

The Bolsover School Newsletter



Spring 2025

Spring Widening student experiences...

As Easter approaches, we bid farewell to winter's chill and welcome the gentle warmth of spring. This newsletter provides a moment to acknowledge some of the amazing things that have taken place in recent months.

Before the February half-term, our students showcased their incredible creativity in the production of *Oliver! Jr.* The performances over two evenings were professional and polished, but what I particularly enjoyed was the amount of new and upcoming talent on display. This was alongside students who have taken the stage for consecutive years. Hours and hours of rehearsal, set, and costume preparation all came together on those two nights, and all of the staff and students involved should be very proud of what they achieved.

Our wonderful cohort of Year 11 students, or should I say the Class of 2025 as they will no doubt affectionately become known, will return after Easter and start their final GCSE examinations. I will refrain from wishing them 'good luck' because this indicates that success may be left to chance. I know that an incredible amount of hard work and effort will have gone into the success that this cohort will achieve. I will simply say, 'do well.'



As you go on to read this newsletter, you will get a sense of some of the brilliant opportunities and events that have taken place so far in 2025. What sits behind much of this is one of our core values, which is our intention to widen students' experiences beyond the traditional classroom environment.

This term has seen many of our students represent the school at various events, competitions, and activities that go beyond the traditional environment. This has been extremely pleasing to see.



Looking ahead, I would like to remind you that next term will include the first Year 7 Parents' and Carers' Evening on Wednesday, 7th May 2025. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, as always, all of the staff here at The Bolsover School would like to thank the parents, carers, and wider family networks that support this school in all of the different ways that you do. It really is appreciated.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter.

Warm regards,
Miss Spence
Head of School

 **REDHILL**
ACADEMY TRUST
Equality and Achievement

 www.thebolsoverschool.org
 The Bolsover School Official
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House Points

Proud

By Jake B

Standing proud, speaking loud,
all in front of a colossal crowd.
Inside my feelings, like butterflies,
looking around at the wave of eyes.

Waiting for time to pass by,
waiting for my time to shine.
Waiting for the teacher to say,
"come to the stage,
and be PROUD,
be PROUD,
be PROUD!"

Being resilient is key,
to stand out from society.
Having confidence to succeed,
standing proud being
LOUD!
LOUD!
LOUD!

So you see,
you should be,
nothing but the best,
then you shall succeed!

526



575



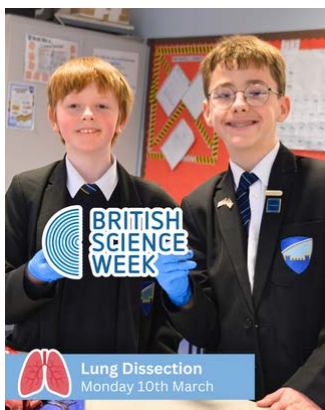
510




487



581



 Lung Dissection
Monday 10th March



 Rat Dissection
Wednesday 12th March



 Heart Dissection
Friday 14th March

Warner Bros. Studio Tour

We visited the Warner Bros. Studio Tour - The Making of Harry Potter earlier this term. Students had a wonderful time exploring the exhibits and learned more about the technical aspects that bring the world of Harry Potter to life!

British Science Week

In March, a number of dissections took place during British Science Week! Students were able to gain first hand experience of the biological systems that support life.



Food Glorious Food!

Our Y11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students have been very busy with their coursework this academic year! They were tasked to plan, prepare and present three dishes, demonstrating the use of a wide range of specialist equipment.

Planning began at the start of November. Students considered a diverse range of potential ideas, before selecting two main course dishes and one dessert. The assignment required students to calculate the cost of their ingredients, analyse the nutritional content, consider food provenance (where the ingredients had come from) and ethical issues - such as food miles, farm assurance and animal welfare. Our students researched presentation techniques and drew up a comprehensive time plan to ensure they could produce high quality products in a limited amount of time.





"A word after a word after a word is power."

Margaret Atwood
Author of 'The Handmaid's Tale'

The Power of the Pages!

A group of our Year 8 students kicked off 2025 producing some creative prose at a Trust writing workshop with author Lisa Williamson. The session was lively, engaging and Lisa was great fun, as well as a real inspiration for our young wordsmiths.



This very much set the tone for our term to celebrate the treasure of books. The Bolsover School continues to foster a love of words, books and reading, and always enjoys the annual World Book Day festivities that took place this year on 6th March.



Staff WBD costumes both entertained and prompted much discussion revolving around books.



Reading for Good

Students continue to read avidly in support of the Read for Good Readathon which launched, as always, on World Book Day. We are already £100 to the good, despite being several weeks away from the finishing point. We ask our students to keep reading, raising and being amazing to ensure we make a difference to the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves in hospital, through the gift of a good book to transport them to happier places.

In continuing to read with such enthusiasm, many of our students are reaching significant milestones in the Accelerated Reader programme. At present, we have 3 word multi-millionaires, 10 millionaires and 22 half-millionaires. Bainbridge are currently running away with a significant lead in the House Word Count!

Our World Book Day salute to reading drew to a close with a trip to The Carlton Academy for the sixth Redhill Academy Trust Book Awards. Our shortlisted readers were delighted to meet Simon James Green, the award-winning author of books for children and young adults. One of our students, George, who has participated in the Book Awards and attended the event, summed things up as follows...



'I absolutely loved the book awards as it gave me chance to read outside my comfort zone. I didn't like all the books but now I know what types of books I like and what to avoid. The event was also amazing as I got to meet an amazing author who said he was the king of comedy and I can't say he's wrong - he was hilarious. It was an awesome opportunity and I strongly recommend doing it next year if you love reading. If you choose to do it, I promise you won't regret it!'

Students made a beeline for the library to collect their free book and enjoy some bookworm sweets, to help 'swell the coffers' for the purchase of new and exciting books for our school Learning Resource Centre.

They also had the opportunity to pit their wits against each other in form/house competitions, fathoming out book titles and authors from distorted book covers and titles where someone had stolen the vowels.

Nightingale, once again, demonstrated their literary prowess, hitting the top spot for the second year running. Congratulations also go to A6 who ran out winners with the best form score.

As always, the 'Title Quest' competition was hugely popular, with our winner, Jacob, doing a sterling job to earn his gift voucher. Lavenia and Cassie are also to be commended for their success in winning the 'Scavenger Hunt' and 'An A-Z of Authors' competitions.

RHAT Book Awards

This year's winning book was 'The Final Year' by Matt Goodfellow. Watch out for the new shortlist for the 2025-2026 RHAT Book Awards in late September!



Lionel Bart's OLIVER! JR

This year, students and staff brought to life the world of Oliver Twist as we presented Lionel Bart's Oliver! JR.

Months and months of rehearsal led to two spectacular sold-out shows, with stunning performances by all of our main cast, ensemble, lights, sound and all students behind the scenes.

The talent that is exhibited each year is amazing to see. Although for some it is their last performance as a student at The Bolsover School as they come to the end of Year 11, we welcome amazing new talent from our Year 7 students, who have joined the ever growing performing arts family.

We would like to thank all those who came and supported our students. Stay tuned to see what we have in store next year...



Poetry by heart 2025

This term we hosted the first ever final of the Redhill Academy Trust Poetry by Heart Competition!

We welcomed students in KS2 and KS3 from across our Primary and Secondary academies to celebrate the beauty and power of poetry as well as the incredible talent and creativity of students across the trust.

Maya from Palterton Primary School was crowned KS2 champion, with her fantastic performance of Little Red Riding Hood by Roald Dahl.

Jonas from Brookfield Community School was crowned KS3 champion, with his amazing recital of The Listeners by Walter de la Mare.

Eden H performed for The Bolsover School with his very own poem 'Above The Pit'. To reach the final is a huge achievement and we are very proud of Eden's performance.

A huge congratulations to all students who took part in this event.





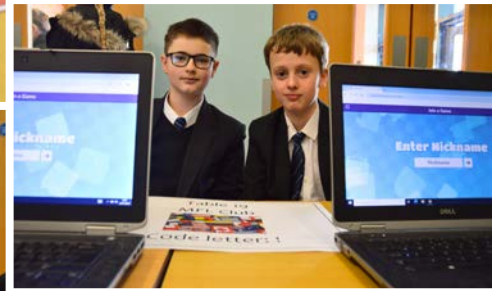
Co-Curricular Fair

Year 7 students recently took part in a Co-Curricular Fair!

Students were able to visit each Curriculum Plus club to try out the activities on offer.

A wide variety of clubs were showcased, from sporting activities including Netball, Football, Indoor Rowing and Badminton, alongside Arts and Crafts, Dungeons & Dragons, Book Club, Careers, Newspaper Club, LGBTQ+ Club, MFL Club and many more!

We had great feedback from our students, with many saying how it was a fun way to spend lunch time, and lots of students excited to try out new clubs!



Redhill Indoor Rowing Championships!

Earlier this term a group of our students competed in the first ever Redhill Trust Indoor Rowing Championships!

Rowers from each of Redhill Trust's 10 secondary academies gathered at Tupton Hall School, where 200 students competed in timed races across year groups 7 – 11. Races varied from two minutes for Year 7s up to six minutes for Year 11s.

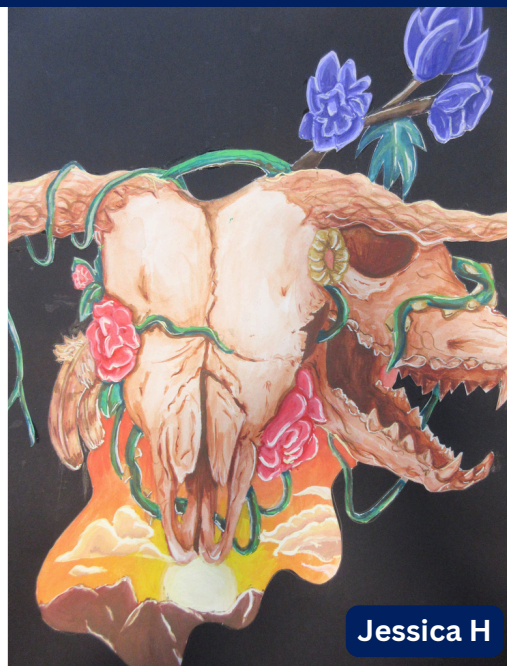
Headteachers and PE staff even joined in the action in a 2-minute head-to-head race.

Our students showed great enthusiasm and support for one another and should be very proud of their achievements.





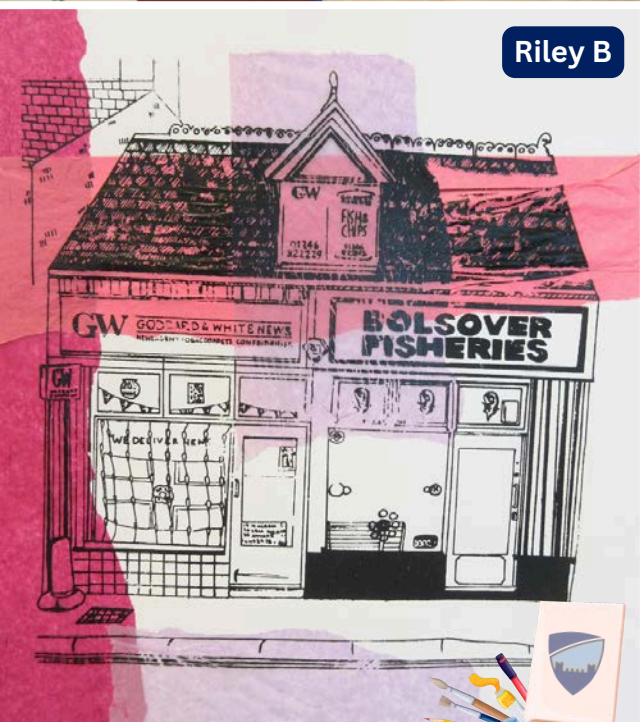
Lucy A



Jessica H



Emily T



Riley B



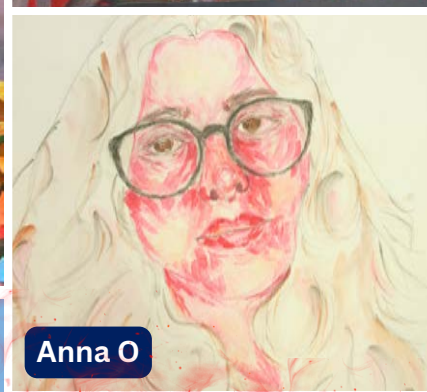
Emily R



Lucy A



Ava B



Anna O

Art Gallery

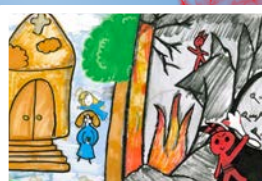
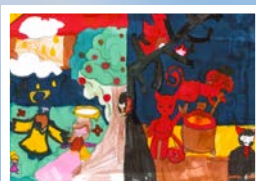
Check out our latest student artwork! We have some amazing pieces of Key Stage 4 work to showcase in this edition.



Paintings of Doom

Y7s have been studying Doom paintings in History. These were produced by the Church in medieval England to convince the largely illiterate population to follow the teachings of the Church by showing them the beauty of Heaven and the horrors of Hell.

Congratulations to Lavenia K for winning the Y7 competition! A fantastic effort to all who took part.



Sportshall Athletics

Last month a group of Y7 and Y8 students competed in Sportshall athletics at Shirebrook Leisure Centre.

Both teams in Y8 came 2nd in the district, showing fantastic team work, resilience and competitiveness throughout.

Year 7 performance was outstanding, with the Y7 boys finishing in the top 3, and the Y7 girls finishing in 1st place and progressing to the County finals!

Congratulations to all students involved - you are a credit to the school.



Mr Frostbite Returns!

In March we had the pleasure of welcoming back Nigel Vardy (aka Mr Frostbite).

Nigel is a Mountaineer, Adventurer and Motivational Speaker. He has had a career in engineering for over 35 years. In 1999 he lost his nose, fingers and toes in temperatures of -60 degrees Celsius on Mt. McKinley in Alaska.

He gave a motivational talk to our Year 10 students on how to take positive action in their lives. Nigel's key messages included how to work hard, thrive, and the benefits of stepping out of your comfort zone. It was great to have Nigel at The Bolsover School again. He was funny, inspiring and our students were captivated throughout his talk.

We would like to thank Speakers for Schools and Nigel for the presentation.



Prom Fundraising

Year 11 students have been busy raising money for their school Prom this year.

They held a Just Dance Competition which raised £85, and have auctioned a signed Mansfield Town Football Club Shirt, which raised over £100!

This money will help pay towards extras that will make the Prom for the Class of 2025 even more memorable!

Rotary Club Public Speaking

Grace H and Zara D recently reached the final of the Rotary Club of Chesterfield, Public Speaking Competition.

They did The Bolsover School proud with impressive speeches on the struggles for the farming community and equality for women. It was our first year of entering the competition and to reach the final is a huge achievement. Well done Grace and Zara!



January



Our Y10 students visited St Edmund Hall to find out more about being an undergraduate student at a Russell Group University.

They found out important information about living in the heart of Oxford and being a part of a lively academic and social community. They found out the subjects you can study at the College and learned about the course tutors and their specialist subjects/interests. There was also the opportunity to talk to current students about their experiences.

This visit is invaluable for shaping our students futures, giving an insight to their next steps.

February

The Chesterfield College Group

Our Y10 students visited Chesterfield College to take a look at their Construction Skills Hub.

This is an innovative scheme, enhancing skills for more than 5,000 people in Chesterfield and Staveley. Working on a live construction site not only allows students to develop required skills, but it will also provide practical experience and help provide a key link to construction companies offering permanent roles.

Initially, the hub will provide training in site and bench joinery, brickwork, groundworks and electrical installation but in time will offer opportunities in degree level apprenticeships.



Think, Reflect, Succeed

This programme is designed to guide Year 10 learners in developing their higher order thinking skills.

The event is delivered in three sessions on the topics of Critical Thinking; Reflection; and Research.

The event also explores metacognition by referring to the processes used to plan, monitor and assess their own individual thinking and learning styles.

March



A group of Year 9 students visited Rider Levett Bucknall for their employability programme. Our students developed skills in research and CV writing. They were tasked to deliver a final presentation based on what they had learned in the classroom sessions that took place throughout the term.

Higher Education and Me - Why go to University?

Year 10 students visited the University of Derby.

- What are the benefits?
- What can I study?
- The benefits of Higher Education.
- Progression Pathways.
- Dispelling myths about Higher Education and Student Finance.

Uniform



The full policy can be found on our website:
www.thebolsoverschool.org - Parents - School Uniform

Prohibited Items

The below items are prohibited in school and the **new** uniform policy should be followed at all times.

✗ Hoodies



✗ Unbranded trousers & skirts



✗ Trainers



We have a uniform policy that reflects the professional attitude we aspire our students to have and all staff are instructed to challenge students regarding their uniform and appearance during the day. High academic standards and therefore being successful is built upon the solid foundation of day to day positive habits which includes uniform and appearance.

We believe the benefits of a professional uniform policy include **creating a sense of community, reduces the potential for bullying, increases safety, prepares students for employment and improves study ethic.** The full uniform expectations can be found on the school website under the 'parents' section but could we please draw your attention to the following points:

- Black trainers are NOT allowed – black shoes only
- Hoodies and sweaters are NOT allowed – these will be confiscated from students
- Leggings are NOT permitted - plain black school trousers or knee length skirt only which can be ordered from logo leisurewear
- Blazers and ties must be worn – these can be removed during hot weather in the summer at the discretion of the staff
- Unnaturally coloured hair is not permitted
- False nails are not permitted



There will be a full uniform check for all students on the first day back after Easter, which is Tuesday 22nd April. This gives families time to replace any missing items of uniform and ensure students are adhering to our uniform policy. Students not wearing the correct school uniform will be asked to loan the item from the school store; failure to do so will result in a period of isolation.



All items of uniform can be purchased from Logo Leisurewear or Just Schoolwear.



www.logoleisurewear.com



www.just-schoolwear.co.uk

