

The Bolsover School Newsletter



Winter 2025

Winter

An exceptional start to the academic year...

As we approach the festive season and the end of another busy term at The Bolsover School, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been an exceptional start to the academic year.

We began September on the back of a strong set of GCSE results, with record-breaking performance in English and Maths. Achieving our highest-ever percentage of grades 9-4 combined in these core subjects is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students and staff. This success set a positive tone for the year ahead and reinforced our commitment to academic achievement.

Last month, we welcomed Ofsted into our school under their brand-new inspection framework. We were among the very first schools in the country to be inspected under this revised approach - and what's more, we volunteered for the process. This decision reflects the confidence and belief we have in our school community. Every member of our community plays a vital role in making Bolsover Secondary School a place we can all be proud of.

During the two days of inspection, I was incredibly proud of how our staff and students maintained their usual high standards. They embraced the opportunity to showcase the very best of our school - our culture, our achievements, and the things that make Bolsover special. At the time of writing, the final report has not yet been published, but we will share it with you as soon as it becomes available.

[Continued on the next page]



The Bolsover School's Christmas Carol Concert at Bolsover Parish Church.



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Equality and Achievement

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Adding to this exciting term, we were thrilled to announce that The Bolsover School will be opening a Sixth Form in the coming years. This development marks a significant milestone in our journey and will provide even more opportunities for our students to continue their education within our supportive and ambitious environment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have campaigned to get this over the line, namely Mark Fletcher (former MP) and more recently Natalie Fleet MP. Our school and Trust are very excited about what the future holds for the young people in this area.



As we head into the Christmas break, I want to thank every member of our school community - students, staff, parents, and carers - for your continued support and commitment. Together, we have achieved so much already this year, and I look forward to building on this success in 2026.

Wishing you all a joyful festive season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Miss Spence
Head of School



Mrs Willis'
Art Christmas Challenge!



KS3 Winner - Lilly-Rose M



KS4 Winner - Olivia W



Thanks to all who entered
the competition!

House Points

Peveril are currently in the lead with a total of **559 house points!**

House points are earned through various activities - including tutorial challenges, house competitions, achievement point leaderboards, and more!

483



445



449



475



559



Attendance matters!



100% attendance, cumulative attendance - and attending Curriculum Plus sessions - all help to earn points for your house!



North Derbyshire
University Academy

WE ARE BUILDING A SIXTH FORM!

North Derbyshire University Academy approved by the Department for Education!

A transformational opportunity for our community

We're thrilled to announce that North Derbyshire University Academy has been approved by the Department for Education!

This is a huge step forward for Bolsover and the surrounding areas. NDUA will inspire, support, and develop the next generation of leaders, decision makers, and innovators - helping every student reach their full potential.

Redhill Academy Trust is delighted to announce that the Department for Education has officially approved North Derbyshire University Academy (NDUA) following a recent review. This landmark decision marks a new era for students in Bolsover and the surrounding areas, promising to transform educational opportunities and outcomes for generations to come.

NDUA will provide high-quality education for students aged 16 to 19, ensuring that every young person - regardless of their background or starting point - can achieve their full potential. The academy's mission is to inspire, support, and develop the next generation of leaders, decision makers, and innovators. By offering excellent teaching, tailored support, and a culture of high expectations, NDUA will open doors to higher education and rewarding careers.

Andrew Burns, Chief Executive of Redhill Academy Trust, said: *"It is fantastic news that the DfE has approved the North Derbyshire University Academy. This is a real investment in the local community and will offer great opportunities for our young people that, until now, have not been available to them. We look forward to working with our partners to make this vision a reality."*

Matt Hall, Executive Headteacher, said: *"The approval of North Derbyshire University Academy marks a transformative moment for Bolsover and the wider region. As part of Redhill Academy Trust, we are committed to raising aspirations, removing barriers, and opening doors to higher education for young people who deserve every opportunity to succeed. We are proud to have worked collaboratively to make this vision a reality, it will change lives for generations to come."*

"Our sincere thanks go to Bolsover MP Natalie Fleet and her predecessor Mark Fletcher for standing alongside us in our campaign to secure a sixth form for our young people."

The Redhill Academy Trust is committed to ensuring that all students, whatever their background, have access to the resources, guidance, and encouragement they need to thrive. NDUA will focus not only on academic achievement, but also on character development, helping students to become confident, responsible, and ambitious members of society.

Further updates about NDUA's opening and admissions process will be shared in due course.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

At the end of September students were hard at work baking cakes to donate to our Macmillan Coffee Morning cake sale.

We raised over £120 for Macmillan!

Our top 5 bakers!

- 1st – Eliza J
- 2nd – Araminta L
- 3rd – Harry S
- 4th – Aiden T
- 5th – Yigit I



Wear it Pink

At the end of October, members of staff came dressed in pink as part of Breast Cancer Now's Wear It Pink. We raised £65 and looked absolutely fabulous!

Christmas Jumper Day

Students and staff came to The Bolsover School dressed in their most festive apparel! Whether it be a Christmas jumper or festive colours, we raised £180 for Save the Children.



Save the Children



£180!



The Snowman – Live!

On Friday 5th December Mr Stacey and 50 students made a visit to The Reach at Derby to see a live orchestral performance of 'The Snowman'.

It was a truly wonderful experience that included a showing of the festive favourite accompanied by a live performance of its musical score.



Charity Football Match

A huge congratulations to Tomas D, Jacob F, Toby L and Noah S for their efforts in raising an amazing £1391 for Ashgate Hospice!

This is an incredible amount of money and we are very thankful for all those who supported the efforts of our students for this fantastic cause.

Festive Food Bank

freedom

Our food bank collection for the 2025 #RHFestiveFoodBank was out of this world!

This year, Redhill Academy Trust launched a photo competition to capture the donations in the most creative manner – we arranged ours in to the shape of a rocket!

Thanks to all who donated to our collection this year.



Y8 / Y9 Girls Football

A huge congratulations to our Y8 / Y9 Girls Football team after a 6-1 win this term. A fantastic performance from Suraya, Minnie, Eden, Sam, Poppy, Olivia and Sophia.



Year 8 Girls Netball

Our Year 8 Girls Netball team came third in the District Netball Tournament! Well done to Olivia M, Maisie R, Charlotte S, Lavenia K, Annabel W, Emily W, Mya C, Ilah C, and Daisie-Mae H.



Year 7 Girls Futsal

Our Year 7 Girls Futsal team won 3 out of 3 games against other district schools – conceding 0 goals along the way! A huge well done to Stevie C, Olivia H, Amy S, Khloe A, Madison S, Ivy D, and Martha K.



ITV Calendar News interviewed our students!

At the end of November, ITV News visited The Bolsover School to talk to our students about the need for a Sixth Form for Bolsover. This was during a time of uncertainty, as the planned sixth form was placed on hold until a government review of all previously approved free schools had taken place.

Since this visit, the sixth form for Bolsover has been approved. This is fantastic news for our students and wider community. More details about the North Derbyshire University Academy can be found in the article 'North Derbyshire University Academy Approved by the Department for Education'.



A Flag for Antarctica

In October our KS3 students were asked to design a flag for Antarctica to celebrate Antarctica Day 2025. This is an annual competition run by the UK Polar Network. Our winning flag, created by Callie M, travelled to the Halley Science Station in Antarctica. There are currently 30 people at Halley, and their nearest neighbours are 600 miles away!

It was at the Halley Science Station that the hole in the Ozone layer was discovered and they continue to monitor it still today. At the science station, they still have the original piece of equipment, the Dodson Spectrophotometer, that was used to identify the hole in the Ozone layer, and Callie's flag was pictured with this historic piece of equipment.

Pumpkin Carving Competition

This year we had an incredible number of submissions to our annual pumpkin carving competition – it was very difficult to pick the top 5!

🥇 Amelia C 🥈 Maisie U 🥉 Dhruv K / Lavenia K
🏆 Sienna P 🏆 Olivia B





Remembrance

In November, all staff and students took part in a two-minute silence to commemorate Remembrance Day.

Our Student Leadership Team laid a wreath at our memorial in remembrance and to honour those who have served.



Flying with Air Cadets

Mrs Crossley is very proud of Ted G's accomplishments with the RAF Air Cadets. Check out these photos of Ted's flying experience of 7AEF at RAF Cranwell. Do you have an achievement that you want to celebrate? Let your form tutors know and you could be featured in the next newsletter!



Ready, steady... Cook!

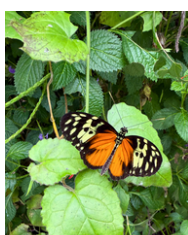
In September, food preparation students took part in a Royal Navy 'Ready Steady Cook' event. In true 'Ready Steady Cook' style, students were tasked with creating a dish within a limited time frame. The event also included a very informative presentation, offering a valuable insight in to career opportunities within the Royal Navy. The event was great fun and students had the chance to show off their culinary skills, and required great teamwork to get the dishes prepared within the limited time!



A trip to the Tropical Butterfly House

As part of the Year 7 Art curriculum, students visited the Tropical Butterfly House in South Yorkshire to enhance their learning about insects.

During the trip, pupils explored a range of exhibits, observing different species to learn about their lifecycles, habitats, and unique adaptations. The immersive butterfly enclosure offered a memorable opportunity to see these creatures in their natural environment, helping students connect classroom learning with real-world experiences.



Careers Fair

This term our Year 11 students took part in our annual Careers Fair. We were visited by a number of Post-16 providers in the area, giving students the opportunity to talk to representatives from a wide range of career paths - helping them decide on their next steps!

Mr Frostbite returns!

In November we were once again visited by Nigel Vardy who gave a motivational assembly to our Year 8 students.

Nigel (aka Mr Frostbite) 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 talked with our students about self-discipline and the benefits of stepping out of your comfort zone. It was great to have Nigel at The Bolsover School once more. He was funny, inspiring and our students were truly captivated throughout his talk. We would like to thank Futures for All and Nigel Vardy for the inspiring presentation.





Smit S



Jasmine H



Lucy A



Ava T



Smit S



Jasmine H



Lucy A



Emily C



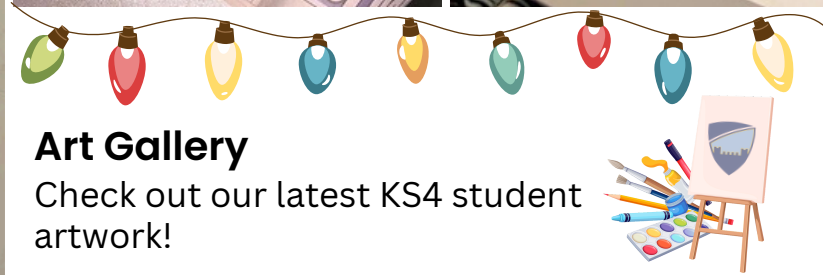
Ava B



Jax C



Rhys M



Art Gallery

Check out our latest KS4 student artwork!



Trust Awards

We are thrilled with the success of our staff members at the Redhill Academy Trust – Our Trust, Our People: Employee Awards.

The annual event showcases excellence, honouring the extraordinary work and contributions of staff from across Redhill Academy Trust. A shortlist of 44 was selected from over 400 nominations received from colleagues across the Trust – with 4 members of staff from The Bolsover School shortlisted for awards!

- 🏆 Co-Curricular Award – Mr Hallam
- 🌟 Governance Award – Mrs Flickinger
- 🌟 Teaching Assistant of the Year – Mrs Lucas
- 🌟 Secondary Teacher of the Year – Mrs Gillian

We would like to send a huge congratulations to Mr Hallam for winning the Co-Curricular award!



Loud and Proud

🌟 Be PROUD of yourself, be PROUD of your work! 🌟 Loud and Proud has been a huge success so far this term. In the new year, Mr Pemberton and Mrs Gillian will be at the Refectory entrance on Wednesdays during lunchtime. If you show some amazing work – homework, teacher-nominated work, or something that you have done in your spare time – you will receive achievement points, sweets, a fast-pass entry in to lunch on the day, and have the opportunity to be featured on our social media!

Our School Garden

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Bolsover Sheds & Fencing and Bobby W, a proud former pupil of our school, for their generous donation of a new summerhouse for our school garden.

This hard work, kindness and support will make a lasting difference to our outdoor space, giving our students a calm, welcoming environment to enjoy for years to come. We are truly grateful for your contribution to our school community.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Muktubs Skip Hire for kindly providing a free skip, allowing us to remove our old shed without using school funds. Your support has made a huge difference and helped us improve our outdoor space.

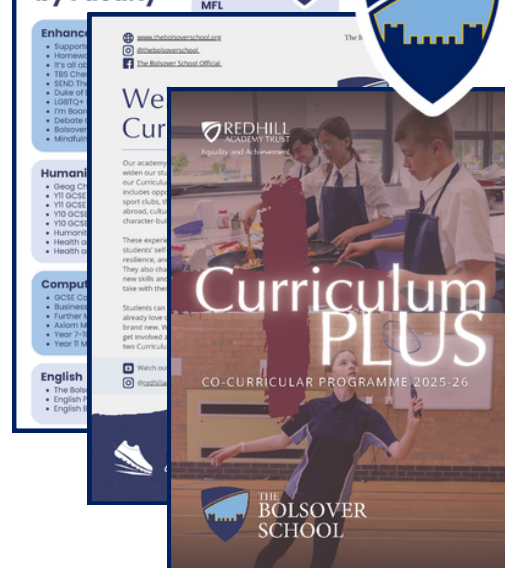


Our vision is to create an inclusive sensory garden that enhances pupils' well-being, learning, and emotional regulation.

This garden will serve as a peaceful outdoor space for students to reduce stress, restore focus, and engage with nature through various activities. Designed with accessibility in mind, it will provide rich sensory experiences benefiting neurodivergent pupils and those with SEMH needs. The garden will involve students and staff in its creation, fostering creativity, shared ownership, and a sense of belonging.



Curriculum Plus by Faculty

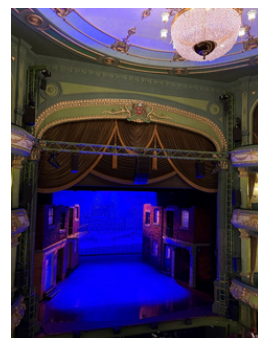


Curriculum Plus

Curriculum Plus launched this term with a brand new look – featuring an easy to read daily breakdown of the extra-curricular clubs that take place each day. The Curriculum Plus booklet can be found on our website, in the Students – Curriculum Plus section.

Blood Brothers

Mrs Lyne and the GCSE Drama students visited the Theatre Royal in Nottingham to see "Blood Brothers" by Willy Russell earlier this term.



Christmas Carol Concert

For the 11th year running Mr Stacey and the Music department held the annual Christmas Carol Concert at Bolsover Parish Church. Over 50 students were involved – members of the choir, solo performers, being part of bands and providing festive readings. The whole concert was overseen and led by the Student Leadership Team.

This is always a wonderfully festive event and this year was no different. Thanks go to Whitwell Brass Band who supported the concert and helped bring the traditional festive feel to the event.



A Wonderful Christmas Fayre

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our Christmas Fayre and enjoyed a truly lovely evening of festivities. The atmosphere was warm, cheerful, and full of Christmas spirit – despite the chilly weather!

A heartfelt thank you to Mr Topley and Mr Bacon (aka Santa and his elf), for spreading joy throughout the evening!

A special mention goes to Mr Squires and Mr Briggs, who bravely faced the freezing cold on the Soak the Santa stall and ended up absolutely drenched – all in the name of fun! Thank you to Mr Stacey, Mrs Booth and Mrs Lyne for all their hard work in supporting our very talented students and putting on marvellous performances that really captured the festive spirit. A big thank you as well to all the staff and students who contributed by selling their wonderful Christmas goodies.

We are also very grateful to our community stall holders for taking the time to be part of the event and helping to make it such a vibrant occasion.

- Chisel & Pen Crafts
- Our Lovely Naturals
- Stubbin Wood School and Nursery
- Dav's Vintage Cakes Stands
- Jenny Wilson Jewellery and Gifts
- Margaret & David Needham handknitted accessories and hand carved walking sticks
- Darren Worthington Metal sculptures and home decor pieces

A huge thank you also goes to Mr Blair and the North East Derbyshire Community First Responders, including several of our former students, who are now committed lifesaving volunteers. We are grateful for the time they spent with us, sharing their lifesaving knowledge all while inspiring our young people.

The event raised funds for our School Garden Fund, helping us continue to grow and improve our outdoor spaces for all students. The money raised from the school raffle will be donated to Ashgate Hospice.

Finally, a massive thank you to Tesco in Clowne, Dani's Desserts in Bolsover and parents for their very kind and generous donations.

Your support makes events like this possible, and we truly appreciate every contribution.

Thank you for helping make this year's Christmas Fayre such a success – have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

GCHQ Christmas Challenge

In December our students were busy solving puzzles as part of GCHQ's annual Christmas Challenge!

The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) is one of the three UK Intelligence and Security agencies. They work alongside MI5 and SIS (also known as MI6). Their goal is to identify, analyse, and disrupt threats to the UK, working across several missions from counter-terrorism and serious crime, cyber security and support to defence, through to protecting the NHS and improving the nation's economic resilience.

The GCHQ Christmas Challenge is a series of seven puzzles that need to be solved to reveal the secret hidden message. Students had to work together as a team, using their combined skills to crack the code!



Sam Wilde

GCSE Art and Drama students had the wonderful experience of taking part in a set and costume design workshop led by the Olivier nominated and award winning set designer Sam Wilde – straight from the West End!

This experience saw the creative students use their imagination and talent to bring cardboard and newspaper to life in order to create and present their precise scale design ideas to Mrs Lyne and Sam Wilde. This was an absolutely wonderful experience which we hope will stay with our GCSE creative students for a lifetime!



National Manufacturing Day

Learning Outcome: *Be inspired and motivated by career opportunities which students may not have otherwise considered.*

This event saw manufacturers in our local area open their doors to young people, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the diverse and innovative jobs available in the manufacturing sector. 15 students visited United Castbar in Chesterfield to gain an insight into the world of work. United Castbar is one of the world's leading manufacturers of continuously cast iron bar. Students were fascinated to see the iron, melted in a furnace – typically exceeding 1,150 degrees Celsius.

United Castbar

Learning Outcome: *Explore the world of safe working practices and environments.*

Our Year 7 and Year 9 students had the opportunity to do some sand casting when we were visited by United Castbar. Students created a cavity in a mold using a pattern, and filled the cavity with molten metal. These practical experiences allow students to apply their learning to real-world scenarios. Our students really enjoyed engaging in this hands-on activity.

Aztec Oils

Learning Outcome: *Understand business and industry.*

Bolsover has a rich history of innovation and creativity. Many remarkable things are made in and around Chesterfield, and just at the bottom of Bolsover Hill is Aztec Oils, one of the UK's leading specialists in high performance lubricant manufacture and distribution for over 25 years. Students had a tour of the facilities and completed some practical workshops relating to the production and marketing of oils used in the automotive, commercial, agricultural and industrial sectors.

Penny Engineering

Penny Engineering have been actively involved in inspiring the next generation of engineers through a series of school visits. Our Year 10 students had the chance to find out what Penny Engineering does, and gain an insight into the breadth of apprenticeship opportunities available at this local business.

Broomfield Hall – Derby College

Learning Outcome: *Identifying choices and opportunities.*

Our equestrian enthusiasts enjoyed the day at Broomfield Hall, a Leisure college and working estate in the Derwent Valley. Students found out about Post-16 programmes in Animal Care, Agriculture, Arboriculture and Equine Studies.

North Star

Learning outcome: *The relevance of STEM subjects for a range of career paths.*

We visit the North Star event every year at Gulliver's Valley. It is a great opportunity for our students to have some hands-on experience in solving STEM challenges. This event aims to bring together young people, educators, scientists and businesses to explore the future of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. Students love participating in the practical workshops – creating, fixing, and solving problems. It's a fun, varied and inspirational day.

Operation Prosperity – RAF Museum, Cosford

A careers fair like no other! There are 62 careers within the RAF, from medic to pilot, dog handler to chef, the opportunities are vast. 15 Year 10 students had the chance to find out about all the careers, by speaking to RAF personnel, trying on equipment, and climbing in to huge RAF vehicles. It was a great fun day out, a long distance to travel, but worth it. The trip helped to improve student confidence, access career information, and raise aspirations.



Uniform

Prohibited Items

The below items are prohibited in school and the uniform policy must be followed at all times:

✗ Hoodies



✗ Unbranded trousers & skirts



✗ Trainers



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

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 (boots NOT permitted).
- Hoodies and sweaters are NOT allowed – these will be confiscated from students.
- Leggings are NOT permitted – TBS plain black school trousers or TBS knee length skirt only which can be ordered via the links below.
- 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.
- Natural nails only – false nails are not permitted.
- Stud earrings only – hoops are not permitted.
- Students may wear one discreet nose stud – nose rings are not permitted.
- We reserve the right to ask students to remove any jewellery that is deemed as inappropriate or excessive.
- Bags are compulsory and we ask that all students arrive to school with a bag and stationary so that they are ready to learn.



As we are now in the season of cold weather, students should be attending school in a suitable coat. Please ensure that any missing items of uniform are replaced to ensure that students are adhering to our uniform policy when the next term begins in the New Year. 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

