

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM 2026

Welcome to our last newsletter of the year.

We have had a very busy term with lots of activities happening across all year groups.

Enrichment activities have continued to provide the students with rewarding experiences and a chance to develop new skills. This term, we have played our first inter-school football match against Alpha Learning. The students put on a fantastic display in a tightly fought thriller. It was an edge-of-your-seat game that could have gone either way. Sadly, it wasn't to be, as a last-minute breakthrough saw us just pipped to the post in the final moments. Heads up, boys – you played brilliantly!

Nurture have taken part in two art workshops, where they have enjoyed developing their creativity and working together. Look out for our blogs, which provide you with more details of our enrichment activities.

Our Post-16 students have worked hard to complete their final qualifications and we wish those leaving us good luck with their future endeavours. Please stay in touch!

I would like to wish you all a happy and restful summer. Please look at the SEND page at the back of the newsletter for information about clubs and support across the city in the summer.

Best wishes,
Katie

Photos from our first inter-schools football match against Alpha Learning.

The match was a very close fought competition, ending 8-6 to Alpha.

Great effort from both teams – well done!



BTEC SPORT

Year 10

Year 10 students have continued to make excellent progress in their development of Component 3, focusing on key components of fitness, including speed, strength, aerobic endurance, and reaction time. Throughout this unit, students have actively engaged in both the theoretical and practical aspects of fitness, developing a deeper understanding of how these components contribute to sporting performance.

As part of their learning, students have completed a range of fitness assessments designed to measure and evaluate these components. These have included the Ruler Drop Test to assess reaction time and the Multi-Stage Fitness Test (Beep Test) to measure aerobic endurance. Students have demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment during these assessments, while also developing their ability to interpret and analyse performance data. A notable achievement was demonstrated by Riley, who achieved an above-average score in the reaction time assessment when compared with normative data. This reflects both strong natural ability and a positive approach to practical testing.

Students have also begun applying their knowledge of the components of fitness to their coursework. They are developing their ability to identify relevant sporting examples and explain how specific fitness components influence performance in different sporting contexts. Shaun has provided some excellent examples when discussing the importance of power and reaction time in boxing.

In addition to their fitness studies, all students have been working diligently towards their coursework requirements. They have focused on developing their understanding of the rules, regulations, and key characteristics of both badminton and football. Students are becoming increasingly confident in their knowledge and are working hard to ensure they can apply this understanding effectively within their coursework and assessments.

Year 11

Year 11 students demonstrated excellent resilience and determination in successfully completing their final coursework for the BTEC Tech Award. Throughout the completion of Component 2, students worked hard to consolidate their understanding of key areas, including the components of fitness, the rules and regulations of football and badminton, and the practical application of this knowledge within sporting contexts.

Special mentions to both Aleeza and Mustafa, who both worked incredibly hard in the lead up to their final exam.

GCSE SCIENCE

Year 10 Science Update

This term has been a busy and engaging one for our Science students, with Year 10 and Year 11 classes making excellent progress in their studies.

Year 10 students have explored a range of fascinating topics that have helped them develop a deeper understanding of the natural world. They began by studying the Earth's atmosphere, learning about its composition, how it has changed over time, and the importance of maintaining the balance of gases that support life on our planet. I was particularly pleased with the understanding Jimmy demonstrated about this topic.

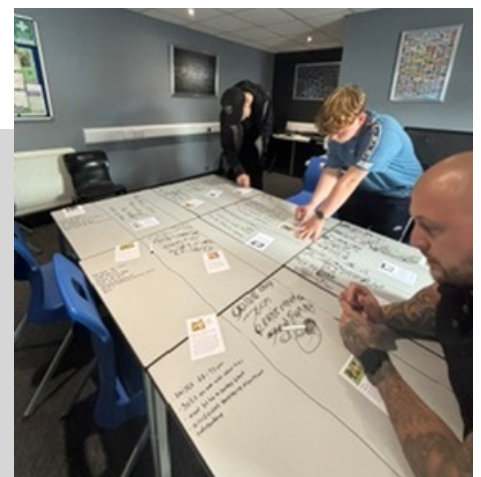
Students also investigated ecosystems and biodiversity, examining the relationships between organisms and their environments, as well as the importance of conserving diverse habitats and species.

In addition, Year 10 students have been learning about genetic inheritance. They explored how characteristics are passed from parents to offspring and gained an understanding of genes, chromosomes, and inherited traits. Building on this knowledge, students studied evolution, discovering how species change over time through natural selection and adaptation. These topics have provided an excellent foundation for future GCSE learning and have encouraged students to think critically about the living world around them.

Year 11 Science Update

Meanwhile, Year 11 students have been focused on preparing for their GCSE examinations. Throughout the term, they have worked hard to complete their final revision, consolidating knowledge from across the Biology, Chemistry and Physics courses. Lessons have included revision activities, exam practice questions, and opportunities to strengthen understanding of key concepts.

As the examination period progressed, students approached their GCSE exams with determination and resilience. We are extremely proud of the effort, commitment, and positive attitude shown by our Year 11 cohort throughout this important stage of their education. We wish all Year 11 students the very best of luck with their results.



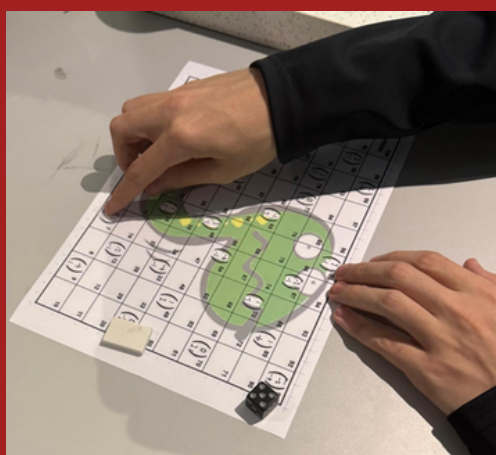
GCSE MATHS

Year 10 Maths

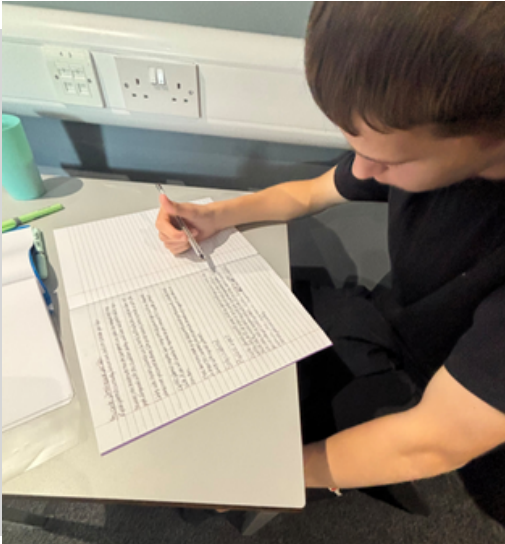
As another successful term comes to an end, our students have continued to make excellent progress in their maths lessons. It has been fantastic to see the confidence and mathematical reasoning of the Year 10 group continue to grow throughout the term.

Year 10 students have been developing their understanding of graphs, focusing on how coordinates interact with the equations of lines. They have explored how changes to equations affect the position and shape of graphs, helping to build a strong foundation for future GCSE topics.

More recently, students have moved on to transformations, beginning with translations and reflections before progressing to rotations and enlargements. Through practical activities and problem-solving tasks, students have developed their ability to describe and perform transformations accurately. Leighton commented: "Transformations were challenging at first, but once I understood the rules, it became much easier. Rotations were my favourite because they felt like solving a puzzle."



GCSE ENGLISH



YEAR 10: 'AN INSPECTOR CALLS'

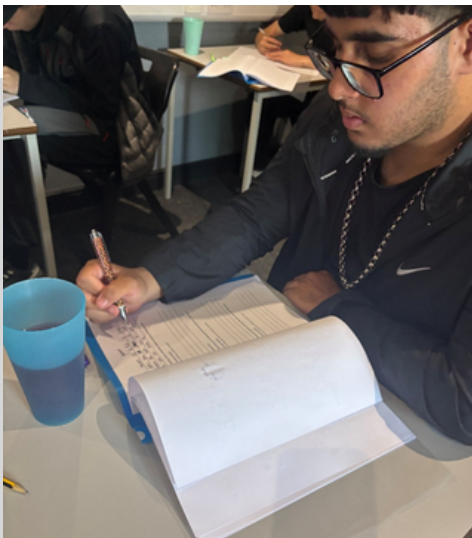
Year 10 students have continued their studies in English Literature by reading 'An Inspector Calls'. The play deals with issues around morality, honesty and accepting the consequences of your actions.

The boys have all volunteered to read during our lessons. I was particularly proud of them all for stretching themselves with this challenge.

We are currently looking at non-fiction writing. This week the boys have been learning about persuasive speech writing by watching videos of famous speeches, such as by Leonardo DiCaprio to the United Nations.

Particular praise goes to Leighton, Shaun and Riley for their commitment to their studies and their efforts in class.

They are currently practising their own skills by writing persuasive speeches encouraging the abolition of school uniform as well as asking for longer school holidays.



BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

YEAR 10

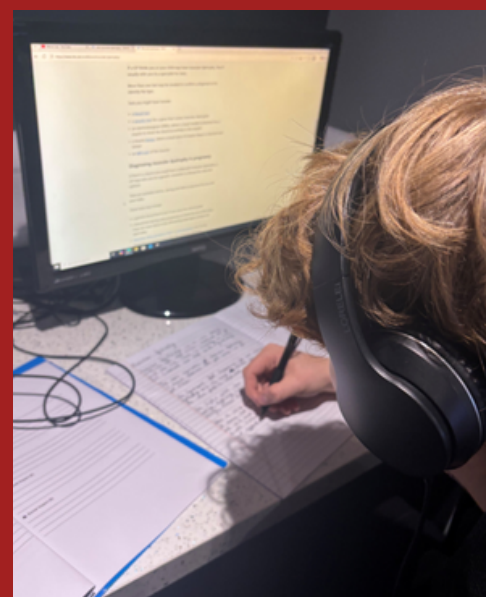
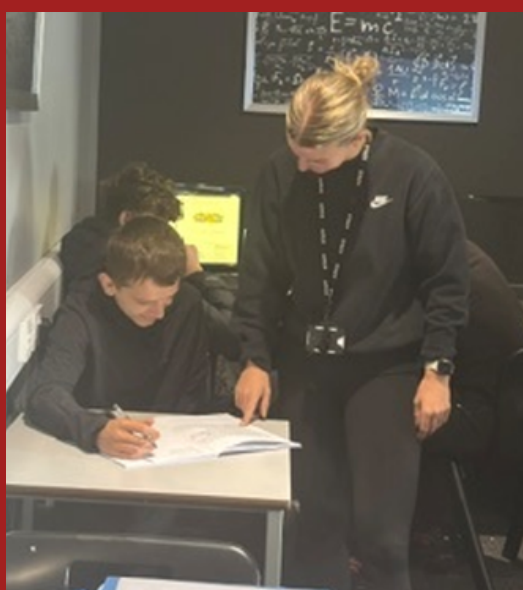
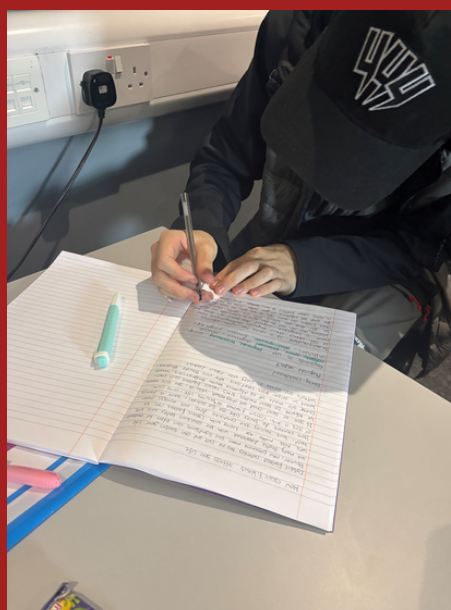
Year 10 have been working with real determination on Component 1 – Human Lifestyle and Development – and the progress they have made is clearly evident in the coursework they are producing. The quality of their written work continues to improve week on week, and it is great to see their understanding of how lifestyle factors impact health and development really coming through in what they write.

Their understanding of this content and the impact that it has on their GCSEs is really motivating them to develop and expand their knowledge, which they are translating into beautifully written coursework, setting them up for success in Year 11. Their coursework is coming together nicely, and we are looking forward to seeing the finished product which will equate to 30% of their final GCSE grade. Keep up the excellent work Year 10 – you are on the right track!

YEAR 11

Year 11 Health and Social Care students have had a fantastic and well-deserved end to their assessed work this term. Having sat their Component 2 exam, we are thrilled to report that all confirmed grades have been extremely positive – a brilliant reflection of the hard work and commitment the group has shown throughout the year.

The students should be incredibly proud of themselves; their results are a testament to the effort they have put in both in lessons and in their own time. Well done to everyone in Year 11 – you have earned it!



ENRICHMENT & AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

As the weather warms up, the students have been making the most of spending their enrichment time by spending periods outside, enjoying the warmer weather.

Activities include visiting many of the local parks as well as the driving range. We were lucky enough to be recently successful in our application for a donation from Baddeley Green Community Association for some new golf clubs.

Forest school continues to be a continuing activity; this half term we have swapped groups and Y10 are now experiencing time outside. The students have been making fires and learning to cook outdoors as well as creating assault courses and dens to be used by younger children.

Nurture have also been lucky enough to experience two art workshops exploring their own creative ideas. The photo below shows students at Hanley museum.



NURTURE – ACADEMIC

MATHS

This term, the Year 11 Nurture group have engaged in graph-based tasks and acquiring essential skills such as budgeting, finances, coordinates, and problem-solving. Year 11 Nurture students have successfully completed their Functional Skills Maths exams.

In Year 9/10 Nurture, the students have been looking at angles. The students have been looking at different types of angles, grouping and measuring them. The students have developed their skills using protractors and have drawn their own angles. Special mention goes to Lily who has tried very hard to develop her maths skills.

ENGLISH

This term, students in Year 9/10 have been developing their creative writing skills by building on their understanding of adjectives, adverbs, and other descriptive language techniques. They have used a range of exciting images as writing prompts to inspire their own imaginative paragraphs, focusing on adding detail and creating engaging descriptions.

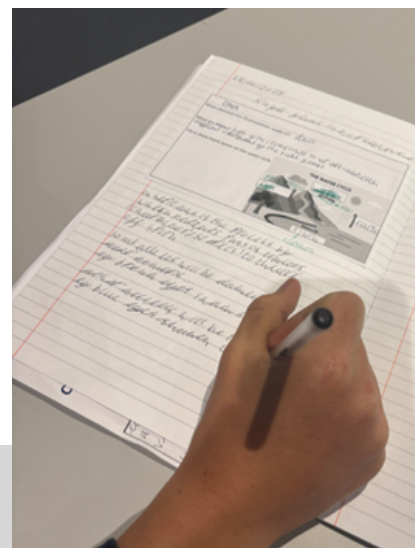
It has been fantastic to see the progress made by all students. A special 'well done' goes to Leroy who has produced some exceptional English work this term and has consistently shown outstanding effort and determination.

AQA AWARDS SUCCESS

The Year 11 Nurture group has made significant strides in their learning journey by achieving numerous AQA awards, tailored to their interests. A highlight was a six-week physical training programme that was both enjoyable and rewarding, enabling students to set and achieve specific goals around their fitness and healthy lifestyles.

SCIENCE

Students in Year 9/10 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Solar System this term. They have explored how the planets orbit the Sun; discovered interesting facts about each planet and developed their scientific knowledge through engaging discussions and activities. To showcase their learning, students created informative posters, demonstrating both their creativity and understanding of the topic.



NURTURE – ENRICHMENT

COLOSSEUM GYM

Our regular visits to the gym have encouraged students to stay active whilst working towards their own personal fitness goals. Whether using the cardio equipment or taking part in supervised workouts, students have developed a greater understanding of the importance of maintaining both their physical and mental wellbeing.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

We have also made the most of our local community by visiting Westport Lake and local parks, where students have enjoyed bike rides, nature walks and outdoor games. These visits have encouraged students to be active, appreciate the outdoors and spend time away from the classroom in a relaxed environment. Whether cycling, walking or playing together, students have developed confidence, strengthened friendships and improved their communication and teamwork skills while promoting healthy lifestyles.

YMCA

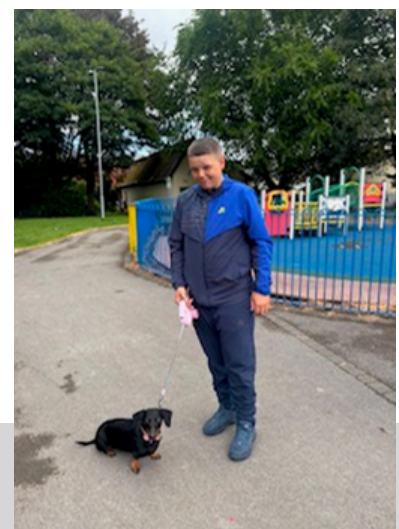
Students have particularly enjoyed their regular sessions at the YMCA North Staffordshire, taking part in football sessions. These sessions have encouraged teamwork and cooperation, with students demonstrating excellent sportsmanship through friendly competition.

LOTTIE

We recently welcomed a very special visitor into school – a dachshund, Lottie! Her visit formed part of an AQA Unit Award, where students learned about responsible dog ownership and the importance of caring for animals.

Throughout the session, students explored everything a dog needs to live a happy and healthy life. We discussed the responsibilities that come with owning a dog, including providing suitable food and fresh water, regular exercise, grooming, veterinary care, training and plenty of love and attention.

After completing the classroom activities, students had the opportunity to put their learning into practice by taking Lottie for a walk to the local park. During the walk, students discussed the importance of exercising dogs safely, keeping them under control and cleaning up after them, while also enjoying time outdoors together. The walk encouraged responsibility and was enjoyed by everyone.



POST-16 CURRICULUM

As some of our Post-16 students prepare to leave us this summer, we want to recognise the progress they have made and the hard work which they have put in during their time at our school. All of our students have developed new skills, built confidence, and taken important steps toward their future goals. It's been great to see them grow in independence, maturity, and ambition, and we're proud of everything which they achieved. As our Post-16 students move on to new opportunities – whether that's further education, training, or employment – we hope that they continue to build on the foundations which have been created here.

Our Post-16 students have continued to make fantastic progress this term, especially in developing their social skills out in the community. Through regular visits to the local pool and public cafés, learners have been practising positive interaction, communication, and independence in real-life environments. These sessions give students the chance to engage confidently with society – ordering drinks, managing money, navigating public spaces, and building everyday social awareness.

Alongside their community learning, students have completed self-reflection tests to help them understand how they feel, what motivates them, and what they want for their future. These activities support emotional development and encourage learners to think about their next steps with clarity and purpose.

We've also seen great teamwork and friendly competitiveness during tactical games and paired activities. Whether working together to solve challenges or competing in strategy-based games, students have shown cooperation, resilience, and growing confidence in group settings. In addition to their social development, learners have been working hard towards their Functional Skills Maths and English qualifications. Through targeted support and focused sessions, they are building the core skills needed for future education, training, and employment.

Overall, it's been a positive and productive term, with students demonstrating independence, maturity, and a growing readiness for life beyond the academy.

We wish all our Post-16 students the very best for the future and look forward to hearing about their adventures.



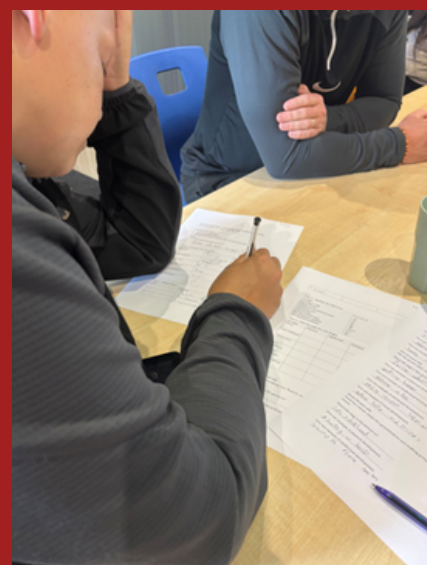
PSHE CURRICULUM

Across all groups this term, PSHE sessions have focused on the theme of emotional wellbeing – an area that is not only hugely important for our students' personal development, but one which they have engaged with openly and thoughtfully.

Students have been exploring what emotions mean to them on a personal level, thinking carefully about how they experience and identify different feelings, and what those emotions can tell us about ourselves. From there, discussions have moved into emotional regulation – understanding why we feel the way we do, and how we can manage those feelings in a healthy and constructive way.

A highlight of the sessions has been the work around coping mechanisms, where students have reflected on the strategies they already use and explored new approaches they might turn to during difficult moments. The conversations have been honest, mature, and at times genuinely moving – a real credit to the students' willingness to engage with topics that require courage to talk about.

It has been wonderful to see students supporting one another during these discussions, and the level of self-awareness shown across all groups has been impressive. Well done to everyone who has contributed so positively to what has been a meaningful and important area of learning this term.



SEND UPDATE

As we approach the summer holidays, we would like to thank all of our students and families for their continued support throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of the progress our young people have made, both academically and personally, and we hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME

Eligible children and young people can access a wide range of free activities, including sports, arts and crafts, outdoor adventures, cooking, STEM activities and much more. Each session also includes a healthy meal, making it a fantastic opportunity for children to stay active, socialise and have fun during the holidays. The programme is available for eligible children aged 5–16 who receive benefit-related Free School Meals, with up to 16 funded sessions available over the summer break. Families should receive booking information and HAF codes directly, or can speak to school if they need support accessing the programme.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We understand that the school holidays can place additional financial pressure on families. If you find yourself struggling, please remember that support is available.

The Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank provides emergency food parcels to families experiencing financial hardship. Foodbanks operate through a referral voucher system, and vouchers can be obtained through schools, social workers, health professionals, Citizens Advice and other recognised referral agencies.

Families may also be able to access support through Affordable Food Stoke, which offers emergency food parcels and operates a social supermarket to help households experiencing financial difficulties.

You may also be eligible for support through the Household Support Fund or the Staffordshire Crisis and Resilience Fund, which can help with food, energy bills, household essentials and other emergency costs depending on your circumstances.

LOOKING AFTER WELLBEING

The summer holidays can sometimes feel challenging for children and young people who thrive on routine. Where possible, try to maintain a predictable daily routine, encourage regular sleep patterns, spend time outdoors and continue activities that your child enjoys. Small routines can make a big difference to emotional wellbeing.

If you have any concerns about your child during the holidays, or feel that you may need additional support when school reopens, please do not hesitate to contact the Sporting Stars team. We are always happy to help signpost families to the most appropriate services.

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Throughout this academic year, students have continued to demonstrate a positive attitude towards learning and have been consistently rewarded through the ClassCharts rewards system. By displaying the school's core values and making positive contributions both inside and outside the classroom, students have accumulated ClassCharts points which have enabled them to access a range of rewards, including the opportunity to purchase vouchers in recognition of their hard work and commitment.

The rewards system has encouraged students to take pride in their achievements and maintain high standards of behaviour, effort, and engagement throughout the year. Many students have embraced this opportunity and have worked exceptionally hard to earn points through their dedication to their studies, positive conduct, and willingness to contribute to the school community.

A special mention must be given to Aleeza Mahmood, Mustafa Dilshad, and Harry Barlow, who each achieved the outstanding milestone of receiving over 1,000 ClassCharts points. This is a significant accomplishment and reflects the consistently high standards they have demonstrated throughout the year.

These students have embodied the values of respect, resilience, and responsibility in all aspects of school life. They have approached challenges with determination, shown respect towards staff and peers, and taken responsibility for their learning and personal development. Their exceptional number of ClassCharts points is a testament to their positive attitude, excellent work ethic, and commitment to making the most of every opportunity available to them.

They should be extremely proud of their achievements, and their success serves as an excellent example to others within the school community. Their dedication and consistent effort throughout the year have been recognised and rewarded, making them deserving recipients of this special recognition.