives have now met with our Personal Development Lead, Paul Burgess, to share their thoughts. It is great to hear such insightful ideas concerning all aspects of academy life and moving forwards, we hope that the Student Council will become more prominent in our day-to-day interactions and decision making. Watch this space!

Our Nurture students have continued to access Forest School as part of their curriculum, becoming a much-loved part of the week. Read all about their adventures this term, facing the lovely British Summertime weather in their wellies and rain jackets!

I hope you enjoy reading all about Academy life and join us in celebrating another great term. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to our students, staff, parents/carers, and the wider community for their unwavering support. We have now moved our students into their September classes and are all ready to start!

We are also saying goodbye and good luck to Sports teacher, Ryan Blackwell, who is taking on a new role in September. I would like to thank Ryan and wish him all the best in his next chapter.

# ART DEPARTMENT

This half term students are looking at a theme of Sun, Sea, Sky and Shells.

The Nurture group have been looking at artists that draw and paint fish. They have looked at pattern in the work of Derek De Young and Vincent Scarpace.

Year 9 have been investigating a range of sea creatures and creating images of the animals that they have researched. They have been creating informative posters describing and identifying their findings. They have done stencil work and scale drawings.



Some students work 1:1 and have an opportunity to explore a range of materials in art.

Year 10 students are working on coursework for their GCSE portfolio. They are focusing on an animal theme and looking at a range of artists such as Linzi Lynn, Steven Brown, Tommy Kane, and Peony Yip. They are using a range of media and developing their skills.



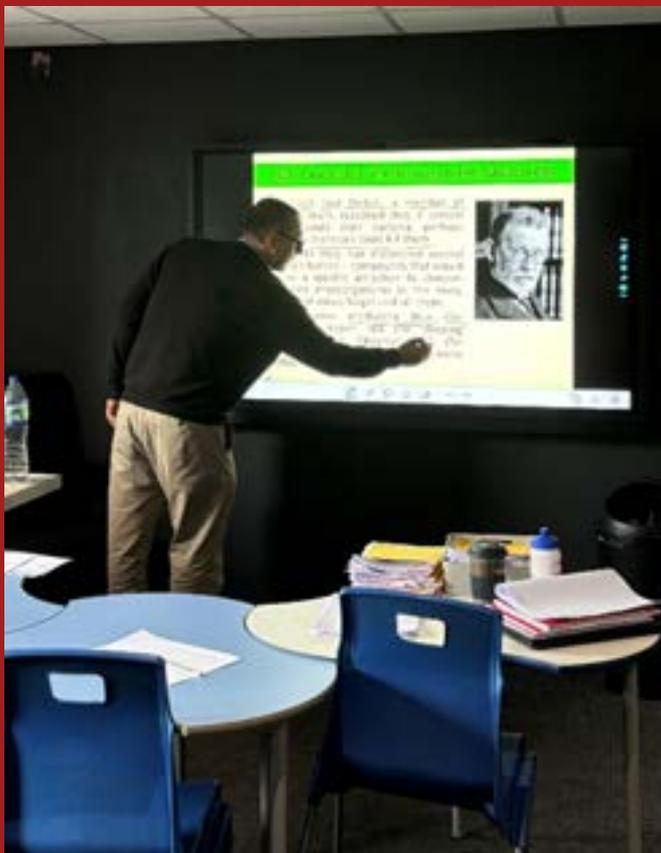
# HISTORY DEPARTMENT

## YEAR 10

Year 10 are especially skilled at interrogating primary sources and applying the skills needed in order to achieve success at GCSE. These skills include explaining the content of the source, who made it and its purpose. The students are taught how to interrogate evidence using the below formula:

- ü Content** What it shows?
- ü Origins** Who made it?
- ü Nature** The type of source it is?
- ü Purpose** Why the source was made and the impact the creator wanted it to have on its audience.
- ü Reliability** Can we trust it?

The students have since Easter been undertaking their third unit on Britain and Health from the Medieval period to the present day. They are presently studying how war, especially the two World Wars led to technological advancements. The students have learnt about how plastic surgery developed in the First World War and Penicillin in the Second World War.



## YEAR 9

This term Year 9 have been excelling at source skills this term and are now able to answer in-depth questions about World War Two. Since Easter the students have studied the causes and key events of the Second World War and we are presently studying the Home Front in Britain; through topics such as evacuation, rationing and the Blitz.

## NURTURE

Several members of our Nurture class have also completed their Unit Awards in History for Germany 1890-1945 and Conflict and Tension 1918-39. Feedback from the examiner was that they were most impressed with the quality of the work they had received.

# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

## YEAR 10

Year 10 students have been working hard this term reading 'An Inspector Calls'. They have then completed their mock exams in English language and literature. I have been really proud of their hard work and their recent dedication to checking their mock papers and learning from their mistakes.

We have now finished reading all three of the required texts in English: 'Macbeth', 'A Christmas Carol' and 'An Inspector Calls'. The students have continued to revise these texts through revision quizzes in class. Over the summer please encourage your children to watch the films of each of these texts to continue to revise the plot and characters. We have also finished studying language paper 1 and 2. This has given the students a chance to read a mix of fiction and non-fiction texts. More time will be spent next year developing the student's skills at story writing.



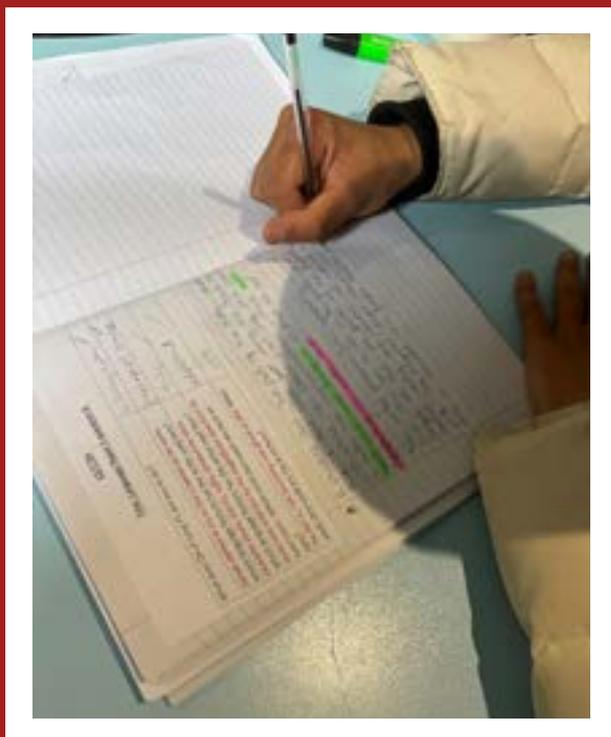
## YEAR 9

Year 9 students have been studying short stories this half term. Stories include 'Tell Tale Heart', 'The Monkey's Paw' and 'The Raven'.

All of our stories have involved sad endings with clear messages to the readers about their own behaviour.

We have discussed the motives of an author when writing a story and how their own lives might have influenced their writing.

We have also written about how intrigue and suspense have been used in stories in order to create sinister characters and sympathy for their poor, innocent victims.



# MATHS DEPARTMENT

## YEAR 10

Our Year 10 students have been diligently working on Transformations, mastering the concepts of translation, rotation, reflection, and enlargement. Their dedication and hard work culminated in their first mock exam, which they approached with remarkable maturity and focus. This experience has been invaluable in preparing them for their GCSEs. We are currently looking at what we can learn from our mocks and thinking about what improvements we can make in readiness for year 11.

## YEAR 9

The students have excelled in their Maths coursework, demonstrating significant progress and dedication. They have diligently worked on Pythagoras' theorem, mastering the skills needed to find both the hypotenuse and the shorter sides of a triangle. This foundational knowledge is crucial for their understanding of more complex geometric concepts and has been met with great enthusiasm and effort from the students.

In addition to Pythagoras' theorem, the students have shown a keen interest in learning and drawing 2D and 3D shapes. This unit has allowed them to explore the properties and relationships of various geometric figures, enhancing their spatial awareness and analytical skills. Their enthusiasm for this topic is evident in the quality of their work and their willingness to engage in classroom activities.

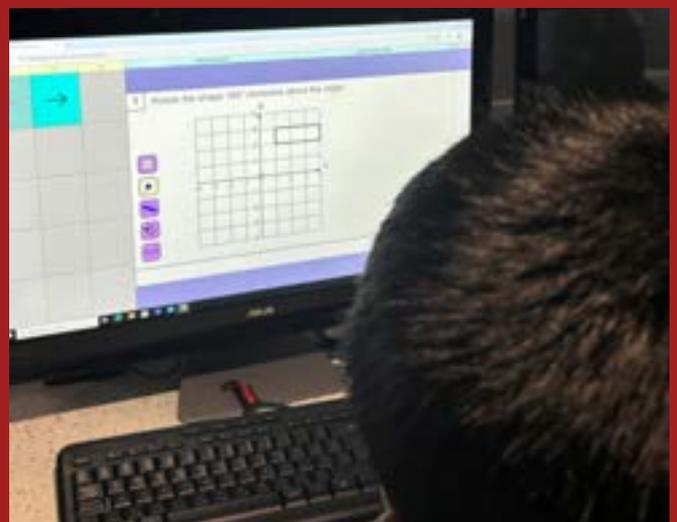
The students' growing interest and dedication in these areas highlight their readiness for further academic success in Maths. Their impressive effort and commitment throughout these topics have laid a strong foundation for future learning. As they continue to build on these skills, their hard work and perseverance are expected to produce good results, preparing them well for the challenges ahead in their mathematical journey.

## NURTURE GROUP

Our Nurture Group has been laying the groundwork for their Functional Skills assessments in September.

They have been working on BIDMAS (Brackets, Indices, Division and Multiplication, Addition and Subtraction), as well as percentages and decimals.

These foundational skills are crucial for their academic growth and everyday life.

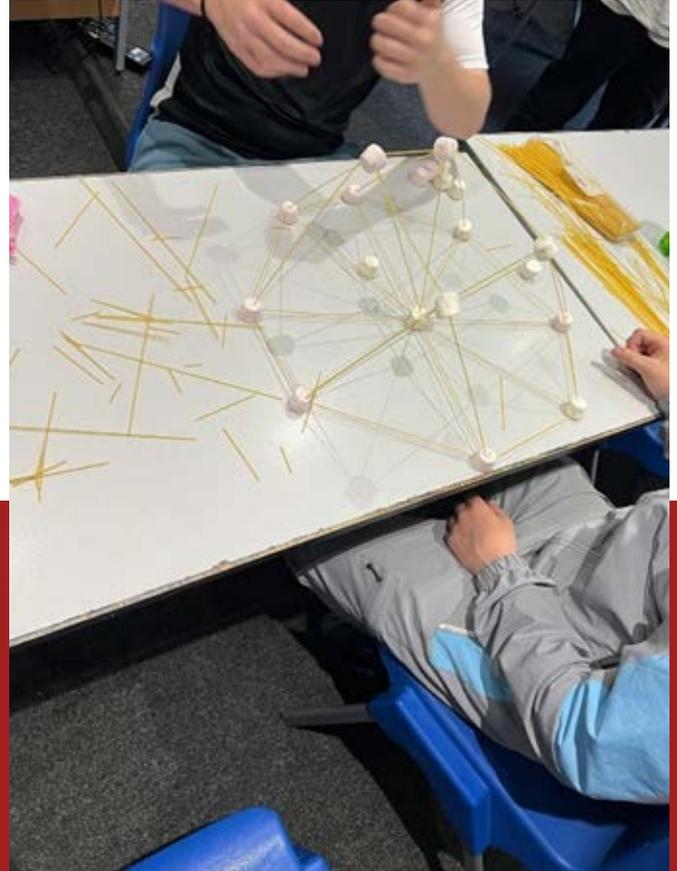


# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

## YEAR 9

Year 9 students have been busy learning about the earth's atmosphere, ecosystems, biodiversity, inheritance, and evolution.

The pictures here show the students creating towers. They used spaghetti and marshmallows. This allowed the students to develop their skills thinking about comprehension and tension. Their commitment to understanding these complex topics is impressive.



## YEAR 10

The students have delved into the study of global warming and climate change, the water cycle, biodiversity, and the various impacts humans have on biodiversity, both positive and negative.

Their engagement and enthusiasm are commendable.

They are currently looking at the Periodic Table in order to discover the wonder of the elements around them.

Their commitment to understanding these complex topics is impressive

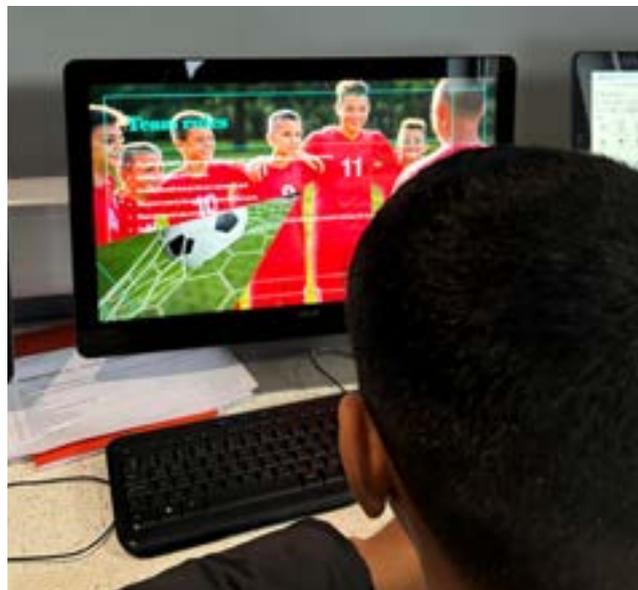
# SPORT DEPARTMENT

## YEAR 9

During this half term, Year 9 students have excelled in their BTEC Sport coursework, showcasing remarkable dedication and progress. They have successfully devised a comprehensive six-week training programme tailored for their specific athletes, effectively translating their theoretical knowledge into practical application. This project has allowed them to understand the intricacies of training methodologies and how to cater to the unique needs of different athletes.

In addition to this, as part of Unit 2, students have engaged in an in-depth exploration of the roles and responsibilities of officials in various sports. They have delved into understanding the different signals and terminology used by officials, broadening their perspective on the importance of officiating in sports. This knowledge is crucial for their overall understanding of sports management and operations.

Currently, students are in the final stages of their Unit 2 coursework, where they are tasked with picking a sport of their choice to create a detailed fact file. This fact file encompasses various aspects such as the roles, responsibilities, and appearance of officials in their selected sport. This assignment not only allows them to apply their learning but also encourages them to research and gain deeper insights into the functioning of sports at a professional level.



## YEAR 10

The Year 10 cohort has demonstrated impressive effort and commitment throughout these projects. As they continue to build on this foundation, their hard work and perseverance are expected to be rewarded with good results, preparing them well for future challenges in their BTEC Sport studies.

# NURTURE CURRICULUM

The Nurture Group has been incredibly busy this term, showcasing their dedication and hard work across various subjects and activities. Here's a roundup of their fantastic accomplishments and ongoing projects:

## Unit Awards in Science

Our students have successfully completed their Unit Awards in Science, with a particular focus on Digestion and Ecosystems. Their understanding of these vital biological processes and their impact on the environment has been exemplary.

## Functional Skills

In addition to their scientific achievements, the Nurture Group has also completed their Functional Skills courses in English and Mathematics. These fundamental skills are crucial for their academic and personal growth, and our students have shown great progress.

## Emotional Wellbeing in PSHE

As part of their PSHE curriculum, the students are delving into the important topic of Emotional Wellbeing. They are learning valuable strategies to manage their emotions and build resilience, which will support them throughout their lives.

## Humanities Curriculum

The Nurture Group has embarked on their humanities curriculum by exploring religious places of worship. This journey is broadening their understanding of different cultures and religious practices, fostering a sense of respect and curiosity about the world around them.

## Digital Music Production

Creativity is also on the agenda. The students have been engaging in digital music production, where they get to express themselves through technology and music.

We are incredibly proud of all that the Nurture Group has achieved and look forward to seeing their continued growth and enthusiasm in the coming months. **Keep up the fantastic work!**



## FOREST SCHOOL

The students have continued to enjoy their forest school afternoons with Lorna, our Forest School teacher. This term they have made dream catchers, mandalas, cooked over the fire and made miniature furniture. We have also been lucky enough to take part in some extra Forest School days with the Waymaking charity. During these days we have been to Gradbach and The Roaches and have experienced hands-on learning in a natural setting, encouraging teamwork and a connection with nature.

# STAR CURRICULUM

We are continuing to successfully deliver our form time curriculum. The STAR curriculum creates meaningful, calm learning during our 15 minutes of form time and helps to build relationships between the students and staff.

As well as a specific activity each morning we also have a 'Thought of the Day'. These thoughts pose questions to the students on a variety of topics, both current affairs and ethical issues. Please discuss with the students the 'Thought of the Day' because I am sure they would love to hear your ideas.

Below you can see the breakdown of each day for each class:



- On Monday the students undertake a Literacy challenge.
- On Tuesdays we debate a particular PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education) issue and this may be an issue raised recently by the students.
- On Wednesday we undertake some numeracy tasks as a class on the board trying to solve the problem we are posed with.
- Thursday is about news and current affairs and what is happening locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Friday is a fun way of ending the week and may involve such things as wordsearches or board games such as chess and draughts.

The STAR curriculum is not just seen in form time. During lessons students in year 11 and post 16 and nurture have undertaken BTEC units for 'Personal Growth' and 'Development and Work Skills'. For 'Personal Growth' the Students have learnt about Healthy Relationships and for 'Work Skills' the students have studied the skills and qualities needed in the job market of modern Britain. The content of the units has now been taught and the students have completed their assignments; with the feedback being from the Pearson moderator that they are the best assignments she has ever seen.

So a big congratulations to our students for all of their hard work. Those returning to Sporting Stars next year will be undertaking Unit 13 for Work Skills, which will focus on Team Work. In Personal Development students will study unit 1, which will focus on Healthy Lifestyles.

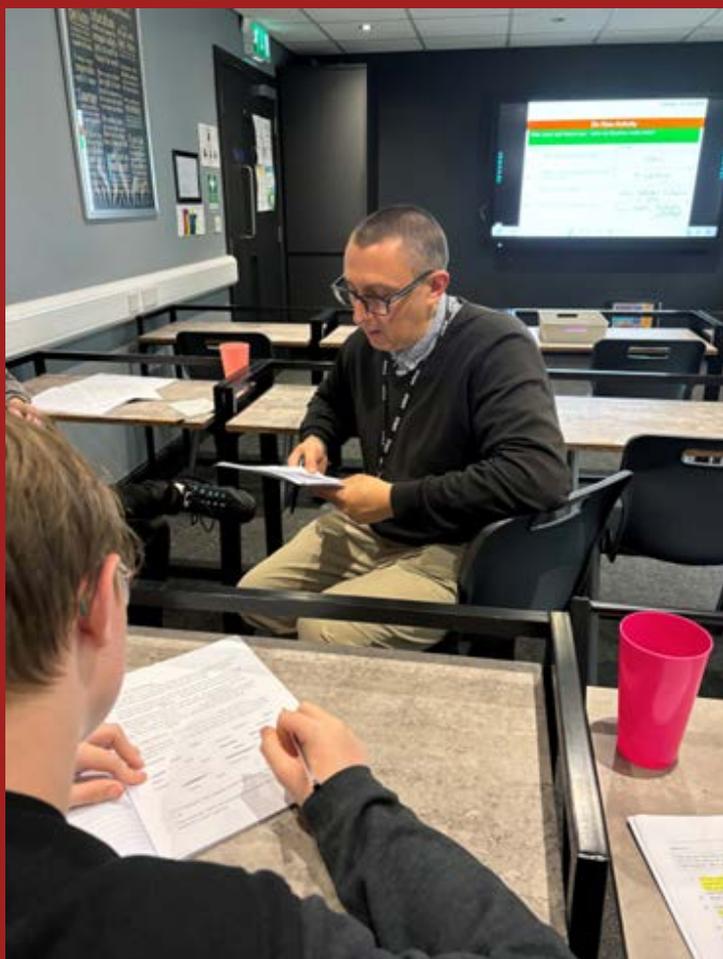
# STAR CURRICULUM

## YEAR 11

Year 11 have successfully completed and submitted their BTEC Workskills 'Considering Your Own Work Related Skills and Behaviours' unit, and the Year 11 students not continuing at Sporting Stars Academy for their Post 16 studies, and yet to apply to college, have received support, where required, with their college applications and interview preparation.

## YEAR 10

1 to 1 Interviews have been conducted with Year 10 students by an external provider in relation to future work experience, and they continue to receive 1 to 1 support in creating their Curriculum Vitae's (CV's) as they begin their transition from year 10 to Year 11.



## POST 16

Post 16, having successfully completed their BTEC Workskills Unit 1 'Considering Your Own Work Related Skills and Behaviours', have now commenced Unit 13: 'Contributing to Teamworking in the Workplace', and continue to engage in further Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) around developing their CV's, Labour Market Information, Job Searching, Job Applications and Interview Skills.

Furthermore, a number of Post 16 students remain engaged in external training provision for Barbering/Hairdressing, and Construction.

In addition, several students continue to benefit from 1 to 1 Bespoke Provision receiving the abovementioned CEIAG support, accessing online resources to complete Buzz Quizzes and Skills Assessments to help develop self-awareness, identify strengths and explore suitable career options.