



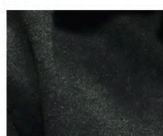
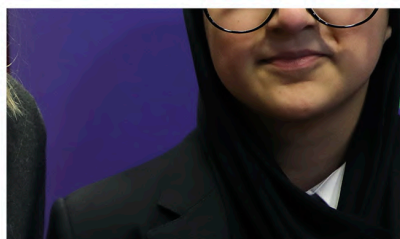
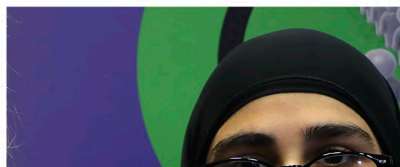
SMITHILLS SCHOOL

SUCCESS FOR ALL

NEWSLETTER

SMITHILLS SCHOOL | SMITHILLS DEAN ROAD | BOLTON | BL1 6JS | 01204 842382

HEADTEACHER



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

As we approach the end of a busy and productive term, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the wonderful achievements we've made together. It has been a term filled with success, and I am immensely proud of our pupils and staff for their hard work and dedication.

Our school values of independence, excellence, and community have been at the heart of everything we do. We strive to support every pupil to reach their full potential, and this term has been a testament to that commitment.

A particular highlight has been our Year 11 pupils, who have displayed exemplary behaviour during their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). Their focus and dedication to their studies are commendable, and I would like to encourage them to remain focused in these final weeks leading up to their exams. I also want to remind them of the importance of attending the Pathway to Success after-school sessions, where they can continue to strengthen their revision and prepare for success. We look forward to welcoming year 11 pupils at Easter School for some last-minute revision to ensure they are fully prepared.

Our Year 9 pupils have made an important step in their educational journey by selecting their options.

This is always a significant milestone, and I am pleased with how maturely they have approached this process. They have taken the time to consider their future pathways, and we are excited to support them through this next stage of their education.

In addition, all pupils in Years 7-10 have completed their cumulative assessments and have conducted themselves with great professionalism. These assessments give us valuable insight into their progress, and it has been wonderful to see how they have responded with maturity and focus. Alongside their academic achievements, pupils have had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities this term, including:

- **Spanish and French Cookery Events:** Pupils not only learned new culinary skills but also gained a deeper appreciation for the culture and language of Spain and France.
- **Theatre Trips:** These trips allowed pupils to engage with live performances, expanding their understanding of the performing arts and enhancing their creativity and critical thinking.
- **Sports Activities:** Through a variety of team and individual sports, pupils built teamwork, resilience, and fitness, while also learning the importance of fair play and discipline.
- **Music and Dance Festivals:** These festivals provided pupils with a platform to express their creativity, build confidence, and work collaboratively in performance settings.
- **Duke of Edinburgh Award:** Pupils developed vital life skills, including leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork, while gaining confidence through outdoor expeditions and volunteering.



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HEADTEACHER



CONTINUED...

- **Year 7 STEM Event:** Pupils explored science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through hands-on challenges, sparking interest in STEM fields and boosting their problem-solving and teamwork skills.
- **Year 10 Geography Fieldwork:** Through fieldwork, pupils applied their geographical knowledge in real-world settings, enhancing their understanding of the subject and developing practical research skills.
- **Enterprise Day:** Year 9 embraced entrepreneurial thinking by developing business ideas, learning about innovation, leadership, and financial management in a fun and practical way.
- **RE Conference:** Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to engage in thoughtful discussions about religion and philosophy, encouraging critical thinking and broadening their perspectives on global issues.
- **University Trips:** These trips allowed pupils to experience university life first-hand, broadening their horizons and inspiring them to think about higher education and future career pathways.

It has been a packed term, and I am so proud of the many ways in which our pupils have engaged with the school community and developed their skills beyond the classroom.

As always, I want to extend my deepest thanks to our incredible staff, whose dedication and hard work ensure that our pupils continue to thrive. Their passion for teaching and commitment to our vision of Success for All are what make our school such a special place. I would also like to express my gratitude to you, our parents and carers, for your continued support. Together, we are creating a strong and thriving community where every pupil can succeed.

I hope you all enjoy a relaxing Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming pupils back on Tuesday 22nd April at 8.40am for the final term of the year.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support

Miss Dewse

Smithills School Headteacher



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YEAR 7



ASSEMBLIES

Every Friday we come together as a year group for our weekly assembly. Over this term we have had assemblies on a variety of subjects delivered by various members of staff. Year 7 particularly enjoyed listening to Mrs Davies talk about first aid, some pupils even gave up some of their lunchtimes to have a practice of CPR. Other notable assemblies from Mrs Bennett on potential career pathways in the future and where pupils can go to find out about future careers. Most recently Mr Gunn did a very informative assembly on Maths introducing year 7 to a range of careers in which maths is an essential skill. We also reward the form with the best attendance each week who are rewarded with the attendance trophy and sweets. Additionally we also ask form tutors to nominate a pupil of the week who get a dip in the luck dip bag. Form tutors often choosing to reward pupils who have improved attendance, completed SPARXS and homework or contributed positively to the form group. Essentially rewarding pupils who demonstrate our school values of independence, community and excellence.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Year 7s have been attending a variety of clubs after school in the PE and performing arts faculty. Looking forward to the summer term there is now girls rounders practice on a Wednesday night side girls football. There is also basketball on a Thursday

alongside the gym being open. Throughout the week there are also dance and drama clubs running. Its lovely to see year 7 embracing the opportunities provided to them.

SPARX

During the recent World Book day week we really pushed all students to complete their SPARXS reader minutes for the week. SPARXS reader is an online platform which provides pupils with a book to read based on their reading levels. Every student is expected to read each night after school and by doing so they will collect Sparx Reader Points which are celebrated in form each week with form tutors. Most recently 7H were the first form to achieve a clean sweep for the week with all students completing their expected reading hours. Reading is so essential to pupils progress across all aspects of school hence our ambition to get all pupils reading each night after school.

ATTENDANCE

We strive for all pupils to achieve 95% attendance for the school year. We know from research that being in school improves outcome for pupils. Each week attendance is discussed in session zero as well as assembly. All pupils should know what their attendance is and only miss school when its is absolutely necessary. Please support us in attempting to get as many year 7s as possible on 95% or higher by the end of the summer term.

7D attendance of late has been remarkable. Well done!



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YEAR 7

CONTINUED...

UNIFORM

If you are unsure about any aspects of our uniform policy please refer to the school website. We are seeing an increasing number of girls wearing black flared pants these are not allowed. We are also seeing pupils who are coming to school in trainers again this is not part of the uniform they must wear shoes and finally all pupils must wear a blazer this is compulsory. AS the weather improved they may wish to leave their jumper at home as this is a non essential item of clothing. If you need any support with uniform please contact Mrs Scholefield, Miss Johnson or Mr McDonough in the year 7 office.

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS

Pupils have been made aware of the year 7 reward trip to Blackpool Pleasure beach on Monday 7th July. They are aware that the top 100 achievers in the year group will receive invites. Pupils are striving to collect achievement points by displaying our values of excellence, community and independence around school each day. Our current top 10 achievement points collectors are:

Ali Fatima, Zainab
Khan, Sehar
Fasasi, Mahfuz
Hadir, Mansour
Fagan, Jamie
Patel, Humaira
Hussain, Lawayza
Khan, Hibah
Shaikh, Khadijahbanu
Sudding, Amber

Keep up the hard work!

We hope you all have a restful end of term break and look forward to seeing everyone again in the summer term beginning Tuesday 22nd April.

Mrs Scholefield, Miss Johnson, Mr McDonough - The year 7 team.



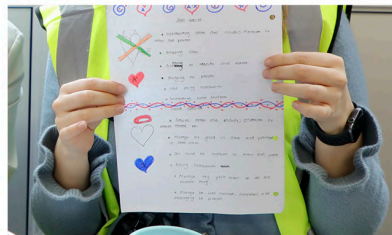
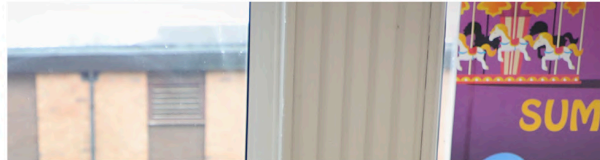
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YEAR 8



FEEL GOOD FRIDAY HAS LAUNCHED!

Year 8 pupils have been attending the stall in upper canteen and received tokens, sweets and postcards for their fantastic work and attendance.

8I had the best attendance to the stall last week and will receive a prize for the whole form!

In the rewards assembly next week one lucky Year 8 will win a £10 voucher of their choice, will they choose a PlayStation voucher, or fancy a cheeky Nando's.

Pupils have been working hard across school showing all our values; Hadley Shields has been producing fantastic work showing excellence, Mansi Patel has shown independence helping to show new students around school and An Qi has been keeping our school community clean, picking up litter as part of Mrs. Walkers Green Club.



The majority of year 8 are doing the right thing and Miss. Heywood and Ms. Harris are very proud!

Miss Heywood and Mrs Harris - The year 8 team.





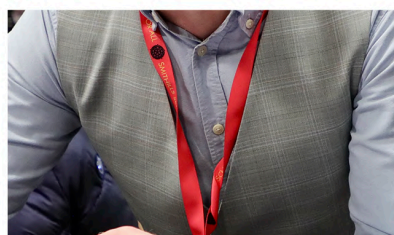
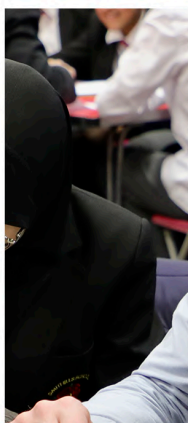
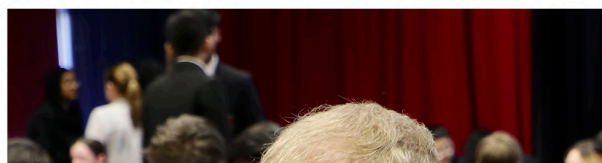
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YEAR 9



ACHIEVEMENTS IN YEAR 9

As we now approach the Easter holidays, I would like to take the opportunity to celebrate and share some of the great achievements of our Year 9 students, so far this year.

VALUE POINTS

This term, students in Year 9 have received more than 4,929 Achievement Points. These are awarded for showing dedication and support to our Smithills Community and demonstrate the great attitude and behaviours that Year 9 students show every day. Muhammad Amir has gained the most points this term (153!) and the rest of the 'Top 10' is made up by Wania Fatima, Si Qi Ke, Felichia Toderas, Afsa Banu Saiyad, Adan Imtiaz, Aila Jan, Aleena Iqbal, Methuli Weerasekara, Saarah Tailor. In fact, More than 40 students achieved 40+ Achievement Points this term – an excellent achievement – Well done!

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

30 students achieved 100% attendance last term. This will make a big difference to their academic achievement and I would encourage all students to aim for 100% attendance for next term. Well done!

EXCELLENT BEHAVIOURS

I would like to say a massive congratulations to the 157 Year 9 students (70%) who have received little or no Behaviour Points so far this year! Your excellent behaviour, day in, day out, is something to be incredibly proud of. It is fantastic!

THE APPRENTICE

On Wednesday 26th March, all Year 9 students took part in an Enterprise Day, in the hall, with special guest Adam Corbally (From BBC's 'The Apprentice'). The students had so many good ideas about inventions that could shape our future world and many won trophies and signed film posters. We are all proud of the work that the students did in this session and fun was had by all!

OPTION CHOICES

I would like to say a huge well done to the Year 9 students for engaging so well with our Options process this year. I would also like to thank all of the parents who attended our Options Evening. The attendance was fantastic and it really shows how much you support your children in their school careers. The students have also shown real interest during our assembly visits from Bolton College and 6th Form. This year's Option Choices were completed quicker than in any previous year. The vast majority of pupils had made their choices in the first hour of the window opening! We will confirm the students' final GCSE courses in the Summer term.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 3rd April – Option Choice Deadline
 Tuesday 22nd April – Return from Easter Holidays
 9th – 13th June – Whole School Assessment Week
 9th July – Rewards Trip for Top-100 Year 9 Students

Mr Harrison and Mrs Shields - The year 9 team.



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YEAR 10

HAPPY EASTER

I'd like to wish our Year 10 pupils and their families a very Happy Easter and all the best for the holidays, we hope you enjoy a restful time. Also, for those who have just celebrated Eid, Eid Mubarak to you all.

Our Year 10 pupils have made a fantastic contribution to our school community this term and I am very proud of their achievements so far. We have pupils who continually uphold our values and demonstrate their desire to learn. We are proud of all they achieve and always encourage them to work to the best of their ability. We are heading into a busy term for our pupils, and after that their most vital year whilst they are with us at Smithills, we know they will face it head on and look forward to all their hard work paying off in their GCSE results in just under 18 months time. In assembly this week we spoke about 16 weeks until Year 11, 57 weeks until their first exam and 72 weeks until results day!

To support retention of key knowledge, vital for exam success, please encourage pupils to complete homework and reading as outlined in the newsletter, this tool will support them to know and remember more and store information in their long-term memory. Those who complete these receive a chievement points which can be exchanged in the rewards shop termly, if they save them up this can mean a discounted prom ticket next year.



REMINDERS:

By now your child should have either secured a work experience placement or be in the process of doing so. If they haven't yet accessed Unifrog, they do this through their school email, it is important that they get this done as soon as possible to ensure they can access a work experience placement.

The Year 10's have now commenced their 1:1 Appointments with our Connexions advisor Emma Carmichael for advice and guidance in the careers office every Tuesday. This appointment is to help them with their career choices, college preferences and guidance for what qualifications they need to be targeting and achieving. If they miss the appointment they go to the end of the list, please encourage them to attend.

For either of the above, all pupils know they can seek support from Mrs Bennett who is in school every day. If pupils need to see her regarding colleges, careers advice, support with work experience and how to submit their Unifrog placements they can go to her before and after school, break or lunch time.



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YEAR 10



CONTINUED...

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

The Year 10's were visited by Mike Dawson who presented a motivational assembly with Mrs Bennett.

Mike came to Smithills to talk about his career path as part of National Careers week. His life story was inspiring and extremely motivational.

I'm sure the Year 10's learned a valuable lesson to never give up no matter what life throws at them!

GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK DAYS

The Year 10 Geography pupils took part in Fieldworks days over the course of 3 days.

They visited different locations in Manchester as part of their GCSE coursework. Those who missed out, Miss Oakes is looking at an alternative date.

UPCOMING EVENTS

25th April: Work experience deadline day

2nd June – 20th June: Year 10 Pre-Public Examinations

23rd June – 27th June: Work Experience week

30th June: Runshaw College Taster Day

3rd July: Year 10 Top 100 Blackpool Trip

4th July: Bolton College and Bolton 6th Form Taster Days

Have a fantastic break and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 22nd April for an extremely busy Summer Term, the last one before we enter Year 11!

Mrs Nash and Miss Oakes - The year 10 team.



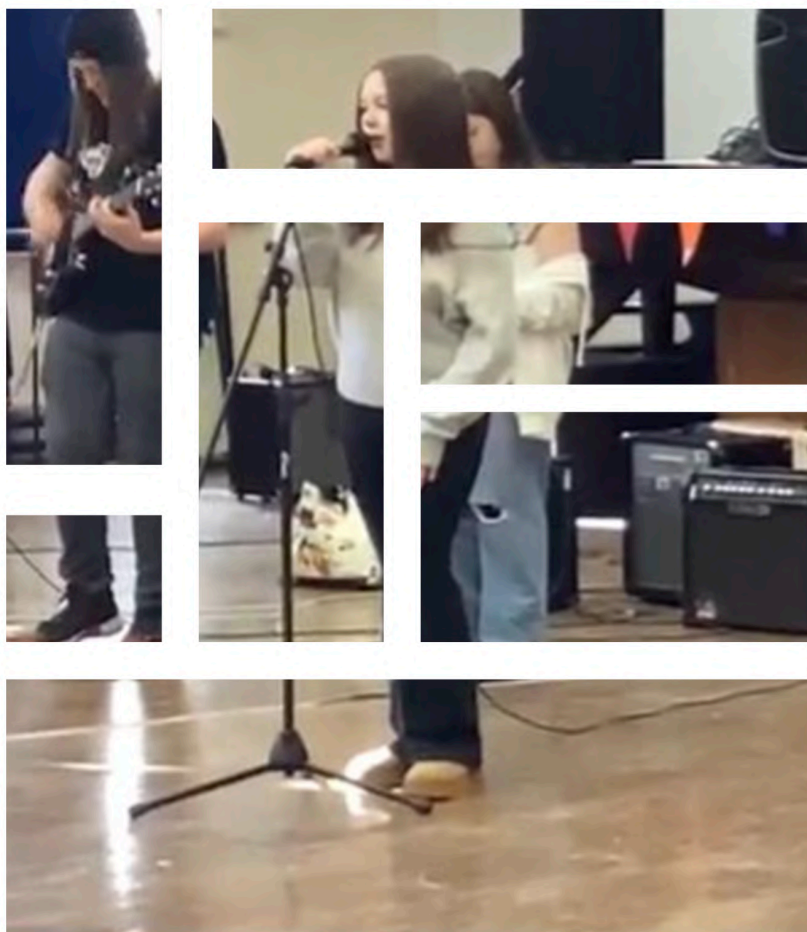
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YEAR 11



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

As we come to the end of another action-packed term and welcome the joys of spring, we are so happy to be sharing some of this term's 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 final PPE examinations. 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, Final Mile and Pathway 2 success 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.

FREE BREAKFAST

To support our year 11 students during the GCSE period a free breakfast, water and revision space will be available throughout the exam 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 gain valuable information from subject teachers about how improvements can be made to boost grades in the run into GCSE exams.

WELL DONE TO OUR YEAR 11 EASTER EGG WINNERS

Our fantastic students received an Easter egg for all their hard work and dedication.

SPUD SQUAD

Congratulations to our school Rock band Spud Squad, who recently performed in the Music for youth Regional Festival in Huddersfield.



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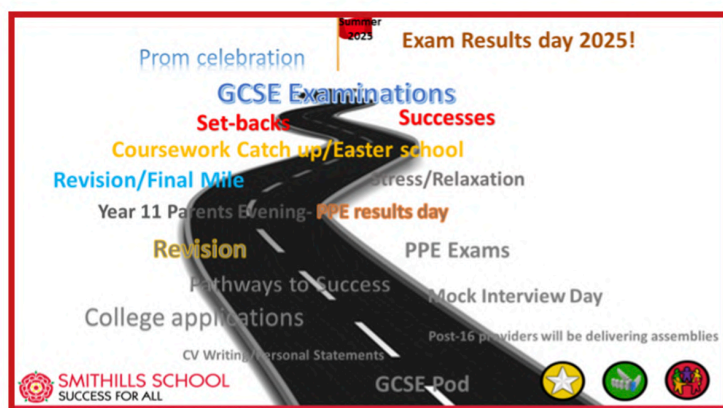
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YEAR 11

CONTINUED...

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Leavers Hoodies should be arriving any time now. They are being dispatched on 24th March and should be with you very soon. Just a quick reminder that they can be worn for school along with the rest of Smithills school uniform.
- Blazers must be worn again once the exams start.
- Nawaab's trip – this is taking place on Friday 2nd May and is open to all Year 11 students the cost is around £38 for return coach travel and unlimited food and soft drinks.
- End of year celebration/Prom Thursday 26th June at BWFC Tough sheet Stadium.
- 24th -25th April GCSE Final Art Exam
- W/C 28TH April MFL GCSE speaking exams
- W/C 12 TH MAY GCSE EXAMS BEGIN



Pathway to Success Sessions

Revise Today, Succeed Tomorrow: Your Future is in Your Hands!

Turn your Potential into a reality!

Don't leave it too late!



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Mr Nash and Miss Malik - The year 11 team.



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ART & MFL

ART - CAVE PAINTINGS

This month the year sevens have been creating some outstanding images based on the work of cave paintings. They have looked at how to make old looking backgrounds and apply paint as a caveman would - using a stick!

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Our year 9 French and Spanish pupils had an amazing opportunity this term to cook some authentic European food with Mrs Pacer and our very own Masterchef, Mr Fagan. The French pupils produced some delicious langues de chat biscuits followed by crêpes with a sweet or savoury filling. Paella was on the menu for our Spanish pupils and they served up traditional torrijas as a tasty dessert. After watching a demonstration, pupils worked in groups to prepare and cook their dishes; their behaviour and efforts were exemplary. Well done year 9!

DUOLINGO

Our DuoLingo competition is well underway! Lots of pupils have fully engaged with the competition and checking the league table has become a fun part of each lesson. Our top achievers are rewarded with value points and are working towards an Easter egg before the end of term. If you haven't yet registered then it isn't too late, speak to your language teacher for the access code.

BARCELONA TRIP

The trip to Barcelona is now full and everyone is very excited! Mrs Pacer and Mrs Moulton will be in touch at regular intervals with updates and information so keep an eye open for notices.



French and Spanish pupils cooking some authentic European food.



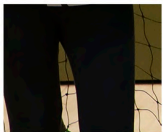
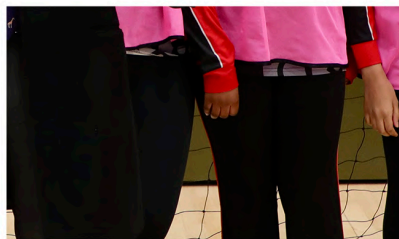
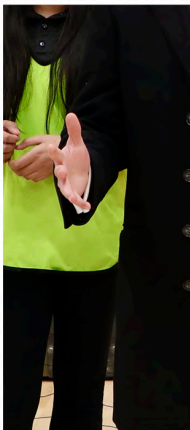
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MP VISIT & STEM



MP VISIT

On Friday 7th March, we had an important visit from Phil Brickell MP for Bolton West.

Phil had a guided tour of our school and then met representatives of our student population, who presented speeches and led a Q&A session: he was asked some challenging questions ranging from how public services are being improved to what he considers to be his most significant political achievement.

Phil then asked questions about our students' future aspirations, giving them clear advice about aiming high and working hard.

The morning was a special occasion: we showcased our school whilst also forming a really positive relationship with Phil.



STEM WEEK

We have spent two weeks having lots of fun in our science lessons, celebrating STEM week and science week (10th – 21st March).

The theme this year was 'Change and adapt', and we saw KS3 science classes taking part in a range of different activities, from investigating why penguins huddle together in groups, designing and building towers to withstand a hurricane, and designing their own animals/plants to live in a range of different habitats!

During these lessons, we discussed a range of careers that are linked to STEM. We also talked about the skills needed for STEM jobs and how they are transferrable to a range of other jobs which are highly sought after by employers.

The students and teachers all had a great time!





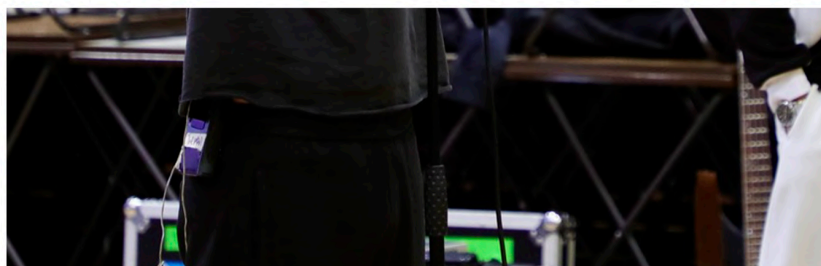
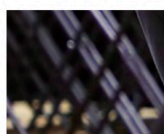
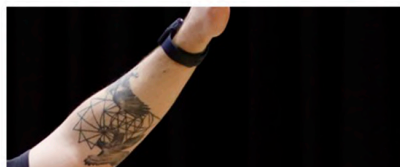
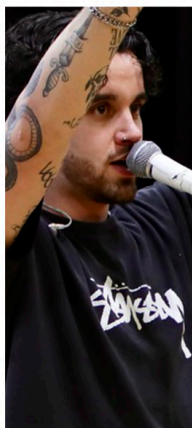
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THE MERCIANS & WORLD BOOK DAY

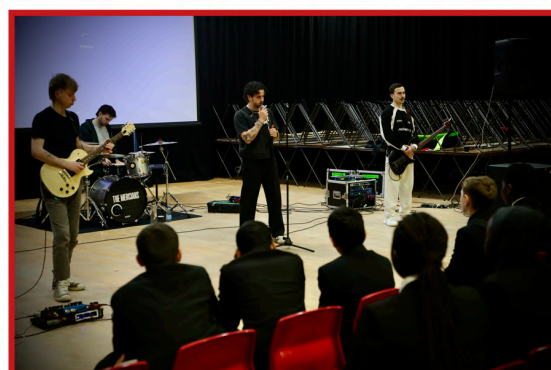


THE MERCIANS

What a wonderful learning experience pupils in years 8, 9 and 10 had on 19th March.

The Mercians have delivered powerful lessons on mental health, relationships, respect and tolerance. The sessions were so engaging, with music linked to this powerful message to teach pupils about the importance of communicating feelings and finding an outlet for mental well-being.

The feedback from pupils has been fantastic. Layla, year 8: "It was educational, heartfelt, and it raised awareness of mental health and that there is always someone to speak to".



WORLD BOOK DAY

At Smithills School we value reading, so our fantastic staff produced these videos for our Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils to watch during Session 0 on World Book Day.

Scan the QR codes below to watch both videos.



KEY STAGE 3



KEY STAGE 4



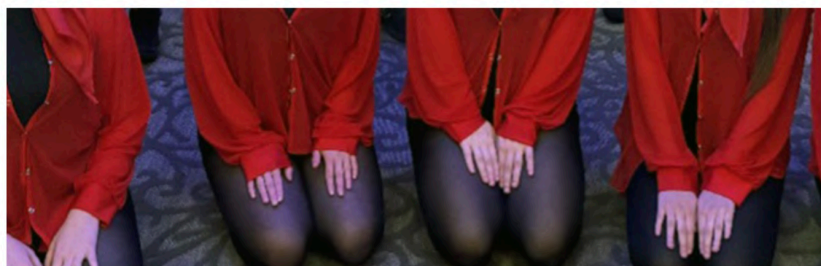
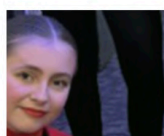
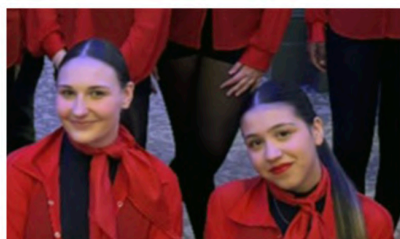
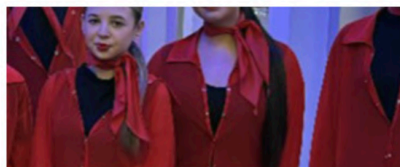
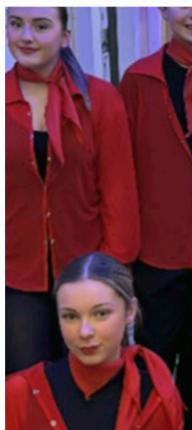
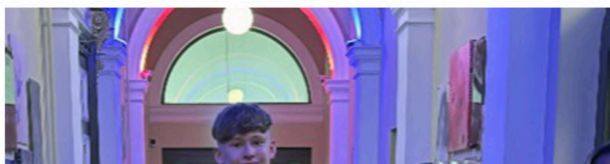
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PERFORMING ARTS



DRAMA & MUSIC BOLTON SIXTH FORM TRIP

Pupils took part in Music and Drama workshops using industry-standard equipment this morning at Bolton Sixth Form.

What a fantastic end to a busy term!

- Mrs McNamara



ROCK BAND

Congratulations to the rock band, 'Spud Squad' who gave an amazing performance at the Music For Youth Regional Festival on Saturday morning in Huddersfield.

The band performed 3 songs and was given excellent feedback from the adjudicators.

SMITHILLS ELITE YOUTH AND SENIOR DANCE TEAMS BOLTON DANCE FESTIVAL – TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY

Since 2016, the dance department has prided itself on having its very own dance team that is given opportunities to perform in competitions and performances, both local and regional. On Tuesday 21st January, they were given the opportunity to perform at the Bolton Dance Festival, Bolton Albert Halls. Our youth team presented a brilliant and uplifting piece from the smash hit musical, 'Wicked' and our senior team performed a fantastic stylistic and technical jazz piece, influenced by the famous jazz choreographer and dancer, Bob Fosse.

The dance department teaches pupils the autonomy to become leaders in the arts. Each year our Year 11 pupils are given the opportunity to take the lead in choreographing performance work for the Elite Teams.

Aimee and Grace, both Year 11 dance pupils, have confidently taken on the role as choreographers this year and have absolutely smashed it! Aimee states, 'I have thoroughly enjoyed helping to lead the elite team this year, using my prior knowledge and experience, I have supported those that were new to the dance team this year'. Grace states, 'I have taken an active role in choreographing both teams this year, although it's been hard work, I have enjoyed creating a range of movement material and sourcing music for performance pieces, I am delighted with the outcome of our performances at the Albert Halls'.

The teams are now preparing for a dance competition for the Great Big Dance Off in April.



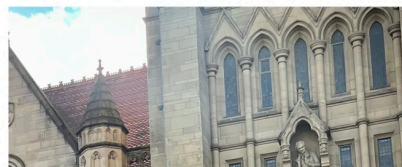
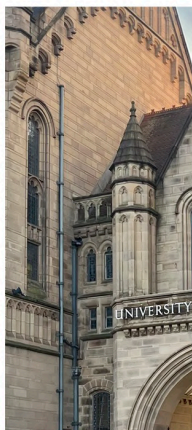
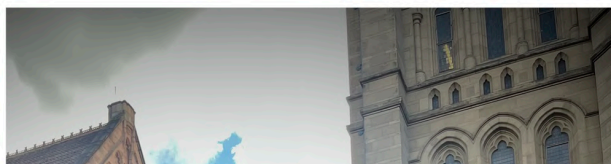
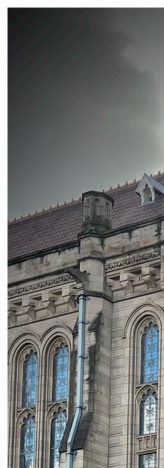
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CAREERS



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

Mike Dawson presented a motivational assembly with Mrs Bennett on the 4th March.

Mike is part of the Smithills Community and he came into Smithills to talk about his career path as part of National Careers Week.

It was very interesting, motivating and inspirational to hear Mike's career path.



THE GATEWAY PROGRAMME

We had our third visit to The University of Manchester with Year 9 pupils and Mrs Bennet our careers leader for the Gateway programme on Thursday 27th February 2025.

What is the Gateways programme?

This event is part of a larger series of activities called, The University of Manchester Gateways Programme. The Gateways Programme is targeted at young people in the Greater Manchester area, who are talented and have the potential to progress into Higher Education but are from backgrounds that are currently under-represented at the higher education level. The Gateways programme aims to introduce learners to Higher Education and provide information about the different pathways that can be taken to get into HE. To ensure that these young people understand the opportunities that HE presents, and how it can benefit them in the future.

What did they learn on this visit?

- Provided an insight into what student life is like; including information on extra-curricular activities, living at university and other opportunities available whilst studying (study abroad, volunteering, etc.).
- Introduced pupils to the Students Union and the different societies they could join (or create) whilst at university.
- Encouraged students to consider their transferable skills, how to build them, and how to talk about them when applying for jobs/ post-16 and post-18 education courses.
- Allowed pupils to explore the concept of budgeting their money, and understand the importance of budgeting whilst studying at university. During the day, Smithills competed against other schools across Manchester and came first in the Girl's group and runners-up in the Boys Enterprise events.



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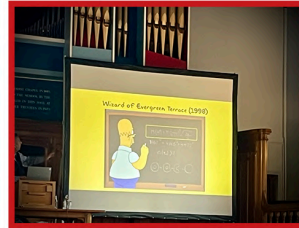
SOCIAL MEDIA GALLERY

SPARX READING CHAMPIONS



Our wonderful Sparx reading champions enjoyed breakfast this morning, with some pupils taking food for when they break their fast later this evening. This is a fantastic achievement that reflects their dedication to reading at Smithills School. [#readingchampions](#) [#sparxreading](#) [#readtosucceed](#) [#SmithillsSchool](#) [#successforall](#)

SIMON SINGH DAY



Smithills School were successfully selected to attend Bolton School Simon Singh Day, which was attended by 21 other schools and around 500 pupils. The inspirational and motivational talk was followed by lunch and a Science lesson. [#SimonSingh](#) [#boltonschool](#) [#inspiration](#) [#talk](#) [#science](#) [#thankyou](#) [#SmithillsFamily](#) [#SmithillsSchool](#)

WHYSUP



On 6th February, 'Whysup' - an organisation who support schools around issues of vaping and addiction were in school, delivering sessions to all year groups throughout the day. [#WHYSUP](#) [#vapingawareness](#) [#presentation](#)

FOOTBALL



On 31st March, our Y10 football team played St. James in the semi-final of the Bolton Cup. The game remained neck and neck until 3 minutes from time when St. James pounced onto a loose ball and knocked it into the Smithills net. Knowing the time and result was against us, we pushed on and pressed for an equaliser, but St. James used this and nicked a 3rd on the counter and seeing the game out as 3:1 winners. [#smithillspe](#) [#proudofttheteam](#)