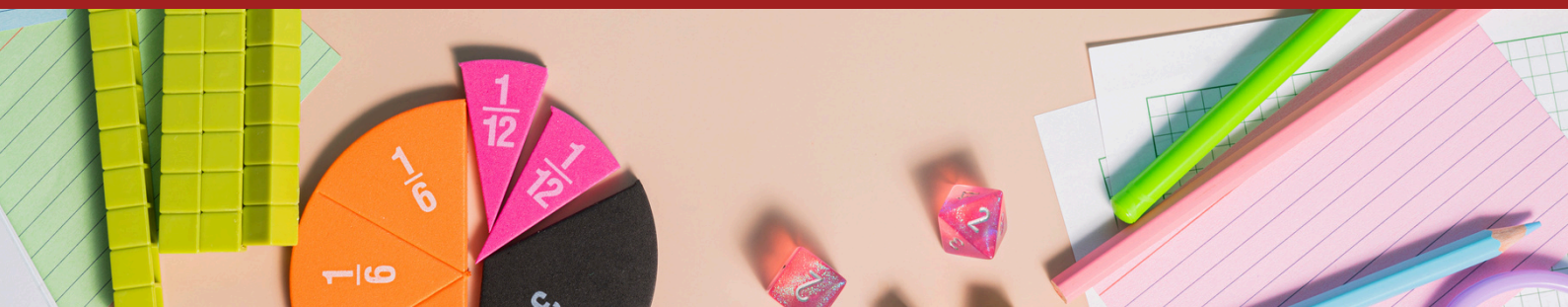


# NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER TERM 2025



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

As we come to the end of the summer term, it's been wonderful to see our school community so engaged in learning and enjoying the many opportunities this time of year brings.

I would like to take a moment to say how incredibly proud we are of our Year 11 students, who have shown great determination, resilience, and maturity throughout their GCSEs. A huge well done to all of them- they truly are a credit to themselves and to our school. We wait with anticipation and excitement for result's day. Good luck to all!

This term, across all groups, there has been a wealth of exciting learning, trips and opportunities that have enriched the children's learning. Work experience and volunteering has played a main part of these opportunities, including supporting local projects such as the renovation of Stockton Brook Waterworks and Pumping Station and maintenance works at FC Hanley. Enjoy reading about the wealth of experiences that have been undertaken this term. A reminder that the website also continues to offer weekly updates and blogs regarding activities and academy news.

It's been lovely to see everyone enjoying the sunshine and making the most of their time outdoors through these activities. Let's hope the summer break brings more of the same!

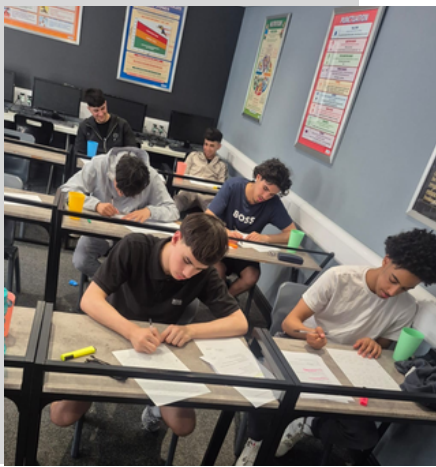
Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break and we look forward to welcoming students back into the academy on Wednesday 3rd September for the new academic year.



# BTEC SPORT

## Year 10 Tech Award – Fitness Testing

As part of their BTEC Tech Award in Sport, Year 10 students have been studying a range of key topics related to health, fitness, and sport performance. These have included the components of fitness, methods of measuring exercise intensity, and the fundamental principles of training. A particular focus has been placed on understanding aerobic endurance—what it is, why it matters, and how it can impact performance, especially in long-distance sports and events that require sustained effort over time.



To put theory into practice, students participated in a variety of fitness tests designed to assess specific components of physical fitness. These included the Multi-Stage Fitness Test (Beep Test), which evaluates aerobic endurance; the 30-Metre Sprint Test, which measures speed; and the Illinois Agility Test, which assesses agility and quick directional movement.

Through completing these tests, students were able to gain a clearer understanding of their individual strengths and areas for improvement. They learned how to interpret their results by comparing them to normative data, allowing them to see how they ranked in comparison to national or age-related averages. This insight was invaluable in helping students reflect on their fitness levels, identify goals for improvement, and understand how different aspects of fitness contribute to overall sporting performance.

Year 11 students have now successfully completed both of their externally assessed exams in Anatomy and Physiology and Health and Fitness, marking an important milestone in their BTEC Tech Award journey. Alongside their exam preparation, students have also worked hard to complete their final pieces of coursework—Unit 9: Lifestyle and Well-being and Unit 10: Exploring Motivation and Psychological Influences on Performance.

Through both units, students have gained a well-rounded understanding of the psychological and lifestyle factors that contribute to performance and overall health. Their hard work and engagement throughout the course have provided them.

I wish them the best of luck for their futures and hope that the lifestyle and fitness information which they have learnt will support their good health in the future.





# SCIENCE

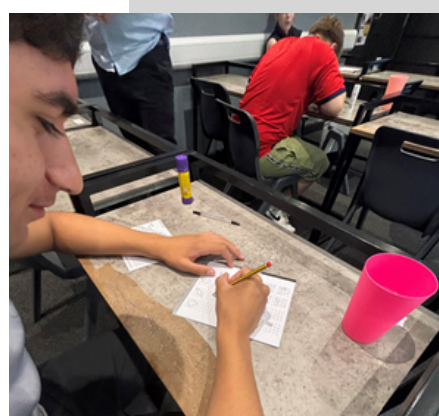
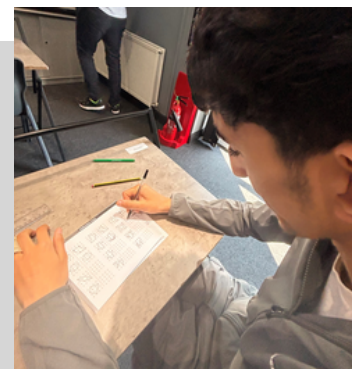
It's been a busy and productive term across the Science Department, with students in all year groups engaging in a wide range of exciting topics.

## Year 10 Science Update

Year 10 have been exploring some of the most important and fascinating areas of science. In biology, they've been learning about ecosystems and biodiversity, investigating how living organisms interact with their environments and why preserving biodiversity is crucial.

In chemistry, they've studied the Earth's atmosphere, including how it has changed over time and the impact of human activity. In genetics, they've also looked into inheritance; understanding how traits are passed from one generation to the next through DNA.

The enthusiasm and curiosity shown by the students have made for a fantastic term of learning.



## Year 11 Science Update

Year 11 approached their GCSE revision with real dedication and focus. They worked extremely hard in the run-up to their exams, attending revision sessions, practicing exam techniques, and consolidating key knowledge. Their efforts during the exam period were impressive, and we're proud of how they handled the pressure and challenges of GCSE season.

We wish them the very best for their results.



## Year 12 Science Update

At A-level, our physics students have been delving into two core areas: Forces and Electricity. They've developed their understanding of key physical principles, applied them to real-world contexts, and tackled challenging problems with determination. Their commitment to deepening their understanding of the subject is commendable.



# MATHS

## Year 10 Maths

This half term, Year 10 have been working hard on topics involving 3D shapes, investigating both area and volume, and applying these to practical problems. The students have learnt using the 'I Do, We Do, You Do' model to develop their skills by working with the class teacher as well as independently.

They have since moved onto linear graphs, developing their understanding of gradients and y-intercepts.

Recently, Year 10 have sat their end of year mock exam, giving them valuable experience as they begin preparation for next summer's GCSE exams.

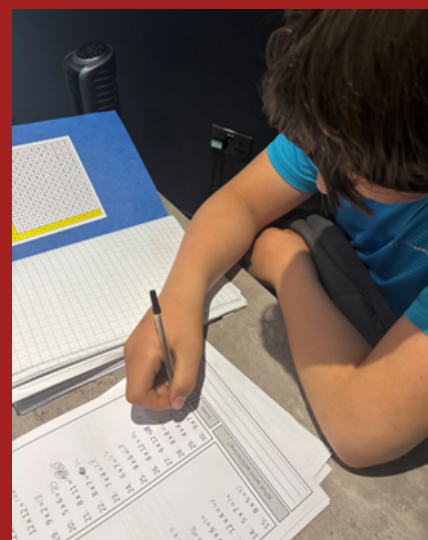
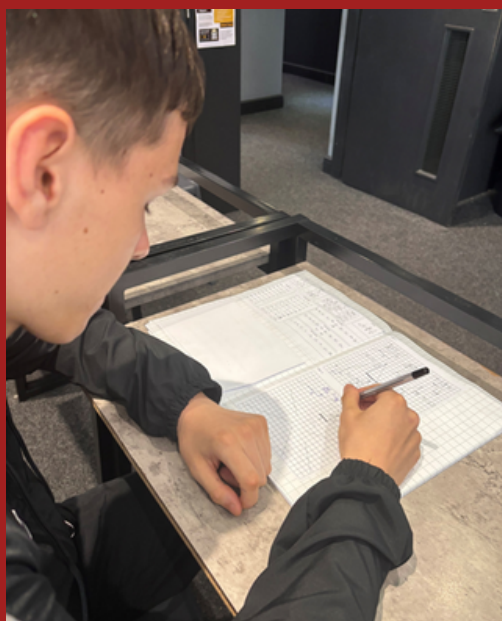
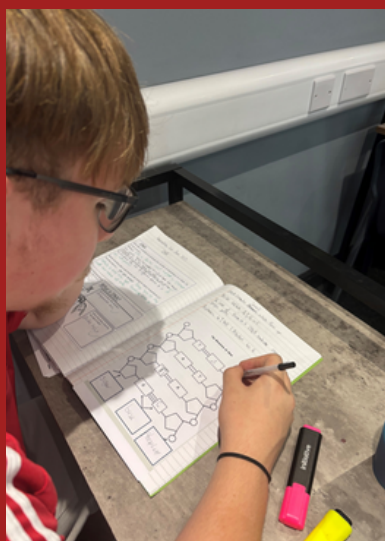
## Year 11 Maths

The Y11s have completed their GCSE maths exams and we hope the hard work and effort they put in is reflected in their outcomes in the summer.

## Post-16 Maths

In Post-16 maths, students have completed their Functional Skills assessments, demonstrating their ability to apply maths to real-life situations. The students worked very hard for these assessments completing practice papers in class.

They have now started a new unit on financial maths, exploring essential skills such as budgeting, payslips, and managing bills – vital knowledge for life after school.





# ENGLISH

## YEAR 10: 'AN INSPECTOR CALLS'

Year 10 have continued to work hard this term preparing for their GCSE Literature by reading the third of our required texts, 'An Inspector Calls'. The students have really enjoyed reading the text and volunteering to act out the different character parts.

The students have had some lively discussions about the advantages and disadvantages of both Socialism and Capitalism. They have shown great understanding about personal responsibility and how we should respond to people in society.

The students have recently completed their mock exams for language and literature. This will provide them with invaluable experience to support their learning in September.



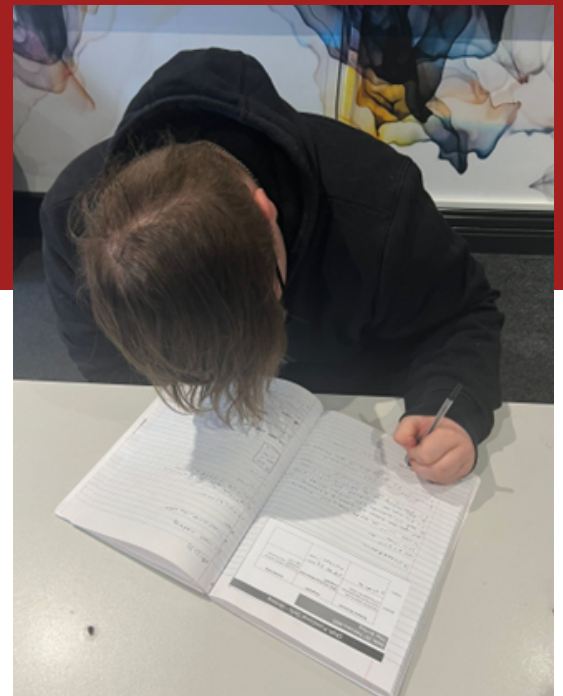
## YEAR 11: FINAL GCSE EXAMS

Year 11 students have worked very hard this term preparing themselves for their final GCSE exams. The students worked hard revising the key quotes and facts which were needed for their exams. Students attended after school revision classes to further reinforce the learning from class.

## POST-16 FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

Post-16 students have been revising and preparing for their Functional Skills exams in English.

The students completed these exams to prepare them for the world of work. The tests are a solid foundation to support the students as



I am really proud of the hard work and effort which all of the students have put into their studies this term. I am looking forward to teaching many of them again in September.



# NURTURE – ACADEMIC

## MATHS

This term, the nurture group has been completing work based around graphs and preparation for life with skills such as budgeting, coordinates and problem solving. Pupils have continued their enthusiasm and hard work in maths this term. Pupils will return in September focusing on number values and calculation questions.

## BTEC PE

The nurture group have completed Unit 12 – Keeping healthy and active as part of their BTEC qualification. The group have enjoyed finding ways to keep healthy and they have linked these to how they can stay healthy themselves. As part of the unit, they have taken part in a range of physical activities including fitness testing and cricket. As the summer term comes to an end, pupils will prepare for September where they will be working on training for fitness.

## ENGLISH

In English, we have focused on developing our Functional Skills through extended reading and writing tasks. As the term progressed, students explored a range of literature texts and worked to build their vocabulary.

## SCIENCE

In Science, our focus was on physics, particularly forces and different types of energy and how it is transferred. Pupils completed both an exam and a coursework element as part of their assessment.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

In RE this term, we have concentrated on Paper 2– Catholic Wisdom and Living. We have explored the Bible, Church Leadership, the Church and Mary. We have also explored architecture, sacred objects and art.

## VOCATIONAL STUDIES

In Art, students explored the work of a variety of influential artists such as Picasso, Yayoi Kusama, and Frida Kahlo, and experimented with recreating their distinctive styles.

## STAR CURRICULUM

In PHSE, the students have been learning about their bodies and the changes which happen during puberty. They have also learnt about what constitutes a healthy relationship.





# NURTURE – ENRICHMENT

## FOREST SCHOOL

Our Forest School programme for nurture has been a hit this term – better weather has been welcomed with students enjoying plenty of sunshine and relaxation in hammocks.

Students have been helping with the forest school facilities by planting new trees and plants to bring some colour to the outside. They have learnt about which plants are suited to which environment and what care is needed in planting and caring for saplings.

Nurture have restarted Waymaking this term. This is an exciting opportunity to work with some local, professional artists to unite visual and sound art with the natural world.

They have visited the Stockton Brook Water Pumping Station in Stockton Brook where they have built a fence out of willow and Biddulph Grange Country Park where they explored the sounds of their voices amongst the trees.

## ENRICHMENT

Nurture students continues to be competitive, work hard and try new things during enrichment. They have enjoyed being out in the sunshine more whilst the weather has been warm. The class has taken part in lots of walks such as visits to Longton park, Hanley Forest park and Burslem park.



## MUSIC

This term, the group have been working towards Level 1 AQA awards in music. Some pupils have been practicing their DJ skills in preparation for a Level 1 qualification supported by a teacher from City Music Services.

All of the students are looking forward to returning in September where they will continue their music lessons. The students have enjoyed engaging with their peers, developing their musical talents and producing electronic pieces of music. An interesting part of the lesson is the end, where they are given the opportunity to perform to each other.



# POST-16 PROVISION

Our Post-16 students have had a productive and enriching term, continuing their academic studies in mathematics, English, and Personal Growth and Wellbeing. They have worked hard to develop key functional skills that support their preparation for adulthood and independence. To support their future plans, the students have also attended assemblies from both the fire and army careers centres.

This term also included an exciting careers trip to a local biscuit factory, Hill Biscuits in Ashton-Under-Lyne, where students gained insights into the world of finance, engineering, and manufacturing. The visit offered valuable real-world context and inspired conversations about future career pathways. The students were even given a goody-bag of biscuits to take home!

As part of their volunteering programme, students have given back to the community by supporting a variety of local initiatives, including hands-on work at the John Hall Wellness Garden in Leek. This has been a fantastic opportunity to contribute to a meaningful cause while developing teamwork and responsibility. The visits to the Wellness Garden will continue in September as the students complete AQA Unit Awards in horticulture and gardening.

Our regular Waymaking mornings have further supported the development of practical skills, collaboration, and outdoor learning, helping students to build confidence and resilience in new environments.



Well done to all our Post-16 students for their ongoing effort and enthusiasm this term!





# ENRICHMENT & AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



This term, students at Sporting Stars have enjoyed a wide range of enrichment activities designed to support both physical development and wellbeing:

- **Golf Introduction** - Students learned the fundamentals of golf, including grip and swing techniques. They also participated in a "Longest Drive" competition using tracker machines to record distances.
- **Cycling for Wellbeing** - Bike rides around the local park were organised to promote physical health and mental wellbeing.
- **Foot Golf** - Students explored the hybrid sport of Foot Golf, combining football and golf to develop coordination and accuracy.
- **Hedgehog sanctuary** - Students have taken part in volunteering at the local rescue sanctuary.
- **Hanley Town FC** - Students have helped improve the ground at Hanley Town by volunteering to undertake maintenance work.
- **National Trust** - We have volunteered at both Biddulph Grange and Alderley Edge.





# STAR CURRICULUM

In form time, 'Thought of the Day' remains a lively discussion point amongst both students and staff.

Topics this term have included friendships, relationships and topics related to current affairs.

The current news headlines are discussed with the students on a Thursday. Recent topics of discussion have been the Gaza conflict and the NHS.



'Fun Friday' is very competitive in nurture as the students play chess and draughts with each other and staff. Year 10 students enjoy challenging each other with word searches and general knowledge quizzes. A current favourite is a music quiz where the students have to name the song and artist.

Each class has tailored literacy resources. Nurture read together as a class twice a week, they are currently reading the fiction novel 'Wonder', about a young person born with a facial disfigurement following his journey in school.

Post-16 students spend every morning focusing on their independent reading from a book in our library. Years 10 and 11 work their way through a literacy booklet developing their skills of basic literature skills.

