SMITHILLS SCHOOL
SUCCESS FOR ALL

NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2026
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WELCOME



Our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,
As we approach the Easter break, we are delighted to celebrate the many successes and achievements across our school community. At the heart of everything we do is our vision, 'Success for All,' underpinned by our core values of Independence, Community, and Excellence. These values continue to guide our work with pupils and staff alike.
This term has been full of exciting events and opportunities for our pupils. Year 10 pupils have enjoyed a geography field trip, and our dancers took part in the Bolton Dance Festival. Other highlights include a trip to Turkey, pupils working with the National Theatre, a Cambridge University visit, Year 9 Enterprise Day, and Year 8 exploring Manchester University, each experience broadening horizons and inspiring our young people.

We are thrilled with the Year PPE results—so many happy faces and evidence of continued hard work and dedication. Other year groups have recently completed cumulative assessment week, and you will have received your child's latest report, reflecting their progress and effort.
Behind the scenes, all staff have been working hard on our new Teaching and Learning Framework: The Smithills 6. At the heart of this framework is challenge, ensuring that every pupil is thinking hard, working hard, and striving to achieve their best in every lesson.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all staff for their dedication, commitment, and for always going above and beyond to support our pupils. Equally, we are grateful to you, our parents and carers, nothing we achieve would be possible without your support and partnership.

Looking ahead, please remember that after the Easter holidays all pupils in Years 7–10 will receive an equipment pack. Pupils must keep this safe and bring it to every lesson to ensure they are fully prepared and ready to learn. Finally, we wish Year 11 the very best of luck as they begin their final exams after the break.

We hope you all have a wonderful, restful holiday.

Miss Dewse
Smithills School Headteacher

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YEAR 7



Year 7 have had another fantastic term. It has been lovely to watch them flourish as the year goes on gaining in confidence and achieving success across the school in a variety of areas.

You will have recently received a report updating you on the progress your child has been making across all their subjects. This data continues to back up what we already know about year 7 in that they set themselves high standards and continue to maintain them. Uniquely in year 7 they have an opportunity to discover a love for subjects they may never have had any experience of in primary school. For many pupils this is a first opportunity to cook for themselves in Food technology or conduct an experiment in an actual Science lab- experiences which we hope will foster a lifelong love of the subjects.

One of the school priorities continues to be literacy, when I visit the form rooms specifically on a Monday and Tuesday it's lovely to see the pupils reading collectively one the books picked out by our literacy leaders in school. During the week of World Book Day in March year 7 pupils who visited the Hive took part in a range of different reading and literacy events strengthening their love of reading. Please don't forget to ensure your child is completing their Sparxs reader minutes each week not only does it develop their literacy skills but also earns pupils value points.

Year 7 attendance continues to break records in comparison to previous years. We have consistently had above average attendance, and a number of forms are regularly achieving 95% attendance or higher as a collective form group. We have over 30 pupils in the year group who still haven't had a day off all year and at the time of writing we have over 75 pupils in year 7 who are on 100% for this term from January 2026 to date. This is fantastic and shows the pupils commitment to their learning.

Our school values of independence, excellence and community are embedded within our value points system. This year the running total of value points awarded to year 7s sits at over 72,000. Within that total we have over 35 students who have amassed over 500 value points individually. Treat drops have taken place throughout the year to reward the individual students who are amassing such fantastic numbers of value points. Please also keep an eye out for the summer term rewards trips which will recognise the hard work of pupils who have hit such great totals.

I hope you have a restful Easter holiday and look forward to seeing year 7 again in the Summer Term.

Mrs Scholefield
Year 7 Head of Year

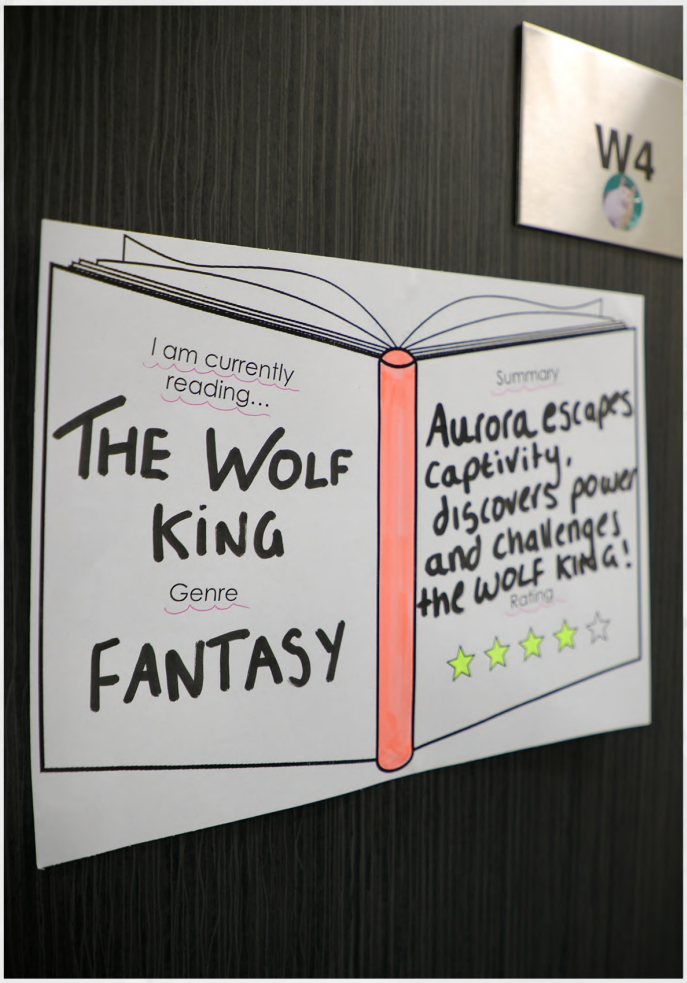
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YEAR 8



Year 8 have had a fantastic Spring term. Pupils have taken part in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including Performing Arts and after-school sports clubs. During assemblies, they have explored important themes such as the protected characteristics, good sportsmanship, Refugee Week, World Book Day, and STEM.

Pupils have been recognised for their excellent behaviour and positive attitude to learning through Easter egg rewards and Proud Awards. I have particularly enjoyed reviewing homework during our Tuesday Proud event each week at lunchtime.



Uniform standards and overall adherence to school expectations have been excellent. If you are unsure about any aspect of our uniform policy, please refer to the school website. Attendance and punctuality remain very important, and many pupils have worked hard this term to maintain strong attendance. Please reach out if you require any support with this.

Homework is set weekly, and students are also expected to complete Sparx Reader, Science, and Maths tasks.

Miss Johnson
Year 8 Head of Year

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YEAR 9



Year 9 attendance overall has improved, and we have had some fantastic events as a whole year group as well as some amazing personal achievements for Year 9 pupils.

On Thursday we had a fantastic Options Evening, where parents, carers and pupils got to explore the vast variety of options on offer at Smithills.

We also had a great parents evening the following Tuesday where lots of pupils received very positive feedback about their most recent summative assessments.



We have had some personal achievements;

Luca: Winning his darts tournament

Jamie: Appearing on BBC and working alongside Broadway actress





Miss Heywood
Year 9 Head of Year

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YEAR 10



Dear parent / guardian,

The Easter holidays have now arrived and it is clear that this term has definitely been a tough (but rewarding) one for our Year 10 students! The students have been working hard this term on all of their GCSEs in preparation for their PPE (mock) examinations which begin on the 15th June.

I know you are fully aware of how challenging Year 10 and Year 11 are for our pupils but I would like to emphasise just how proud and impressed I have been by their positive approach, mature attitudes and hard work. They have really shown that they are working hard to achieve good results on next year's GCSEs and I am confident that this hard work will pay dividends.



Next term, we have Year 10 Parent's Evening on April 30th and the students begin their Work Experience on 29th of June, for four days, before visiting Bolton 6th Form, Bolton College or Runshaw College for a 'taster day' on 3rd July.

If your child has not yet managed to source a Work Experience Placement, please ask them to think about what they would like to be doing over the Easter break. Once a pupil has a placement in mind, they should complete the steps to apply on the 'Unifrog' internet platform (https://www.unifrog.org). Students have received an email from me, earlier in the year to show them how to do this.

In the meantime, I hope that all of our students and families have a fantastic Easter break and I look forward to seeing everybody in the Summer term.

Best wishes,

Mr Harrison
Year 10 Head of Year

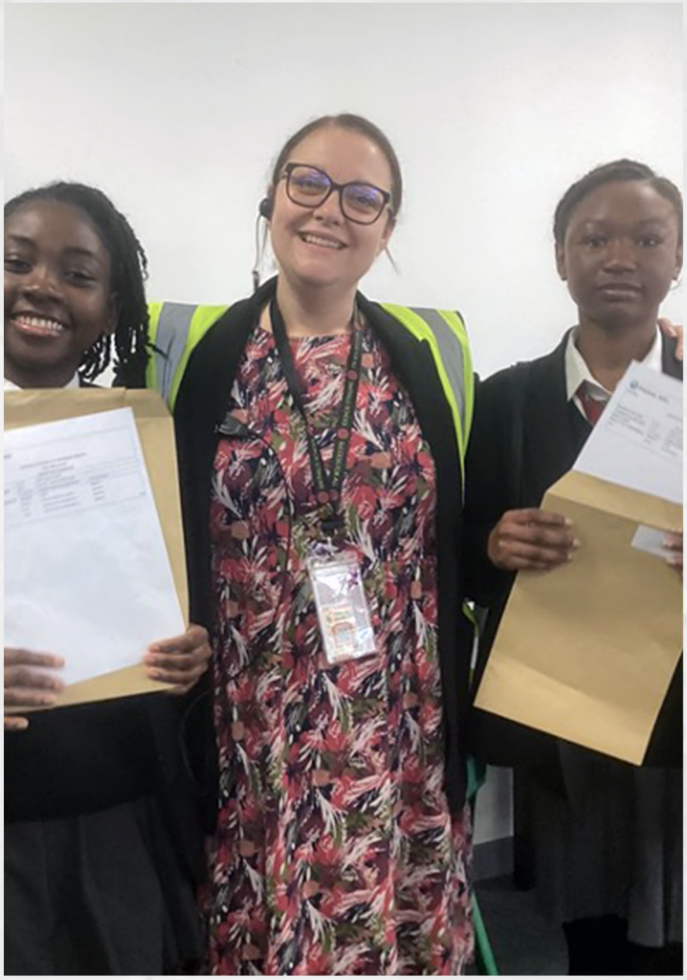
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YEAR 11



Dear Parents and Guardian's,

As we come to the end of another busy term and welcome the joys of spring, we are so happy to be sharing some of this terms highlights and let you know about exciting updates and key information moving forwards into our final term together before Year 11 students leave Smithills School this summer.

PROUD OF YEAR 11- PPES

Firstly, we are so proud of the conduct, effort and resilience demonstrated during their first set and now their final PPE examinations. So many of our students have also continued to show great dedication by attending Pathway 2 Success after school revision sessions. With only around 5 school weeks until the actual GCSE`s start for real, I want all our students to remain focused on their goal of achieving the best possible exam results for themselves this summer.

Easter School, Pathway 2 Success and Final Mile are all designed to help and support your child achieve their full potential. Please encourage them to attend Easter School revision sessions and after school revision, combined with Checking their Final mile booklet to double check and plan when each exam is taking place and ensuring that they use their Revision timetable effectively.

There is lots of information on our school website to help and support with revision strategies/techniques and support for students and parents in dealing with exam stress and anxiety, along with healthy eating and wellbeing tips during this stressful period.





PPE RESULTS AND PARENTS EVENING: Thank you once again for your support at this event. The turnout was once again fantastic. We hope that you found this useful and gained valuable information from subject teachers about how improvements can be made to boost grades in the run into the Final GCSE exams.

Well done to our year 11 Students who attended the recent Maths Intervention Day at Bolton Arena. The Bolton Learning Partnership gathered a group of expert Mathematics teachers across all the schools in Bolton to design a suite of 12 lessons that concentrate on the key and essential topics that will support pupils to improve the marks that they achieve on both the higher and foundation Mathematics papers. All the staff who ran the event were so impressed by the conduct of Smithills students above the other 5 schools also in attendance and were complemented and congratulated for being so fantastic, with 3 students even receiving a £10 JD vouchers for all their hard work, being kind and taking responsibility.

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YEAR 11

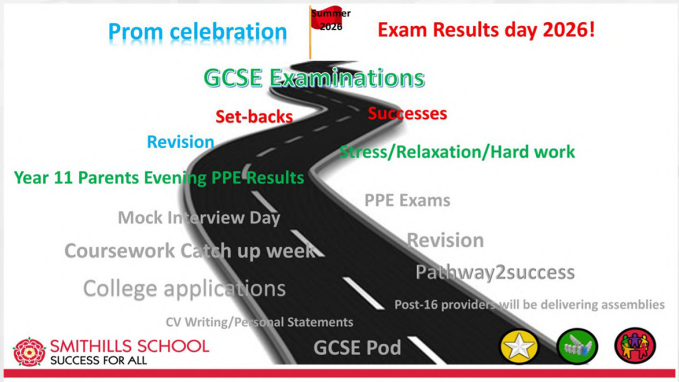
A massive Congratulations to all of the Year 11 students who received their Vocational Btec or Cambridge National results today. It was great seeing so many of you so happy, well done for all the hard work you have put into the coursework, there are some exceptional results. You should be really proud of what you've achieved.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Leavers Hoodies Shop closes on 03-04-26. The company then make the Hoodies to order. They are being dispatched on 24th April and should be with you very soon after. Just a quick reminder that they can be worn for school along with the rest of Smithills school uniform. Hoodies can be worn to and from school, however, Blazers must be worn again for the exams.

Nawaab's trip – Date to be confirmed

End of year celebration/Prom Thursday 18th June at BWFC Toughsheet Stadium. More information to follow the Easter break.

SMITHILLS SCHOOL ROAD MAP 2025/26





Enjoy the Holidays,

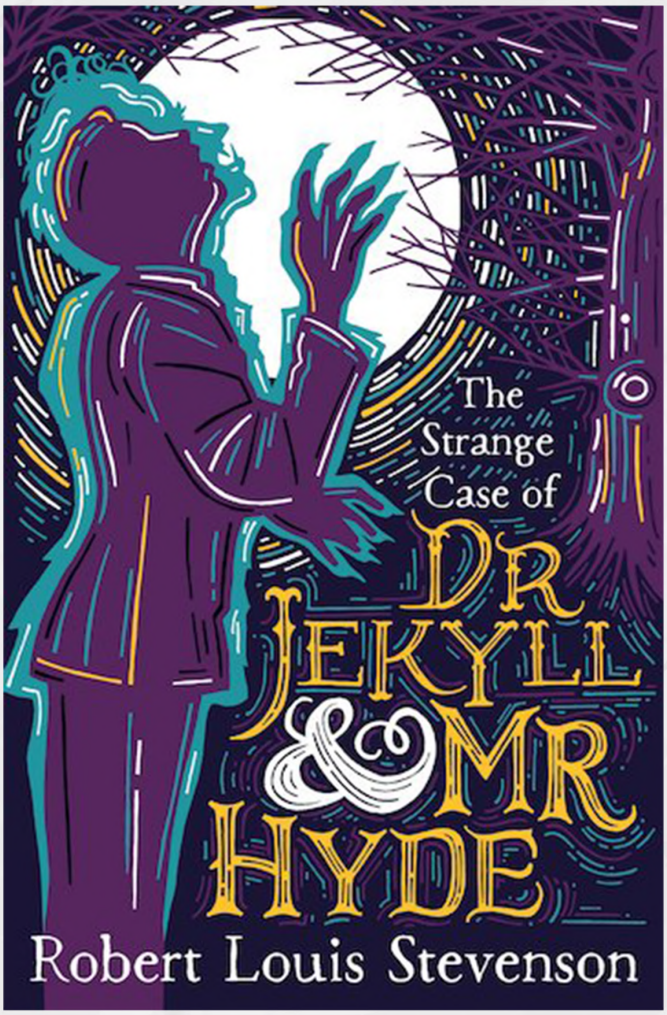
Best wishes,

Mr J. Nash, Mrs J. Nash, Miss Oakes and Miss Angus
The Year 11 Team

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ENGLISH



YEAR 7

Year 7 students have been studying Animal Farm this term. Through their reading of the novel, students have explored how George Orwell presents power, leadership, and fairness on the farm. They have discussed how characters such as Napoleon, Snowball and Boxer represent different ideas about leadership and responsibility.

Students have been developing their analytical skills by selecting key quotations from the text and explaining how Orwell uses language to present characters and themes. They have also practised writing clear analytical paragraphs, focusing on embedding evidence and explaining the writer's intentions.

Alongside this, students have continued to build their vocabulary and reading comprehension skills through retrieval activities and discussion, helping them become more confident readers and writers. Next term, students will continue to develop their analytical writing through the reading and studying of My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher.

YEAR 8

Year 8 students have been studying The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson. Through this Gothic novella, students have explored themes such as good versus evil, secrecy, reputation and the dual nature of human beings.

Students have analysed how Stevenson creates tension and mystery, focusing on key moments in the text and exploring how language and structure contribute to the atmosphere of the novel. They have been developing their ability to write analytical paragraphs, selecting relevant quotations and explaining how Stevenson's methods shape the reader's understanding of characters such as Jekyll, Hyde and Utterson.

Students have also explored the Victorian context of the novel, considering how concerns about reputation, science and morality influence the events of the story. These discussions have helped students understand how writers reflect the society in which they are writing. Next term, students will continue to develop their analytical writing through the reading and studying of, Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck.

YEAR 9

Year 9 students have been studying An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley. Throughout the term, students have explored how Priestley presents themes such as social responsibility, class inequality and generational differences through the events of the play.

Students have closely analysed key characters including Mr Birling, Sheila and the Inspector, considering how Priestley uses their reactions and dialogue to communicate his message about responsibility in society. They have been developing their essay writing skills by learning how to structure analytical responses, embed quotations and compare different characters' perspectives.

Students have also explored the historical context of the play, discussing how Priestley uses the setting of 1912 to criticise attitudes towards wealth, power and responsibility. This has helped students understand how literature can be used to challenge social ideas and encourage audiences to reflect on their own actions. Next term, students will continue to develop their analytical writing through the studying of poetry and transactional writing linked to identity.

ENGLISH

YEAR 10

Year 10 students have been working extremely hard this term as they continue to build the skills needed for their GCSE English exams. In English Language, students have been developing their narrative writing for Paper 1, focusing on crafting engaging descriptions, structuring stories effectively, and using a range of ambitious vocabulary and literary techniques.

In English Literature, students have successfully completed their study of the 15 poems from the Power and Conflict anthology, exploring key themes such as power, identity, conflict, and the impact of war. They have analysed poetic methods, compared poems, and practised structuring analytical responses. Students have now moved on to unseen poetry practice, where they are developing the skills needed to confidently analyse poems they have not encountered before, focusing on interpretation, language analysis, and comparison.

Next term, students will begin studying their GCSE English Literature modern text, Blood Brothers, in preparation for their end-of-year mock examinations.

YEAR 11

Year 11 students have been focusing on revision of their GCSE texts and reflecting carefully on feedback from their mock exams. They have been using this feedback to improve the quality of their essays and extended writing, particularly by strengthening their analysis of language, structure, and writer's methods.

During Session 0 and Boost sessions, students have been completing regular essay practice and developing their exam technique, ensuring they can plan, structure, and respond effectively under timed conditions.

Students have also been using flashcards provided in class to revise key quotations from their literature texts. These are being applied during practice with past paper questions, helping students embed important evidence and develop confident, well-supported responses.

In preparation for the English Language exams, students have taken part in "walking, talking mocks", where they have been guided step-by-step through each section of the paper. This has helped students practise the specific skills required for each question type and gain a clearer understanding of how to approach the exam.

Students are encouraged to continue independent revision at home and attend P2S sessions where they have been invited, to consolidate their knowledge and maximise their progress ahead of the summer examinations.



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MATHS



Spring term has been very busy for the Maths Department as we prepared all students for their cumulative assessments to ensure gaps can be identified and addressed as soon as possible.

We have welcomed our new Maths Tutor, Mrs Livesey, into the team who will be working with small groups across all year groups to ensure bespoke support is being offered to those students that need it.

We have been working with Maths experts across all the schools in Bolton to create a Maths DNA framework to ensure consistency in our teaching and learning across all maths teachers and maths groups.



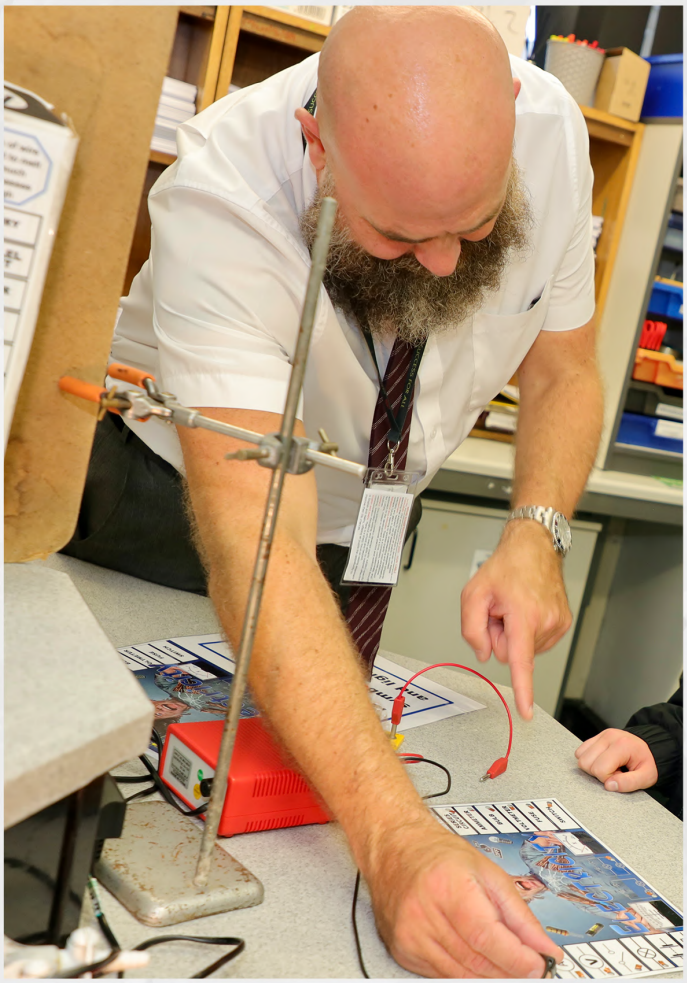
Year 11 have been preparing for their upcoming GCSE exams, and it has been pleasing to see such high engagement and commitment with students attending session 0, boost sessions and Pathways to Success to take advantage of all revision opportunities on offer.

Some students have also been invited to attend our Maths Intervention Day as well as February half term and Easter school. We are confident all their hard work will pay off as we move into the exam period.

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SCIENCE



Our Science Department has had a very positive and productive period. Assessment week for Years 7–10 went extremely well, giving staff valuable insight into pupil understanding and allowing key misconceptions to be clearly identified and addressed as we continue to build knowledge through the curriculum.

We recently welcomed a Trust curriculum review, which was extremely positive and highlighted the fantastic work that both our science staff and pupils do on a regular basis. It was a great opportunity to showcase the high-quality teaching, learning and engagement that takes place across the department.
In addition, we have seen a very positive term of engagement with SPARX Science, which remains an important tool in supporting learning beyond the classroom by helping pupils regularly practise and consolidate their scientific knowledge.

STEM Week provided a great opportunity to highlight the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the wider world. Throughout the week, pupils took part in discussions about STEM careers and the role these subjects play in shaping the future. Our CONNECT activities for Years 7–10 were designed to further engage pupils, encouraging them to think about real-world applications of science and sparking curiosity about potential pathways within STEM fields.

As we move closer to the examination period, our Year 11 pupils are now entering the final stage of preparation for their GCSE Science exams. Students are working hard in lessons and attending additional revision opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and exam technique. Staff are continuing to provide targeted support, focusing on key content areas and helping pupils practise the skills needed to succeed in their exams.

We encourage all Year 11 pupils to maintain strong revision habits, make full use of the resources provided, and stay focused during this final push so they feel confident and fully prepared.



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WORLD BOOK DAY & READING



WORLD BOOK DAY

We celebrated World Book Day by having our staff dress as their favourite book characters and leave book reviews on their doors!

Our pupils earned Double Points in Sparx Reader. They celebrated their achievements in The Hive with our brand new Poe-Tree, lovingly handcrafted by our librarian, Mrs Hameed, alongside our library regulars!

WELL DONE

A massive congratulations to Reigneth in Year 11, who has completed the sixteen before sixteen challenge.

Well done, Reigneth!



Congratulations to Fatima for being the 300th book withdrawer in our library! To celebrate this milestone, she has received a book voucher and a book to enjoy. We hope you have a wonderful time reading, Fatima, and thank you for being part of our library community!

We currently have a lucky 400 book withdrawer - so let's get reading.

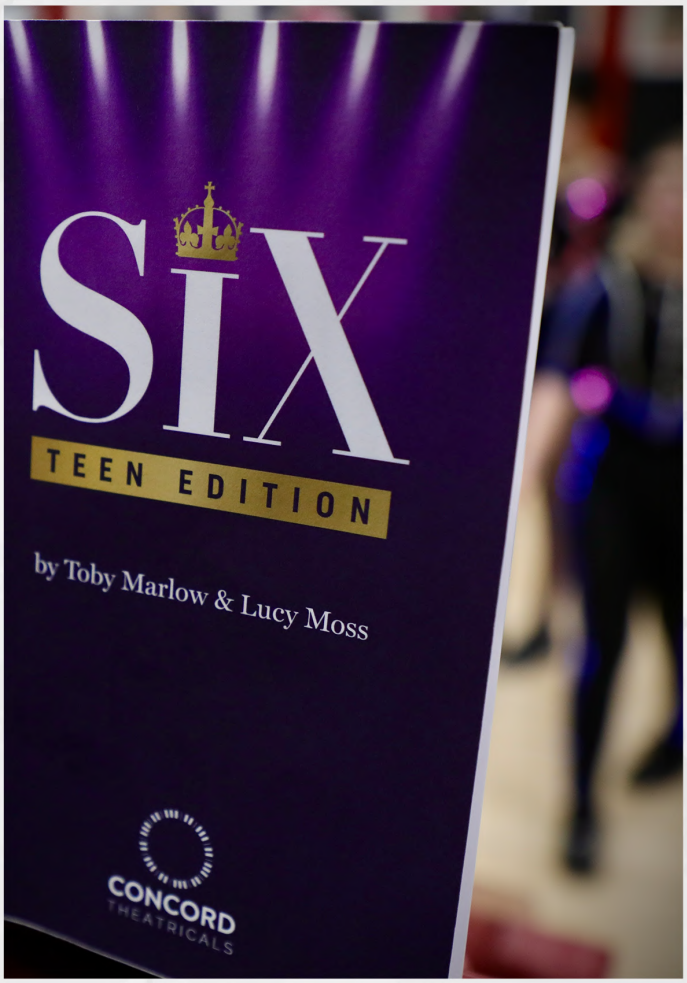
Good Luck!



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SIX: THE MUSICAL – TEEN EDITION



Smithills School is delighted to have been granted the licensing opportunity to perform the internationally acclaimed Six: The Musical – Teen Edition.

This vibrant, empowering musical reimagines the six wives of Henry VIII as pop icons, each telling her story through high-energy songs, bold choreography, and a powerful message of reclaiming one's voice.

Our wonderful pupils from Years 7 to 11 have been rehearsing with passion, commitment, and infectious enthusiasm. From vocal rehearsals to choreography to capturing the iconic "Queendom" attitude, the cast has embraced every challenge with professionalism and joy.

Dior, a Year 11 pupil, described the show as empowering and said performing it makes them feel strong and confident.

Heidi in Year 7 shared how welcoming the cast has been and how much she has learned as one of the youngest performers.

Maisey in Year 9 expressed how much she loves the music and how rehearsals have become one of the highlights of her school experience.



Mr Milthorpe, Head of Faculty for Performing Arts and PE, commented that Six: Teen Edition is the perfect show for young performers, offering bold storytelling and countless opportunities for pupils to shine. He added that the school is thrilled to bring such a dynamic and empowering production to the Smithills stage.





WILDFIRE ROAD



Smithills School is proudly taking part in this year's National Theatre Connections programme, an exciting nationwide initiative that invites young people to perform new plays written especially for them by some of the UK's most dynamic playwrights. The programme aims to nurture creativity, build confidence, and give pupils the unforgettable experience of bringing a professionally commissioned script to life.
This year, our talented cast is performing Wildfire Road by Eve Leigh, a gripping and imaginative play that follows a group of passengers on a plane as they face an extraordinary and mysterious crisis. The story blends suspense, humour, and heart, exploring how people respond when the world around them suddenly changes.

Pupils from Years 8 and 9 have been working tirelessly, planning, devising, and rehearsing, to prepare for their performance at Smithills School on Thursday 19th March, where they will share their hard work with family and friends. Hadley in Year 9 explained that being part of the production has pushed them out of their comfort zone and helped them grow in confidence. Amber in Year 8 shared how exciting it has been to watch the story come alive through everyone's ideas. Jamie in Year 9 reflected on how much fun the process has been and how many new friendships have formed along the way. Lacey in Year 9 expressed her pride in the company's progress and how special it feels to be part of a nationwide project. Excitedly, pupils now go on to perform this piece on a professional stage in Manchester.



On Monday 20th April, they will take their production to the prestigious theatre, HOME Manchester, where they will have the remarkable opportunity to perform in a fully equipped, professional environment. Throughout the day, pupils will work closely with theatre practitioners and technical staff, gaining first-hand experience of how a professional production is brought to life. It promises to be an inspiring and unforgettable milestone in their performing arts journey.

Mr Milthorpe, Head of Faculty for Performing Arts and PE, praised the cast's dedication and highlighted how invaluable family support has been throughout the rehearsal process. He noted that the encouragement pupils receive at home plays a huge role in their success and helps them thrive creatively. He added that the school is incredibly proud of the commitment shown by every member of the company.

DANCE & MUSIC



TAKING TO THE STAGE

On Tuesday, 20th January, our talented dance pupils took to the stage at the Bolton Albert Halls as part of this year's Bolton Dance Festival. They delivered two incredible pieces that showcased their hard work, creativity, and passion for dance performance.

We were also immensely proud to see some of our pupils perform a dynamic piece choreographed by professional choreographer Kane Silver. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to experience industry-level choreography and shine in front of a packed audience.

Every pupil involved threw themselves into the experience and loved performing alongside dancers from other schools across Bolton. The atmosphere was full of excitement, teamwork, and celebration of the arts.

Mr Milthorpe, Head of Faculty for Performing Arts and PE, would like to congratulate every performer. You represented Smithills School brilliantly and should be incredibly proud of yourselves.

SPECIAL MUSIC EVENT

A selected group of students participated in a special event at The Albert Halls, organised by the British Army Music.



Operation CYBERBEAT engaged students through interactive learning experiences and further developed students' musical knowledge, technical skills and creative understanding.

Throughout the event, students worked alongside serving members of the Army Band, gaining insight into professional musical practice and potential career pathways.

The programme of structured workshops and live performances provided students with opportunities to:

- Explore music technology through the use of looping stations and digital production tools
- Engage with professional performance contexts, including the use of official Army band uniforms
- Develop physical coordination and discipline through drill-based activities, including formal salutes
- Apply leadership and compositional skills by musically directing Army musicians during conducting and composition tasks

The event offered a high-quality cultural and educational experience, reinforcing curriculum learning while broadening students' understanding of music as a professional and vocational career.

GEOGRAPHY



FIELDWORK

Year 10 Geographers have been out exploring the dynamic cities of Manchester and Salford!

During their fieldwork, students investigated spheres of influence and how places change over time. They collected data, made observations, and explored how different areas of the cities have developed and evolved.

A fantastic day of real-world geography in action!



HALF TERM REVISION

We had an amazing 32 geographers attend revision over February half term.

We practiced our exam technique, OS map skills and revisited our fieldwork.







MFL



Our Year 11 language pupils will be completing their speaking exams during the second week back after the Easter holidays. Easter School sessions are taking place for our French and Spanish pupils on Tuesday 14th April. The exam counts towards final grades and we would like to wish pupils luck ahead of the tests.

Year 11 pupils who are completing additional languages will also be completing their speaking exams and will need to listen for announcements from form tutors.

Year 9 had the exciting opportunity to make some authentic Spanish food with Mrs Pacer and Mr Fagan in February. Everyone really enjoyed the event and it was wonderful to see our Masterchefs in action!

Our Spain trip is fast approaching! Pupils who have not yet paid for the trip in full should do so by Monday 22nd June.

RAMADAN IFTAAR EVENT:

On Wednesday 4th March, Smithills School hosted a breaking of the fast (iftaar) event in the school hall. All year groups were invited, as well as staff, with over 180 people attending. The atmosphere was amazing and the cheese burgers, chicken rice and milk cakes were well received. £380 was raised for charities and has been given to Crescent Food Bank, Ummah Welfare Trust, a water project in Africa and the money will also help our former pupil Kiran Hussain in her distribution of household essentials for disadvantaged pupils.

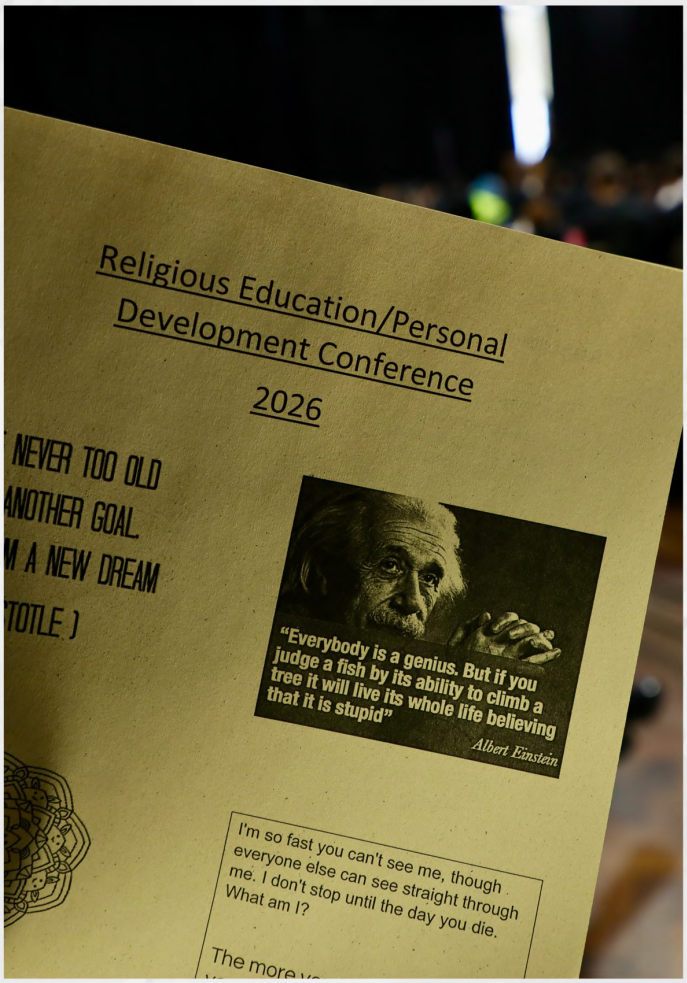
TURKEY:

TRIP TO ANTALYA:

On 21st March, we began our fun filled adventure to Alanya, Turkey. Our trip included a quad biking trek, a beautiful visit to the Sapadere waterfalls, an amazing white water rafting experience at Manavgat and a jeep safari adventure through the mountains near Dim Chaye lake. Bo staff and the students enjoyed their time in the Turkish sun and were able to try out Turkish delicacies.



RE CONFERENCE & ELECTRICITY VISIT



RE CONFERENCE

At the recent RE/PD conference, pupils engaged in a series of interactive sessions that guided them through the statutory requirements for Religious Education and Personal Development.

Throughout the morning, they explored moral issues, considered how laws and individual rights shape society, and discussed what healthy, positive relationships look like as they approach adulthood. A key focus was learning how to show respect for the diverse views and beliefs held by others, even when they differ from their own.

The conference encouraged thoughtful discussion, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of the responsibilities that come with growing independence at age 16.



ELECTRICITY VISIT

30 Year 10 pupils from Science groups were selected for a trip to Electricity North West's training academy in Blackburn on Wednesday, 4th March 2026, to learn more about careers within the energy industry.



During the visit, students were introduced to a variety of job roles involved in delivering and maintaining electricity across the region, including engineers, technicians, project managers, and customer service teams. Staff explained how electricity is distributed to homes and businesses and highlighted the importance of teamwork, safety, and problem-solving in the sector. Pupils also learned about the company's apprenticeship opportunities, which allow young people to gain hands-on experience while studying towards recognised qualifications.

The visit provided valuable insight into the different pathways available after school and helped pupils understand the skills and education required for careers in the energy industry.

VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



17 pupils visited the University of Cambridge last week, which was an inspiring and educational experience. At this stage in their education, many students are beginning to think about their future pathways, including A-level choices and potential careers. A university visit provides an opportunity for pupils to see what higher education is like, explore academic subjects in more depth, and raise their aspirations.

PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

The main aim of visiting Cambridge with the pupils is to introduce them to the world of higher education. For many students, especially those who may not have family members who attended university, visiting a prestigious institution such as Cambridge can make university feel more achievable. Outreach programmes at Cambridge are designed to encourage students to consider university study and to understand the application process at an early stage.

A visit helps pupils understand that universities are not only places for academic study but also vibrant communities where students live, socialise, and develop new skills.

DURING THE VISIT

Campus and college tours: Students explored the historic colleges and facilities, giving them a sense of the environment where undergraduates study and live.

Visiting Cambridge can have several positive impacts on the pupils. Firstly, it can motivate them to work harder in their GCSE studies. Seeing a world-class university environment often encourages pupils to realise the importance of their current education.

Secondly, the visit helps students make informed decisions about their future subject choices. Cambridge staff discussed the link between GCSE subjects, A-level options, and university courses, helping pupils plan their academic journey.

Many pupils realise that university students are ordinary people who have worked hard to reach their goals, making the idea of attending a top university seem more realistic.By visiting universities early, pupils gain a clearer understanding of the opportunities available to them and the steps they need to take to achieve their ambitions.

A trip to the University of Cambridge was a memorable and impactful experience for the pupils. Through campus tours, workshops, and conversations with current students, young people gained an insight into university life and the possibilities that lie ahead. Such visits play an important role in raising aspirations, broadening horizons, and encouraging pupils to believe that higher education is within their reach.

ADAM CORBALLY ENTERPRISE DAY



Students took part in a full-day enterprise workshop led by Adam Corbally, entrepreneur, motivational speaker, public speaking coach, event host, and presenter.

Adam has a strong passion for fundraising and community impact. He has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, completed the London Marathon, walked on hot coals, and raised funds to provide 30 defibrillators for his hometown. His Enterprise Days are designed to inspire pupils to aim high and reach their full potential.

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The day began with an engaging and energetic motivational talk to ensure students feel inspired and ready for the challenge ahead. Students are then placed into teams and tasked with creating their own business idea.

Adam encourages pupils to think both "outside and around the box," helping them to develop creative solutions while building confidence in listening, collaboration, and idea generation. The workshop is designed to raise aspirations and show students how to turn ideas into reality.

KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

Throughout the day, students;
- Worked collaboratively in teams
- Developed problem-solving and organisational skills
- Gained an understanding of economic development
- Built communication and leadership abilities
- Learned how to plan and structure a business idea

Students responded to an Apprentice-style brief, guiding them through the process of creating a product or service.

THE ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

Each team;
- Created a business or product idea
- Explored how their idea can generate profit
- Considers how their business can give back to the community through social action
- Developed entrepreneurial thinking, including time management and investment awareness

Students also gain insight into potential career pathways and what it takes to build a successful business.

FINAL PITCH

At the end of the day, students presented their ideas in a Dragons' Den-style pitch to a panel of judges. They showcased their business plans and communication skills in a competitive and supportive environment.
The day concludes with;
- Feedback and appraisal
- Awards, prizes, and trophies

IMPACT

This enterprise day empowers students to unlock their creativity, build confidence, and realise their potential. It inspires them to believe that anyone can become an entrepreneur with the right mindset, skills, and determination.

CAREERS FAIR



A vibrant and engaging careers fair was recently held at the school on Monday, 2nd March, during National Careers Week, offering pupils from all year groups the opportunity to explore a wide range of future pathways. The event brought together representatives from businesses, universities, apprenticeship providers, the armed forces, and financial institutions, creating a valuable space where students could learn directly from professionals about different career opportunities.

The careers fair was designed to help pupils begin thinking about their futures and to understand the many routes available after school. Instead of focusing only on traditional university pathways, the event highlighted a variety of options, including apprenticeships, vocational training, employment opportunities, and careers in public service.

BENEFITS FOR PUPILS

Attending the careers fair provided pupils with a range of important benefits. One of the most valuable aspects was the opportunity to speak directly with professionals and ask questions about careers that interested them. These conversations helped students gain a clearer understanding of what different jobs involve and what qualifications or skills are needed.

Pupils were also able to collect resources such as brochures, application guidance, and contact information for further opportunities. For older students, the event offered practical advice on university applications, apprenticeships, and

SUPPORTING FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Events such as the careers fair play an important role in helping young people make informed decisions about their futures. Exposure to a wide range of industries and career paths encourages pupils to think about their strengths, interests, and ambitions.

For younger pupils, the event helped to raise awareness of the many possibilities available to them. For older pupils, it provided valuable guidance on the next steps they can take to achieve their goals.

A POSITIVE IMPACT

Overall, the careers fair was a highly successful event that brought education and industry together to support the development of pupils' future aspirations. By engaging with employers, universities, apprenticeship providers, the armed forces, and financial organisations, students gained a broader understanding of the opportunities that await them after school.

The event highlighted the importance of preparing for the future and demonstrated that there are many different routes to success. For the pupils who attended, the careers fair was not only informative but also inspiring, helping them to take the first steps toward shaping their future careers.