The Bolsover School Newsletter

Spring 2026

Spring

Growth, Creativity, and Determination...



As we come to the end of a busy spring term at The Bolsover School, I wanted to reflect on some of the fantastic things that have taken place over the past few months. The school has felt full of energy, positivity, and opportunity - and it's been wonderful to see our students embracing everything on offer.

This term, a group of our students took part in the Redhill Trust Rowing Tournament at Tupton Hall School, showing real grit and teamwork. The hard work continued as a number of students proudly represented both the school and the Trust at the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships in Leeds. Competing nationally is a brilliant achievement, and they should be incredibly proud of themselves.

We've also been delighted to host key events within the Trust. The Trust Poetry by Heart Final was an inspiring celebration of confidence and creativity, while the Trust Chess Event brought together students from across the Trust for an afternoon of strategy and friendly competition. It was lovely to see our school buzzing with talent and visitors from other schools within our Trust.

This year marks the National Year of Reading, and we've really enjoyed seeing students talk about books, discover new authors, and share stories. Reading for pleasure is something we'll continue to champion throughout the year.

Our co-curricular offer remains vast and ever-growing. From sports and performing arts to enrichment clubs and leadership opportunities, there is something for everyone. Our aim is simple: for every student to get involved in something they enjoy, and to stay engaged with it over time. It's been brilliant to see so many students doing just that.

As we look ahead, we are now only a matter of weeks away from the first Year 11 exam. The cohort are engaging really well and showing a determined, mature approach as they prepare for the months ahead. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and focus.

When we return after Easter, our Year 10 students will begin their mock examinations. They will have an assembly on the first day back where the expectations, routines, and support available will be clearly explained. These mocks are an important milestone, and we know they will rise to the challenge.

As ever, I am incredibly proud of our students - not just for what they achieve, but for the enthusiasm, kindness, and commitment they show every day. Thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing support; it truly makes a difference.

I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Warm regards,
Miss Spence
Head of School

REDHILL ACADEMY TRUST
Equality and Achievement

www.thebolsoverschool.org
The Bolsover School Official
thebolsoverschool

House Points



589	571	553	627	693
A	B	H	N	P

September 2026 Arrangements

We would like to share with you the arrangements for the start of September 2026 for the new academic year.

Year 7 and 11 students will start back on *Tuesday 8th September 2026*.
All other year groups will be back in on *Wednesday 9th September 2026*.

The school will be closed to students on:

- Friday 4th September 2026 - Inset day 1
- Monday 7th September 2026 - Inset day 2



Bowling Champions!

This term our students competed in a district bowling competition at Chesterfield Bowl. A huge congratulations to Alfie R, Jacob F, Leo K, Olivia C and Olivia W, who finished in 1st place! Well done to Olivia W who received an award for highest scorer!



Thank you Olivia!

A huge well done to Olivia B for helping to keep our community tidy by spending some of her free time picking up litter from our local area!



Ofsted Success!

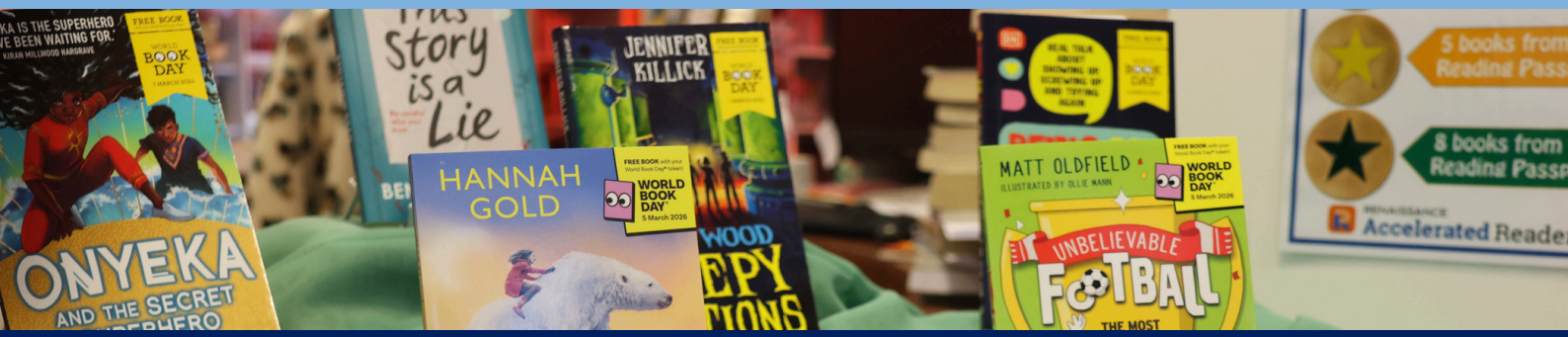
Proud staff and pupils at The Bolsover School are pleased to share the overwhelmingly positive outcome of a recent Ofsted inspection which saw a school that 'lives its key values and aims for 'nothing but the best' for all pupils'. The inspection, in November 2025, was one of the first in the country to be completed under a new Ofsted framework. Overall inspection grades are no longer given. But the team noted secure educational provision at The Bolsover School and issued a report which details how the school is meeting the 'expected standard' across 6 main inspection areas.

Hit Pause

Our Year 9 students recently took part in a 'Hit Pause' session as part of the 'Be Internet Citizens' Media Literacy Programme by YouTube and The Parent Zone. This was a very engaging session with an enthusiastic presentation all about misinformation and disinformation. Students were encouraged to use lateral reading - comparing information across multiple sources to determine if a website is trustworthy, unbiased, and credible. Thanks to Bolsover MP Natalie Fleet for talking to our students about internet safety and the dangers of misinformation and disinformation.







World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day in March in a big way, with a week of book-themed activities in and around the Library: from a nail-biting Jeopardy! showdown, to a calming audio book café, and a slightly less calming escape room - there really was something for everyone! On World Book Day itself, teachers turned out in style in their best fancy dress, and over 30 students worked together to ultimately defeat Mr Hallam in the inaugural TBS edition of The Chase. This year's free book titles were a hit, with students able to cash in their vouchers all week long, which many did whilst also entering one of our competitions. Congratulations to the winners of our Accelerated Reader Raffle, Bookmark Design Competition, and Title Quest!



Creative Writing Workshops

A small group of Year 8 students were given the opportunity to do a series of creative writing workshops with author and Redhill alum, Lisa Williamson! The first session was at Hall Park Academy - we tried our hand at creating exciting story starters, immersive descriptions, and even created a TBS-themed escape room!

Accelerated Reader

We're finishing the Spring term with a whopping 53 million words read on Accelerated Reader - Nightingale are currently the top house for reading! There is still a whole term left, and it's all to play for - will Nightingale finally defeat Bainbridge, who have been the top house for word count for 5 out of the last 6 years?



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
- Dr. Seuss



RHAT Book Awards

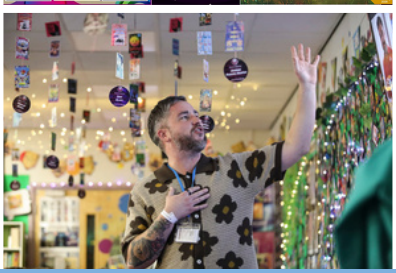
We rounded out the term with a trip to the Redhill Children's Book Awards at The Carlton Academy. Students were treated to a talk by Ben Davis, and got to see 'My Dog' by Olivia Wakefield take the top prize! The students have been reading from the shortlist since October and discussing their thoughts in weekly meetings - it's safe to say that we also thought that 'My Dog' was a fantastic book! A shoutout to Lavenia, Dhruv, Eden, Lacey, and Emily, whose creative tasks made it through to the final as well!



















Philharmonia Virtual Orchestra

The Bolsover School was thrilled to be asked to take part in a virtual reality pilot working with Philharmonia Orchestra.
Our Year 7 students loved immersing themselves in the orchestral experience taking on the role of a percussion player in a performance of the William Tell Overture! Bravo!!

Paintings of DOOM!

Mr Bramley recently ran a competition for students to create their own 'Doom painting'. Our students have been studying how the Church posed a significant problem for medieval monarchs.

Doom paintings 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 Archie M for winning the competition!



Poetry by heart 2026

Poetry by Heart 2026

This term The Bolsover School hosted the second Redhill Academy Trust Poetry by Heart Competition, welcoming students from KS1 through to KS5 from across Redhill's Primary and Secondary academies.

Each academy ran an inter-house competition to determine an overall school champion who competed in yesterday's grand final.

Araminta represented The Bolsover School in the KS3 category, giving an absolutely fantastic performance of 'Strict' by Michael Rosen.

For KS4, Zara gave a stunning rendition of her own poem 'Manufactured Minds'.

We were blown away by each performance; the level of talent across all competitors was simply outstanding.

A huge thanks must go to Gracie-Mae, one of our former students and National Poetry by Heart Finalist for 2023, who kindly gave up her time to be on the panel of judges and to give a performance of her own poem 'Where do I fit in?'.





















British Science Week

This term celebrated the return of British Science Week! Our Science Department held various break and lunch time activities throughout the week.

Students had the opportunity to taste space food and observe a variety of dissections - including heart, lung and rat!

Did you know?

Your brain burns 400-500 calories a day. That's about a fifth of your total energy requirements. Most of this is concerned with the largely automatic process of controlling your muscles and processing sensory input, although some studies show solving tricky problems increases your brain's metabolic requirements too.

"Noughts & Crosses is an amazing play that created tension and suspense throughout. They used lighting and sound to the fullest and the costumes were outstanding. An amazing play, an amazing experience and fantastic actors. Thank you for taking us!" - Lexi A

"The Noughts & Crosses play that I watched was absolutely brilliant, the tension between the audience and actors was breathtaking. I loved it so much. Thank you, Mrs Lyne." - Elizabeth C

"This was a simply excellent experience. Pilot Theatre brilliantly adapted this story with incredible casting, lighting and staging. I'm very glad I got to see this as part of my Drama course." - Rudi A

"Absolutely breathtaking, amazing performances. I loved it so much." - Evie G

Noughts & Crosses

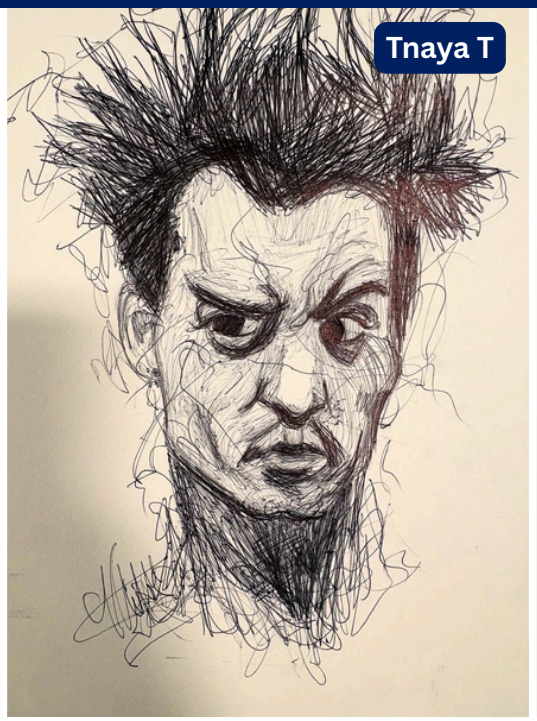
Our Year 10 GCSE Drama students recently travelled to Derby Theatre to watch their production of Noughts & Crosses. Noughts & Crosses is a captivating drama of love, revolution, and what it means to grow up in a divided world.

Take a look at the speech bubbles above to read the reviews that some of our students have made about the performance.

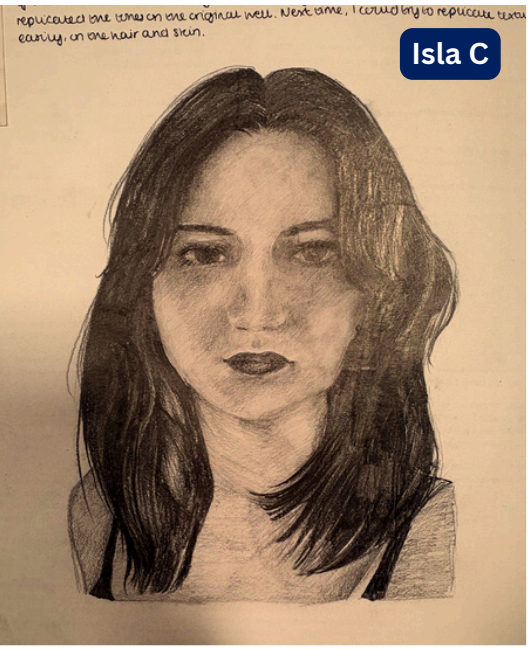





Isla C


Tnaya T

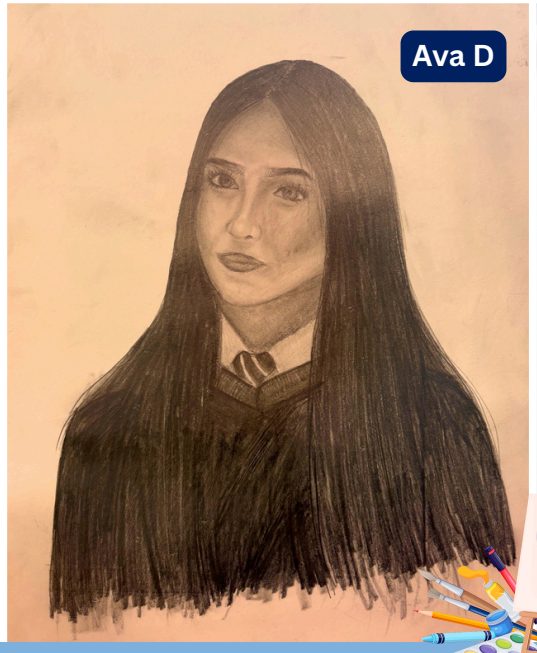

Millie I

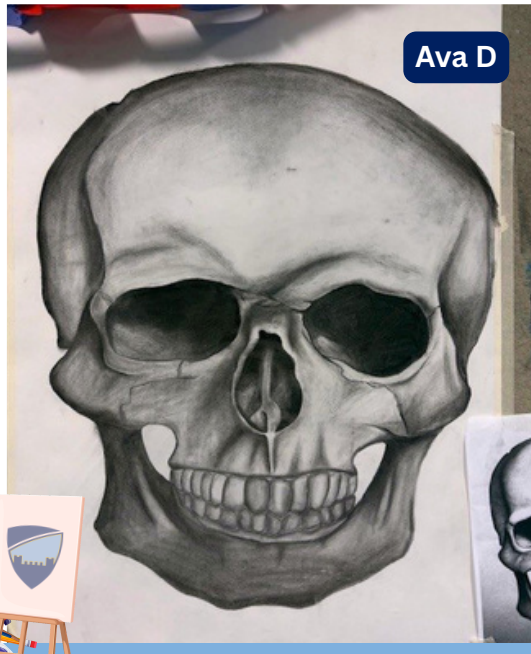

Isla C


Bonnie S


Olivia W


Tnaya T


Ava D


Ava D

THE BOLSOVER SCHOOL CAREERS

Spring 2026

Ambulance Service Career Pathways

Our GCSE Health and Social Care students had the opportunity to discuss career pathways involving the ambulance service. Our fantastic ex-student Joe brought to school an ambulance demonstration vehicle, enabling students to have a look around the vehicle to learn more about how they are equipped to deal with a wide range of emergencies. A huge thanks to Joe and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust.



Studying Medicine at University

This term we were visited by another ex-student Cameron, who studied at The Bolsover School from 2014 to 2019. He went on to do his A Levels and now studies Medicine at Lancaster University. Cameron came in to school to talk to our current students about the pros and cons of studying medicine - including the challenges, benefits and level of commitment required.

Brackenhurst College

Our young farmers visited Brackenhurst College to gain an insight in to the courses on offer, the learning environment and the careers in animal management, agriculture, countryside management and equine management. It was a great day out, one Year 8 student said, "this has been the best day, it is so useful for me as I am keen to study equine management after school." The best bits were seeing the newly born lambs and calves!

Get Up to Speed

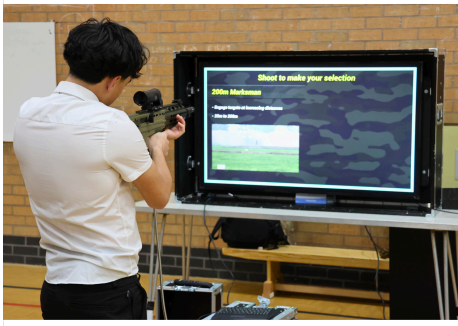
Year 8 students visited the Magna Science Centre to take part in the Get up to Speed careers fair. Get up to Speed with STEM is a live annual careers showcase event which aims to introduce, inform and inspire students, parents and teachers about the world of work in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing (STEM) sectors. Students tried things, made things and experienced some of the advanced technology used in the modern world of work.



Careers in the British Army

It was great to have a visit from the British Army in March. Personnel from the Army Careers Office, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and Logistic Corps came in to school to deliver fun and interactive sessions aimed at preparing our students for the world of work. Students were keen to get involved in team building exercises, problem solving, STEM tasks and target shooting - some great transferrable skills were showcased by our amazing Year 10 students.

- **Staff from the Army Careers Centre** – specialising in delivering careers briefs to help students understand the variety of roles and pathways available in the Army.
- **Royal Engineers** – experts in combat engineering, construction, infrastructure and bomb disposal. They can deliver STEM activities, team tasks, and showcase equipment used for bridging, demolitions, field engineering and search operations.
- **Royal Signals** – the Army's specialists in communications, cyber, and information systems. They deliver Cyber Challenges, STEM tasks and demonstrate cutting-edge digital equipment used to keep the Army communicating on the battlefield.
- **Royal Logistic Corps** – responsible for transport, supply, fuel, ammunition, catering and postal services across the Army. They run team-building exercises, demonstrate logistical planning challenges, and showcase equipment used to keep the Army moving and sustained.





If any Year 11 students are still deciding on their plans for after Year 11, please book an appointment with Mrs D Crossley.
d.crossley@thebolsoverschool.org.uk

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 uniform policy must 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 (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 the weather becomes warmer, we would like to remind students and parents that blazers remain a compulsory part of the school uniform. If a V-neck black jumper is worn, this should be the layer removed. During periods of hot weather, students will be informed when they are permitted to remove their blazer and/or tie. Please ensure that any missing uniform items are replaced in time for the start of the next term after Easter. Students who are not wearing the correct uniform will be required to borrow the necessary item from the school store; refusal to do so will result in a period of isolation until the issue is resolved.



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

LOGO LEISUREWEAR LTD

www.logoleisurewear.com

j-sw just-schoolwear

www.just-schoolwear.co.uk