



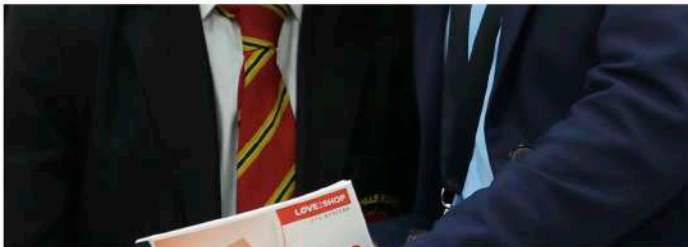
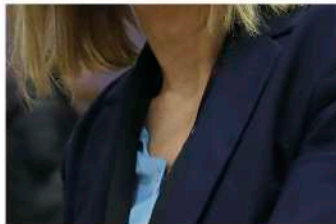
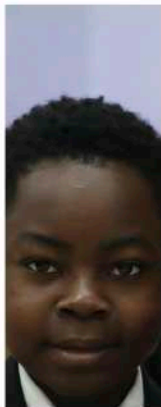
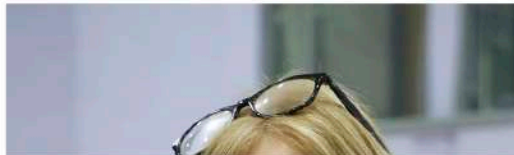
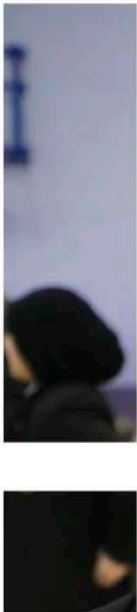
# SMITHILLS SCHOOL

## SUCCESS FOR ALL

# NEWSLETTER

Smithills School | Smithills Dean Road | Bolton | BL1 6JS | 01204 842382

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



### DEAR PARENTS/CARERS

We have had another eventful and busy term. Children have been working hard in all lessons, particularly year 11 who have recently completed their second series of Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) and continue to demonstrate exemplary attitudes and behaviour in all that they do. There is a comprehension programme of support in place for year 11 pupils as they head towards the final mile: including night club for independent revision, boost sessions, timetabled session 6, English and maths forms and PE results meetings with the senior leadership team. All have applied for a college course or apprenticeship, with more applying to Bolton 6th form and Runshaw than ever before, which is due to the brilliant work of our new careers' advisor, Mrs Bennett. Pupils' successes are shared with you via Class Charts and all those in the Hundred Club will be eligible for free prom tickets.

### YEAR 9 OPTIONS

It was fantastic to see so many of you at our Year 9 Options' and Parents' Evening. The event marked the start of an exciting journey for pupils into KS4. All pupils have now selected their options and will receive confirmation in due course. If you have any questions regarding the process or that relate to subjects, please contact Mr Scholefield.

### BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Thank you for all your support with our revised behaviour policy. Staff are using the phrase: 'follow instructions: first time, every

time' which provides all children with an opportunity to improve their behaviour before our consequences are used. Outstanding work is also recognised with our Proud Award, pupils receive value points and are entered into our monthly £50 voucher prize draw.

### UNIFORM POLICY

As we continue to maintain high standards, we would like to remind you that it is essential that your child attends school every day in the correct uniform. If for any reason they are not wearing the requisite uniform, please ensure they are given a note outlining the circumstances and the date by which this is expected to be rectified. However, please note that once your child arrives at school, where available, we will provide the correct item of clothing for the pupil to wear for the day. This allows us to have consistency of dress across the school community and prevent any issues that may arise from unsuitable attire at school. Please continue to support our efforts by ensuring that your child has all the correct items (including a bag and equipment) needed for school and wears them daily.

We continue to demonstrate our values of Excellence, Independence and Community on a daily basis in order to achieve our vision of Success for All! None of which would be possible without the dedication, kindness and hard work of all staff and pupils.

I would like to wish you and your family a Happy Easter or Eid Mubarak and, as always, thank you for your kindness and support.

*Miss Dewse*

Smithills School Headteacher



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## YEAR 7



### DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

As we approach the end of term 2 at Smithills I thought I would give you an overview of year 7 in numbers.

Attendance as you may have seen in the news recently is vitally important. Data collected nationally indicates that pupils who's attendance is 95% or more do better in exams come the end of year 11.

Currently in year 7 40 pupils have 100% attendance for the year which is outstanding and 124 pupils have 95% or more attendance. I would like these numbers to be much higher.

Punctuality to school is also part of attendance. If pupils arrive after 9am they will miss out on their morning mark which impacts attendance. School is open from 8am and a free breakfast is served to all pupils in the upper canteen from 8am. All pupils must be in school for 8.40am and go to session zero with their form tutor.

### THE 100 CLUB

In year 7 we have 135 still in the 100 club. Pupils earn the right to be in the 100 club with exemplary attendance and behaviour in school. At the end of the summer term access to rewards and trips is based on being in the 100 club. To that end 60 pupils are currently just outside the 100 club and with a little effort after Easter could get themselves in the 100 club and onto the end of term trips and rewards in July.

After the Easter holidays year 7 will have further progress report completed by all class teachers you will then be invited in for a Year 7 parents evening on Thursday 25th April. During this evening you will have opportunity to speak with all your child's class teachers.

Happy Holidays to all our families. I look forward to seeing you all at parents evening.

*Mrs Scholefield*

Year 7 Director of Learning

### THE WINNERS ARE:

At the end of this term we celebrate success with an year 7 celebration assembly. Amongst the various prizes awarded were the form tutor winners who make outstanding contributions to session zero each morning.

7A- Evaezi Oke  
 7B- Audrey Chinyeaka  
 7C- Dylan Sharples  
 7D- Christian Salazar  
 7E- Alisha Khan  
 7F- Hammad Mahmood  
 7G- Hajra Rassol  
 7H- Sky Parrish  
 7I- Jack Wakerley



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### YEAR 8

#### WELCOME TO OUR YEAR 8 NEWSLETTER

I would like to wish you all a great Easter Holidays and a Happy Eid!

I am really proud to be the Director of Learning for Year 8 and I am thrilled with everything that our Year 8s have been doing this term.

I have highlighted just a small selection of our Year 8 achievements below.

Have a great holiday and enjoy your celebrations - I look forward to welcoming you all back on April 15th!

*Mr Harrison*

Year 8 Director of Learning

#### YEAR 8 FOOTBALL SUCCESS

As I write this, our Year 8 students are preparing for a Bolton School's Cup Semi Final against St. James.

They have done really well to reach this stage of the competition and I can only praise the teamwork, attitude and commitment of all of the students on the team.

I am crossing my fingers for progression but I am already proud of them, whatever they achieve!



#### UK GREAT BIG DANCE OFF SOLO COMPETITION

Our 'Elite Dance Team' which includes many Year 9 students competed in the UK Great Big Dance Off at The Victoria Theatre on 21st March... and they WON!

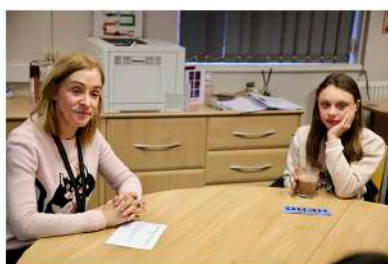
They are now the North's Regional Champions and will go on to compete in the UK Grand Final in Cheltenham on 1st July.

Good luck!!



#### HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

Our Headteacher's Award has continued this half-term and Year 8 have had more awards than any other year-group!

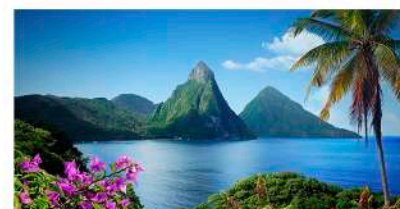


#### ST. LUCIA TRIP

Also taking place at the end of this term is our school trip to St. Lucia!

Forty of our students are travelling a great distance around the world for a trip-of-a-lifetime.

Keep an eye out for future trips abroad and see if you can join us, next time!





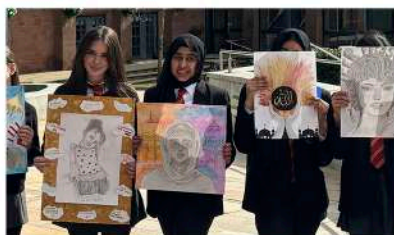
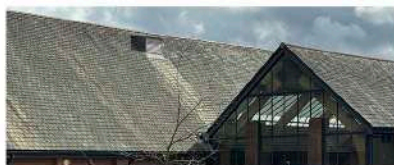
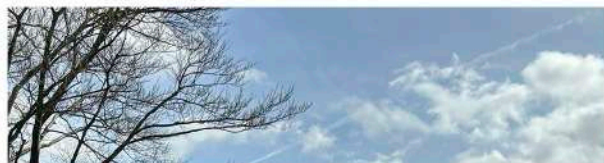
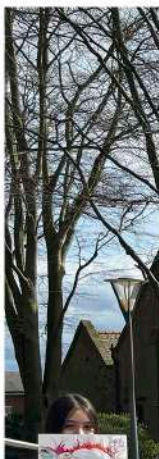
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### YEAR 9



#### YEAR 9 ARTISTS

This term fifteen of Year 9s best artists have produced some outstanding art pieces. Along with four other schools they have taken part in an exhibition showcasing and discussing artworks from all different backgrounds and angles from the title 'Who am I'. The Year 9's did really well especially Rene and Areeba who discussed their work in front of 90 people and Imani who stole the show with her work.

#### LANGUAGES COOKERY EVENT

This term 25 Year 9 language students spent a few hours cooking with their language teachers and Mr Fagan aka Masterchef. They watched a demonstration and then sampled the food before making their own paella from scratch and a fabulous dessert. The food smelt and tasted amazing!

#### YEAR 9 PRIMARY SCHOOL ATHLETICS

On 14 February Smithills School hosted the Bolton Primary Indoor Athletics. This included 23 primary schools competing for a place in the County Championships. Thank you to our PE Department and our Year 9 sports leaders who as always were amazing and multiple primary schools commented on how impressed they were with them.



#### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I'd like to wish our Year 9 students and their families all the very best for the holidays.

Our Year 9 students have made a fantastic contribution to our school community this term and I am very proud of their achievements so far.

There have been many events and celebrations of achievement this year.

Have a fantastic break and I look forward to welcoming you all back on 15 April!

Mrs Nash

Year 9 Director of Learning

#### ELITE DANCE TEAM

Our Elite Dance Team which includes many Year 9 students competed in the UK Great Big Dance Off at The Victoria Theatre on 21 March and they WON! They are now the North's Regional Champions and will go on to compete in the UK Grand Final in Cheltenham on 1 July.





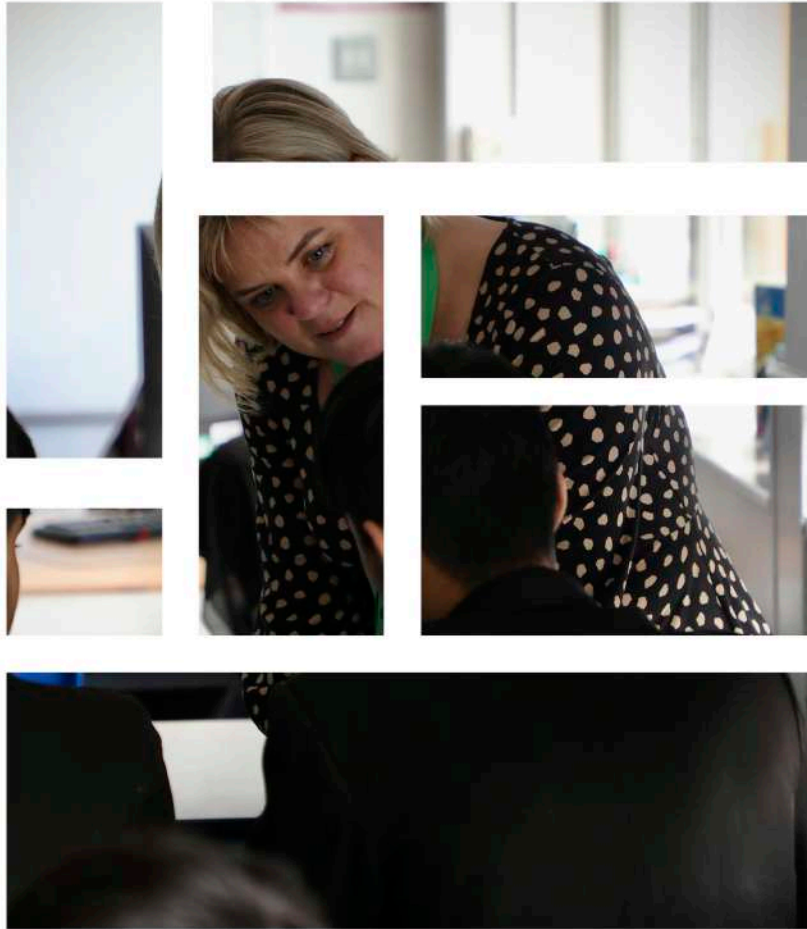
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### YEAR 10



#### DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

As we come to the end of the Spring term of the Year 10 academic year, I would like to thank our students, parents and staff for their hard work, commitment and continued support. May I wish you all a very Happy Easter and Ramadan Mubarak to all of the students and family members who are currently fasting during. Al the very best for the holidays please enjoy your time off and return refreshed and ready to work hard in the summer term.

By now your son daughter will have completed their Work Experience week. I hope that they enjoyed their placement, hopefully you learned lots of new skills and found it a really valuable experience, and for those who didn't secure a placement I hope that you found the work ready programme and other sessions useful in preparing you as young adults for life beyond Smithills School. A special Thankyou to Mrs Bennett for all of her hard work organising the whole programme of events for the year 10 students. Its been a pleasure dropping in to see the students during the sessions. Well done and remember to complete your work journals so that they can go into your Record of Achievement folders. Students will also receive various certificates related to the process that can also be kept to use as evidence getting ready for college applications that will take place early next year.

*Mr Nash*

Year 10 Director of Learning

Have a fantastic break and I look forward to welcoming you all back on 15 April!

#### UK GREAT BIG DANCE OFF SOLO COMPETITION

Ten of our amazing pupils took part in the UK Great Big Dance Off Solo Competition in December 2023.

The dance department would like to congratulate each pupil for their fantastic solo dance pieces and for achieving amazing results, each pupil being placed in the top 10 out of 150 dance students across the country.



#### FOOTBALL

The year 10 football team in action In a recent cup game away at Thornleigh.



#### SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

Mrs Thomas's year 10 pupils were busy on Friday constructing an experiment in their Science class.

Keep up the good work!





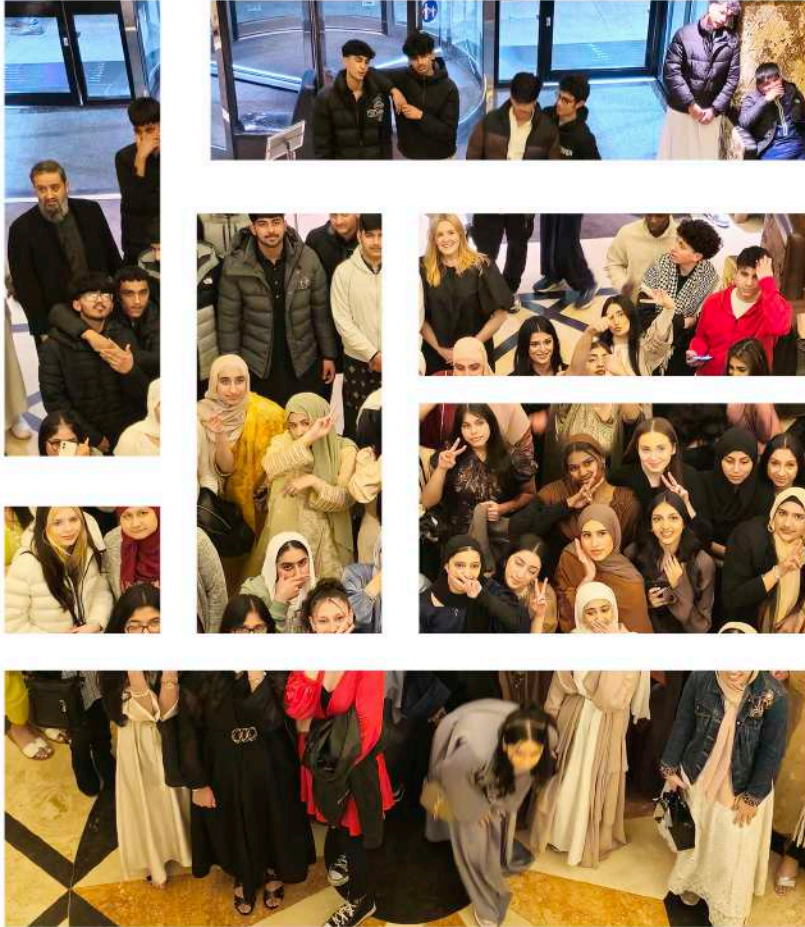
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### YEAR 11



#### DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

As we come to the end of another fantastic term and welcome the joys of spring, we're thrilled to share some exciting updates and highlights from Year 11!

#### PROUD!

Firstly, we are very proud of our pupils for demonstrating determination and resilience during their final set of PPE examinations. Our pupils also continue to impress us with their commitment to their GCSE revision, both in and out of lessons. With a focus on their goals, pupils are preparing for success in their upcoming exams!

#### REVISION SUCCESS

We are delighted to see pupils taking advantage of Session Six after-school revision sessions, showing their independence and dedication to their studies. Some of our pupils will also be attending Easter School to receive extra support and guidance for their revision. We know this extra time and resource will help pupils feel prepared for the challenges ahead!

#### NAWAABS TRIP

Our recent trip to Nawaabs restaurant was a resounding success, with pupils enjoying the delicious food and dressing to impress! The pupils demonstrated the Smithills values of excellence and community and represented the school fantastically!

#### IMPORTANT GCSE INFORMATION

To support pupils during the GCSE period, a free breakfast, water, and revision space will be available throughout the exam period.

#### THANK YOU!

Thank you to all parents for your ongoing support in your child's educational journey. We hope you have an enjoyable Easter break.

Finally, to all our families who celebrate, we extend warm wishes for a joyous and blessed Eid.

Warm regards,

*Miss Angus*

Year 11 Director of Learning

#### END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Plans are underway for arranging a memorable End of Year Celebration. Stay tuned for further details as we prepare to celebrate the achievements and milestones of our amazing Year 11 pupils

#### FREE BREAKFAST

To support pupils during the GCSE period, a free breakfast, water, and revision space will be available throughout the exam period.





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## ATTENDANCE



### WHAT YOU MUST DO:

Telephone or use Class Charts to inform the school before 9.00 am each day of your child's absence with the reason for their absence.

Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

Arrange holidays out of school time.

### WHAT WE WILL DO:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

## WHY IS ATTENDANCE SO IMPORTANT?

### ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

### HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

| Attendance | Days Absent | Weeks Absent | Lessons Missed |
|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 95%        | 9 Days      | 2 Weeks      | 50 Lessons     |
| 90%        | 19 Days     | 4 Weeks      | 100 Lessons    |
| 85%        | 29 Days     | 6 Weeks      | 150 Lessons    |
| 80%        | 38 Days     | 8 Weeks      | 200 Lessons    |
| 75%        | 48 Days     | 10 Weeks     | 250 Lessons    |
| 70%        | 57 Days     | 11.5 Weeks   | 290 Lessons    |
| 65%        | 67 Days     | 13.5 Weeks   | 340 Lessons    |

89% or Below

Drastic effect on academic achievement

95% - 90%

Cause for concern

100% - 96%

Excellent





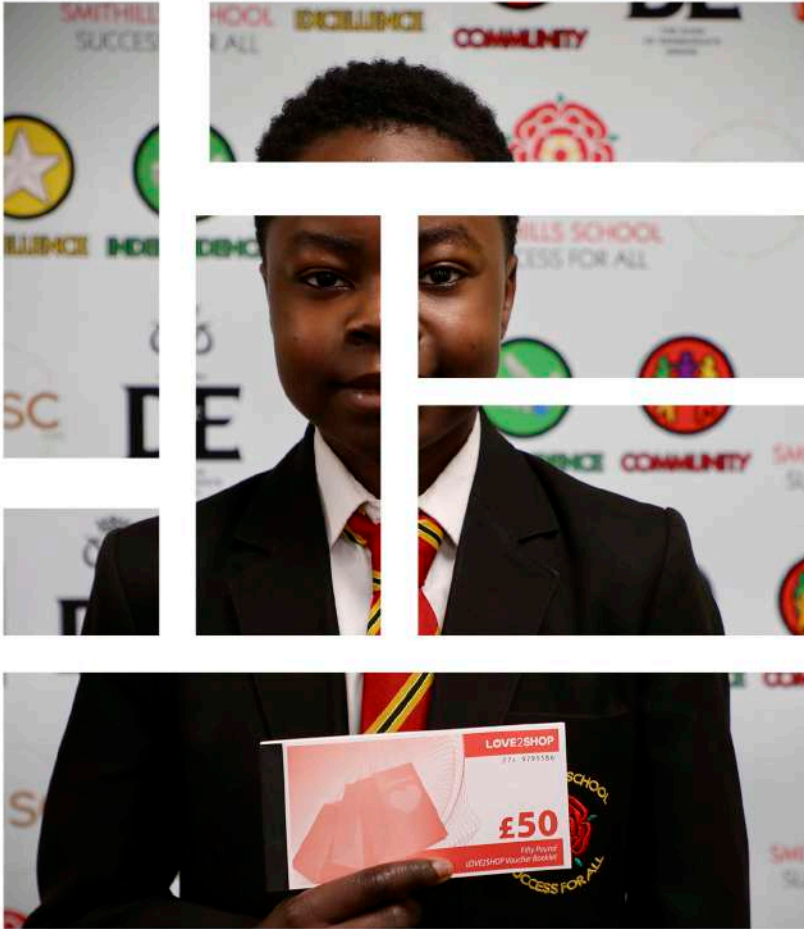
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### AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



#### PROUD

As we are always keen to reward our amazing pupils, we introduced our "Proud" stickers at the start of March.

467 pupils have been awarded this since the beginning of March. A random draw selected Abdul (Year 9) as the overall winner of a £50 voucher. We will continue to make the draw every month to reward as many of our amazing pupils as we can

- thank you to all those who have produced a piece of work that makes us proud!



#### CAFFE HERO

Since September staff have awarded 190,000 value points to our fantastic pupils. These are awarded in line with our values; excellence, independence and community. Every week the pupil in each year group who receives the most points will receive a certificate in assembly, and be invited to the Caffe Hero event on a Friday. Well done to all of our winners below!







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### CAREERS

#### WORK EXPERIENCE MARCH 2024

Wow what a busy week we have had in Careers last week with Year 10 Work Experience, 180 pupils on Work Experience, 14 pupils on a Work Ready Programme and 50 pupils attended school workshops - coordinated by Mrs Bennett our careers leader.

The pupils that remained in school for the week had 5 sessions per day with Adam Corbally from the Apprentice- Enterprise Event Salford & Bolton College, Edge Hill University, Greater Manchester Police, Asda, Stateside Food, GMPLN Apprenticeships, NatWest Bank, Robertson Construction. The work shops gave them all the next steps skills such as CV writing, Applying for Jobs, Personal Statements, Finance work shops on how to manage money, how to apply to college .

The programme here at Smithills has been operating for a great many years now, and it has been a real pleasure receiving students back each year with improved self-esteem, a renewed enthusiasm to learn and a more focused attitude to their futures.

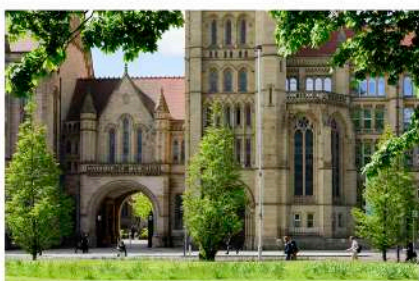
*Mrs Bennett*

Careers Lead



#### THE GATEWAY PROGRAMME

The school has also had two trips to Manchester University with Year 10 & 9 as part of the gateway programme .The event is targeted at young people in the Greater Manchester area , who are talented and have the potential to progress into Higher Education .This provides the pupils with information about the different pathways that can be taken to get into Higher Education, this is to ensure the pupils understand the opportunities that Higher Education presents and how it can benefit them in their future.



#### BOLTON 6TH FORM RAY PROGRAMME

We have six pupils that have been attending the Ray Programme at Bolton 6th Form , Wednesday 17th April the pupils will be attending Lancaster University giving pupils the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities, including a campus tour , which will provide an insight into University life and the benefits of undertaking a degree level qualification .





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## CELEBRATING BILINGUALISM



### BILINGUALISM AT SMITHILLS

Did you know that over half of our students are bilingual, with many students being fluent in three or more languages? This statistic mirrors the fact that 50% of the world's population are also bilingual. WOW! Here at Smithills, we champion multilingualism and celebrate the fact that our students collectively speak around 48 languages between them!

It is undeniable that learning a second language brings a number of benefits, including boosting your memory, your confidence and your communication skills.

We think that bilingualism is a superpower, and you should always ensure that you are practising your first or home language as much as you practise your English; Sujata Bhatt's powerful poem "Search for my Tongue" explores how important it is to allow your additional languages to grow; "everytime I think I've forgotten, I think I've lost my mother tongue, it blossoms out of my mouth."

### ACCESS FREE BILINGUAL BOOKS

In order to continue with your bilingual journey, here are a few websites where you can access free bilingual books, or books in a range of languages so you can enjoy the joy of reading in any language.

- Bilinguis.com
- International Children's online library
- Worldstories
- Bilinguator Library

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

Let your form tutor to English teacher know if you've accessed these bilingual stories and tell the what you think.

Happy reading! Buona lettura a tutti voi! Boa leitura para todos vocês! آپ سب کو پڑھ کر خوشی ہوئی





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### MFL AND ART



#### MFL

Before half term, 26 year 9 pupils enjoyed an afternoon of cooking authentic Spanish food with Mrs Pacer, Mrs Wilson and our very own Masterchef, Mr Fagan. After watching a demonstration and sampling the food, pupils worked in groups to make paella and a delicious dessert. Staff and pupils all had a really enjoyable afternoon!

#### YEAR 11

At the end of February, our annual meal out with year 11 took place. Pupils were in fine voice on the coach and were well fed during the evening thanks to the gorgeous buffet on offer. All pupils looked lovely and behaviour was fantastic. Mr Hussain did a brilliant job of organising the event and we are already looking forward to our next trip!



### BOLTON SCHOOLS ART PROJECT

Over the last month six schools across Bolton have teamed up to do an Art exhibition titled 'Who Am I?'. This is to spread the awareness of all the different backgrounds, ethnicities and beliefs of the schools of Bolton.

Smithills has been teamed up with Ladybridge High School and we have worked alongside them creating multiple art works using a range of media. The exhibition is next month in Bolton Library and we are all very excited to see the finished products.

The year nines involved have done us proud and we have come up with a range of responses. Huge shoutout to Imani, Freya and Lena – all three students have created artworks that show a diverse range of media and skill levels of a year 11 student!





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### PERFORMING ARTS



#### MUSIC

In Music this past term pupils in year 9 have been developing their own hip-hop tracks. The pupils are making use of Soundtrap to create and edit their own drum beats, chords and riffs and recording their own lyrics onto these tracks.

The rock band 'Spud Squad' have been busy this term having competed in the Bolton Battle of the Bands contest earlier on this term. The band also travelled to Huddersfield at the start of March taking part in the regional Music for Youth Festival giving excellent performances including an original song which impressed the adjudicators. The band are now waiting to find out where and when they will be performing in Birmingham later on in the year.

#### BOLTON DANCE FESTIVAL

On Tuesday 19th March, our amazing Smithills Elite Dance Team performed 'The Greatest Showman' at the Bolton Albert Halls, as part of the Bolton Dance Festival.



#### UK GREAT BIG DANCE OFF 2024

We are very proud to announce that our Elite dance team placed 1st and are the North's Regional Champions. They now go onto compete in the UK Grand Final, in Cheltenham on 1st July.





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### STEM



#### BRONZE CREST AWARD

It has been a busy term for STEM with lots of different activities going on. We are continuing with the Bronze CREST award on Friday lunch times where students are now at the point of building models of a rollercoasters after investigating what makes a safe but thrill-seeking rollercoaster.

There is also a group of students that have just started the EDT Industrial cadets Bronze award which King Charles III is patron of! It runs after school on a Tuesday and is a 12-week project working alongside an industrial mentor; Beldam Crossley - a local technology company. The students are working on a sustainability project resulting in them working collaboratively to design and build a model of their idea and present their ideas to a panel of judges. This experience will help the students gain key skills for learning, life and work whilst being a Nationally recognised award to boost their Record of Achievements!



#### SCIENCE WEEK

We have also celebrated Science week during 11th - 15th March. The theme this year was 'Time' and we saw KS3 science classes taking part in a range of different activities from making their own Newton's cradles, to designing and completing marble run challenges, making their own fossils and sand timers! Furthermore, in computer science, all KS3 students have been taking part in a STEM competition by designing a lab coat based on the theme 'Going Digital'. Other subjects have also been linking their lessons to 'Time' and discussing a range of careers that are linked to STEM. The students have had a great time!

We are looking forward to the summer term where there are going to be lots more fun STEM activities to get involved in. Watch this space!





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### SOCIAL MEDIA GALLERY

#### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



In Personal Development lessons pupils have been taking part in elections for Bolton's Youth MPs and making their marks by choosing the key issues they believe a youth party should be talking with change makers about. [#personaldevelopment](#) [#lessons](#) [#elections](#) [#boltonyouthmp](#)

#### BOLTON PRIMARY INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP



On Wednesday 14th February Smithills School hosted the Bolton Primary Indoor Athletics Championship. The event was well attended with 23 primary schools competing for a place in the County Championships. [#independence](#) [#community](#) [#excellence](#) [#successforall](#) [#smithillspe](#) [#SmithillsSchool](#)

#### YEAR 9 BASKETBALL



Our year 9 Basketball Team won 5/5 in the under-14 tournament held at Smithills School last Thursday. Congratulations to all the year 9 pupils involved. [#basketball](#) [#successmindset](#) [#tournament](#) [#champions](#) [#under14s](#) [#SmithillsSchool](#) [#successforall](#)

#### YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS



We held a mock interview-style day at Smithills School for our year 11 cohort today. During the first period, pupils drafted an application form for a job and then sat an interview with an employer.