



# RoundUp

## Summit Learning Trust News



### Also in this issue:

- 'Going All In' with Reading
- Cultural Capital Experiences

*#ScalingNewHeights*

# Welcome



A huge thank you to our parents, carers, families and communities for supporting our academies to achieve so much with our learners this term. Spring 2026 has been an intensive, exciting time for our Trust family. It has been very pleasing to see the ongoing hard work by our children and young people, and notably those who have public assessments next term, whether these be A Levels, vocational qualifications, GCSE examinations, SATs or other national assessments.

Summit Learning Trust learners achieved improved academic outcomes across all phases in 2025, and our expert teams of teachers are projecting results to be better again in 2026. This can give our learners and their families huge confidence in the quality of offer across our schools and college. Our Summit family are acutely aware of the importance of these results to each of our children and young people in terms of giving them opportunities in later life. Our schools and college provide additional preparation sessions and additional resources for learners, and I strongly encourage all our children and young people to fully access the offer in the coming weeks to ensure that they enter examinations in May and June with great confidence.

This term has seen the Ofsted report published for Pegasus Primary School, which validates the excellent work carried out by their Principal, Adam Ames and his team. It is always very pleasing to read in our Ofsted reports what we already know at Summit, in that our learners are receiving a very high quality level of education and care in our academies.

This edition of the Roundup gives a small snapshot into some of the achievements made at our Summit academies, and it has been a pleasure to see the work that takes place day in, day out with our children and young people. We are all proud of the efforts made by our learners and staff members in supporting charitable initiatives which will help those with the greatest need in our communities. Thank you to those learners and colleagues from across our Summit family who have completed voluntary work and raised funds for the Kids' Village Charity, who were our Trust's chosen charity for 2025. We comfortably surpassed our £10,000 target, already achieving a figure above £17,500. As we move through 2026, we look forward to working hard to continue to support and raise the profile of Kids' Village, which you can read more about in this edition.

Our Summit Base Camp programme continues, and I thank colleagues and external partners for enabling us to provide a consistent level of support for children and young people across our schools and college. This provision serves as the foundation to enable them to continue making strong levels of academic progress. We continue to work to support other schools and colleges beyond Summit to offer similar initiatives to their families.



This final week of term has seen our Young Carers from across our schools and college come together for a day to celebrate all they do. Huge thanks to our amazing staff teams for their collective and ongoing support for these incredible children and young people, many of whom work for hours supporting loved ones before and after a busy day of learning in their academy.

At Summit, we are proud to be working with others in our sector, beyond our own Trust family, to freely share expertise and resources for the benefit of all children in the West Midlands. Through working as part of The Education Exchange West Midlands, across hundreds of schools and colleges, we collectively strive to improve the education and care for all children in our region, regardless of which school they attend. This continues to enable our brilliant staff teams to impact positively on others and to further improve their own practice.

Thank you all for your ongoing support for your child's school or college. Have a happy and healthy Easter.

Vince Green  
Chief Executive Officer



# Summit Learning Trust Kids' Village Charity Partner

Summit Learning Trust is continuing to raise money for Kids' Village our charity partner. We are supporting this groundbreaking initiative, which provides critically ill children and their families with the opportunity to experience free, magical breaks away from the stresses of hospital life.

Founded in 2018 by Gary and Claire Fletcher, whose daughter Sammie was diagnosed with cancer at a young age, Kids' Village is dedicated to creating a safe, serene, and supportive environment for families who have faced life-threatening illnesses. The first of its kind in the UK, Kids' Village is being built in the Staffordshire countryside and will offer respite holidays to families facing unimaginable challenges. With 10 lodges, a central facility, and a range of tailored activities, it will offer these families a much-needed escape, complete with all expenses covered.

The partnership with Summit Learning Trust aligns with our Trust's commitment to community engagement and supporting children and families in need. Through this partnership, Summit Learning Trust will help raise awareness, encourage fundraising, and offer volunteer support for Kids' Village as the charity moves forward with its mission to bring joy, peace, and magical experiences to those who need it most.

Last year, our Trust fundraised for the University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) Charity, with staff members from Summit academies completing a variety of sponsored challenges including cycling from Birmingham to London and climbing Mount Snowdon.



# Free 'Breakfast' continues to be available at all our schools and college



Free breakfast will continue be available for all our academies. Contact your school for further details.

**175%** raised of **£10,000** target by **159** supporters

**£17,593**

Give Now

Share

*Kids' Village*

TAKE A MOMENT TO MAKE A MOMENT

Click or scan to watch Video

This term at Cockshut Hill School has been defined by curiosity, creativity and a shared commitment to “nothing but the best.” Across the school, learners and colleagues have embraced opportunities to grow, discover new passions and showcase our Summit Learning Trust values that guide everything we do. It has been a term filled with ambition, collaboration and moments of real inspiration, reflecting the strength and spirit of our learning community.

## Sowing The Seeds Of Ambition

Learners across all year groups have stepped boldly into experiences designed to stretch their thinking and raise their aspirations. Visits to universities include Oxford, Gloucester, Nottingham, Birmingham and Aston sparked rich conversations about future pathways and encouraged learners to imagine themselves in new spaces. Their confidence, curiosity and exemplary conduct were praised time and time again - a reflection of their growing belief in what they can achieve.

Opportunities such as the Opera Project at the Birmingham Rep, the Armonico Consort creative sessions, hands-on masterclasses in Hospitality and Catering, and cultural visits to Symphony Hall and the Black Country Living Museum have ensured that learners’ talents and interests continue to be nurtured. The energy and enthusiasm they brought to these experiences demonstrate their readiness to embrace challenge and pursue excellence.



## Leadership and Integrity in Action

This term has also highlighted the strength of student leadership across Cockshut Hill School. From delivering assemblies on wellbeing and equality, to participating in Summit Learning Trust’s event on tackling sexual harassment, and presenting to the senior leadership team, learners have shown maturity, thoughtfulness and a deep sense of responsibility. Their involvement in meaningful campaigns and community events speaks to their integrity and commitment to shaping positive change.

Sports Leaders have also embodied these values, supporting primary learners at leadership events and representing the school with professionalism and teamwork. Whether leading workshops, contributing to creative partnerships or acting as ambassadors in public settings, learners have demonstrated integrity through their words, actions and attitudes.



## Collaboration That Enriches Learning

Some of the most joyful moments this term has been those shaped by collaboration - within Cockshut Hill, across Summit Learning Trust and with external partners. Joint projects with Solihull Sixth Form College, local employers, professional artists, university teams and community organisations have enriched the curriculum and connected learners to the wider world.

Careers Week brought together a diverse range of voices, enabling learners to explore possible pathways with renewed enthusiasm. Workshops with the Power of Events, Solihull College, NEC representatives and others helped learners see how collaboration, creativity and teamwork offer routes to exciting futures.



## Excellence Across Our Community

From achievements in national Maths Challenges, to impressive performances in creative workshops, to the dedication shown during mock examinations, learners have demonstrated remarkable commitment. Colleagues have worked tirelessly to craft engaging learning experiences, and families have continued to support their child’s growth with generosity and care.

This collective pursuit of excellence - learners, staff, families and partners-is what makes our school community thrive.



## Equity Guiding Our Journey

Ensuring that all learners feel valued, belonging, included and supported remains central to life at Cockshut Hill. This term’s assemblies, enrichment opportunities and curriculum experiences have celebrated identity, representation and the importance of belonging.

Projects that build cultural capital, initiatives that amplify learner voice, and thoughtful adjustments - such as supporting learners fasting during Ramadan through our pre-ordering system - have ensured that opportunities remain accessible to all.

Across lessons, trips and events, learners have shown empathy, respect and openness, contributing to a school culture where every young person can thrive and succeed.



## Looking Ahead

As we step into the next term, we do so with a sense of excitement and shared purpose. This term has shown us what is possible when ambition is encouraged, collaboration is embraced, equity is prioritised, and excellence is pursued together.

Thank you to everyone in the Cockshut Hill community - learners, staff members, families and partners - for making this term one of growth, achievement and inspiration. Together, we continue to move forward with pride and purpose as part of the Summit Learning Trust family.

## Leading Parent Partnership Award

We were delighted to have achieved the Leading Parent Partnership Award this term. This award recognises the strong relationships we have with parents and carers, and their support given in return to develop their children and the school community. This term, we have had Reading workshops, our Family Space, workshops led by the school nurse and performances with families invited to watch at The Rep and NEC arena. We continue to work considering our vision to communicate, inform and inspire confidence within our parents and carers.



## Personal Development

We have had many workshops and visitors into school this term to enhance our Personal Development offer. A gender equality workshop led by the Anne Frank Trust, a street dancer who later joined our "Erdington's got Talent" panel, a Lunar New Year lion performance, the children's author B. Ware as part of our World Book Day celebrations, and finance workshops from The Money Charity to name a few. The children have really thrived from the range of topics covered and activities offered to help them find or develop their individual passions and talent.



Years 4, 5 and 6 completed an intensive swimming programme, achieving a year's lessons in just six weeks. They became so accomplished, even learning vital lifesaving skills in Year 6.

## Bursaries for 2026 - 2027

Dream to Teach

### DfE are offering Bursaries of:

- £29,000 in Chemistry, Computing, Mathematics and Physics
- £20,000 in Design and Technology and Languages (including ancient languages)
- £5,000 in Biology and Geography

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## Black Country Living Museum

Year 8 learners from Lyndon School recently visited the Black Country Living Museum (BCLM) to enrich their study of the Industrial Revolution. This visit formed an important part of their History curriculum, enabling learners to deepen their understanding of working, living and social conditions in Britain during the nineteenth century. Learners were challenged to evaluate how accurately the museum represents Victorian daily life, drawing thoughtfully on the knowledge they have developed in lessons this term.

Throughout the day, our learners demonstrated the core character virtues that underpin life at Lyndon School. Their curiosity was evident as they explored the historic site, asked insightful questions and engaged fully with the immersive exhibits. During the mine show, learners gained a powerful understanding of the dangers faced by Black Country coal miners, reflecting with compassion and altruism on the harsh realities endured by working families of the period.

Visits to the recreated shops and back-to-back houses enabled learners to appreciate the cramped living conditions experienced by many during the Industrial Revolution. These experiences encouraged thoughtful discussion about social inequality and the resilience of communities at that time. The opportunity to attend a Victorian-style school lesson further highlighted the significant social changes that shaped children's lives, prompting learners to consider how education has evolved.



Despite very cold weather and even a light flurry of snow, Year 8 showed admirable resilience and resourcefulness, maintaining enthusiasm and exemplary conduct throughout the day. Many particularly enjoyed visiting the traditional sweet shop, cake shop and chip shop, which added an element of authenticity and enjoyment to the experience. A memorable highlight for Lyndon learners was seeing Mr Martin and Mr O'Keefe called to the front of the Victorian classroom to experience a taste of nineteenth-century school discipline - a moment that was met with great amusement.

Overall, the visit was a valuable and enriching experience, bringing classroom learning to life while reinforcing the character virtues that define our Lyndon School community.

## CBSO Visit

On Tuesday 10th February, Year 7 learners from Lyndon School visited the world-renowned Symphony Hall to experience a live performance by Birmingham's own City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO).

The concert provided an exceptional musical experience, showcasing a range of iconic themes including music from Star Wars, E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Doctor Who, and Plants vs. Zombies. A particular highlight of the afternoon was the enthusiastic participation of our Year 7 learners during Jai Ho, where learners confidently engaged in body percussion alongside the orchestra.

Throughout the visit, learners demonstrated the character virtues that define life at Lyndon School. Their attentive listening and thoughtful responses reflected genuine curiosity, while their conduct within such a prestigious venue showed resilience and maturity. Learners supported and encouraged one another during interactive elements of the performance, modelling compassion and altruism. Their confident participation also highlighted growing resourcefulness, as they responded positively to new and unfamiliar musical challenges.

The trip was both memorable and enriching, broadening learners' cultural experiences and reinforcing our commitment to providing high-quality opportunities beyond the classroom. Experiences such as this not only enhance musical appreciation but also contribute meaningfully to the personal development of our learners.



## Year 10 Visit University of Cambridge

In February 2026, Year 10 learners had the exciting opportunity to visit the prestigious University of Cambridge to broaden their horizons and raise their aspirations beyond Lyndon.

During the visit, learners took part in a university-style science workshop, giving them a taste of academic study at a higher level. They also explored the university museum and engaged in conversations with university staff and current students, gaining valuable insight into student life, courses and the application process.

The purpose of the trip was to develop learners' understanding of what studying at an ancient university is like. Ancient universities are among the world's oldest continuously operating institutions of higher learning, offering rich histories and long-standing academic traditions. This visit built on previous trips to glass and redbrick universities, including University of Warwick and University of Birmingham, helping learners compare different higher education environments.

# Sporting Fixtures Updates

## PE Update – Competitive Sport and the Lyndon Learner Journey

Competitive sport continues to play a vital role in our extra-curricular provision and forms an important part of the Lyndon Learner Journey. Through participation in fixtures and tournaments, learners develop the knowledge, skills and character outlined within the Department for Education Physical Education National Curriculum for England, which aims to build competence, confidence and character through competitive sport and physical activity.

### Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 Netball team have represented the school excellently this half term, achieving the following results:

- Lyndon 10 – 1 St Peter’s School
- Lyndon 4 – 1 Light Hall School

The team currently sit top of the B League and are developing strongly both individually and collectively. Through training and match play, learners are refining key skills such as passing, movement, tactical awareness and teamwork, directly supporting curriculum aims. Participation also enables learners to demonstrate the Lyndon character virtues of altruism, compassion and resilience.



### Year 8 Netball

The Year 8 Netball team have competed in the A League following their promotion last year. Results this half term include:

- Lyndon 5 – 15 Light Hall School
- Lyndon 7 – 25 Alderbrook School

Competing at a higher level has provided valuable challenge and opportunity for growth. The team continue to demonstrate determination and commitment, reflecting on performances and identifying next steps for improvement. This process of evaluation and resilience is central to both sporting progress and personal development.

### Year 7 Football

The Year 7 Football team secured a 1–1 draw against Langley School, having led for much of the match. The team were unfortunate not to secure a win, but their performance demonstrated strong organisation and teamwork. Special recognition goes to Robbie for saving a penalty, and to Finley and Corey for their consistent work rate and commitment throughout the game.



# U13 Girls’ Football Tournament

In February 2026, the PE department took two teams to the North Solihull Satellite Tournament. Lyndon was the only school to enter two teams, highlighting the strength and depth of participation in girls’ football.

The A team delivered an outstanding performance, winning all fixtures against Park Hall Academy, John Henry Newman Catholic College and Grace Academy Solihull. They are currently top of the league, with two further rounds remaining before the overall winners progress to the Solihull final.

The B team also performed admirably, with many learners participating in their first competitive football tournament. Despite extremely cold conditions, all players demonstrated enthusiasm, teamwork and perseverance, embodying the inclusive spirit of extra-curricular sport.

Through these opportunities, learners not only develop physical competence and tactical understanding in line with the National Curriculum, but also cultivate resilience, teamwork, leadership and respect, qualities that underpin both sporting success and lifelong wellbeing.



## Choir Champions

In December our brilliant choir took part in Touchwood's Christmas Choir Competition, and we are delighted to announce they were crowned the WINNERS.

At the beginning of February, the children were invited back to Touchwood with Miss Maddock to be presented with their trophy. Thank you so much to everyone who voted. We are so proud of the singing in our school.



## World Book Day

We had an AMAZING World Book Day. The children looked fantastic in their costumes, well done to our best dressed winners.

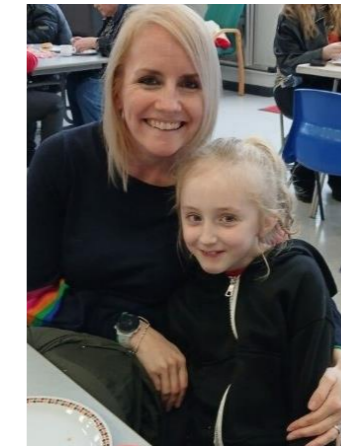
We kicked off the day with a whole-school assembly, including a costume showcase and our "Caught Me Reading" competition. Teachers then swapped classes to read a story, which the children really enjoyed. Throughout the day, classes took part in lots of fun reading activities including decorating bookmarks, writing book reviews, word searches, creating book scenes, and a reading quiz featuring the class texts they have read so far. We also launched our new "Famous Author" project in each class. The children were incredibly focused all day and produced some brilliant creations.



Go All In

## Mother's Day Celebrations

Our Mother's Day Afternoon Tea event has been a wonderful success, and it was a pleasure to invite mums into school to enjoy a cream tea. The atmosphere was lovely and we even finished with a fun family game of bingo. We will also be holding a special event for Father's Day later in the year, and we look forward to welcoming families again, for that occasion.



## Sports Galore

Sport has continued to be a huge focus at Kineton Green recently. Our year 5 and 6 dodgeball teams have competed in trust tournaments, demonstrating fantastic teamwork, sportsmanship and perseverance. Year 2 and 3 have had the opportunity to visit Tudor Grange Leisure Centre taking part in sporting events, such as personal bests and infant agility.

Additionally a group of children from KS2 took part in the South Solihull Dance Festival at Alderbrook School. These children have been practising for 4 weeks with Miss Maddock and performed a dance linked to the theme of 'Around the World'. All the children showed excellent focus, teamwork and dedication, so well done to them all!

## Enrichment

Year 6 experienced an enjoyable trip to Coventry Transport Museum and the Herbert Art Gallery as part of their learning about World War 2. They explored lots of artefacts from World War 2, learning about how Coventry was affected during the war.

Year 1 visited Twycross Zoo and the children took part in a brilliant workshop all about sorting species and classification, where the children really showed off their fabulous knowledge and skills.



## Bringing the Curriculum to Life Through Class Visits

At Pegasus Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that learning is meaningful, memorable and rooted in real experiences. This term, a range of carefully planned class visits and workshops have brought the curriculum to life, giving learners the opportunity to deepen their understanding beyond the classroom.

Year 4 recently visited Bishop's Wood Field Centre for an immersive Roman Day. Through a series of hands-on activities, children explored what life was like in Roman Britain. They built a Roman camp, practised marching drills and used gromas to understand how the Romans engineered straight roads. The experience enabled children to connect historical knowledge with practical application, strengthening both their understanding and retention.

Similarly, Year 6 took part in a World War II workshop delivered by Past Presents. Through drama, role-play and interactive tasks, learners explored key aspects of the war, including air raids, evacuation and the role of the Home Guard. The workshop brought a complex period of history into sharp focus, helping children to develop empathy and a deeper appreciation of the experiences of those who lived through wartime Britain.

These experiences are carefully planned to align with our curriculum and provide opportunities for children to apply knowledge, ask questions and engage with learning in an active and purposeful way. By linking classroom learning with real and simulated experiences, we ensure that knowledge is not only acquired but also understood and remembered.

At Pegasus, bringing the curriculum to life is a core part of how we enable every child to thrive and succeed.



## Introducing the Junior Leadership Team

At Pegasus Primary School, pupil voice is not an add-on. It is a core driver of how we shape our provision and continue to improve outcomes for all children. This term, we have strengthened this commitment through the development of our Junior Leadership Team (JLT), a structured and purposeful platform for learners to influence meaningful change across the school.

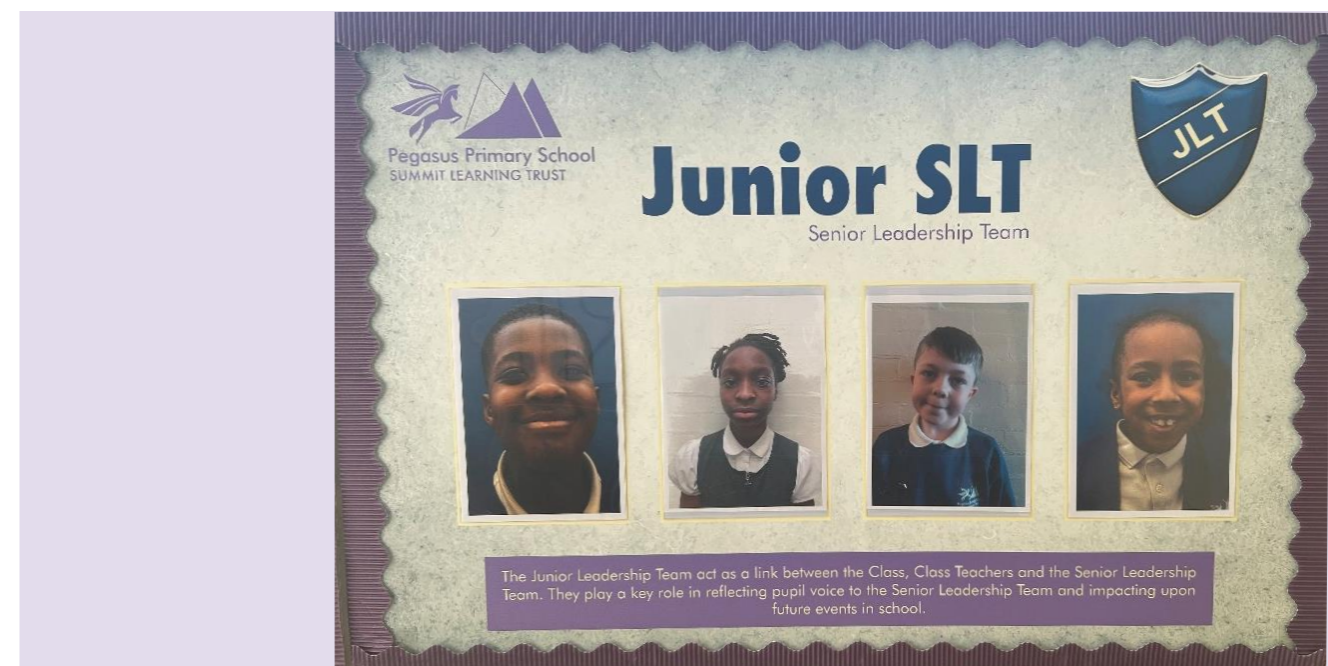
Our JLT is composed of elected representatives from across year groups, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives is heard and valued. Led by our Head Learners and supported by staff members, the team will meet regularly to discuss key aspects of school life, from the learning environment to playtimes, behaviour systems and wider school culture. These will not be token discussions. They are designed to be focused, solution-oriented conversations in which learners are expected to think critically, represent their peers accurately, and contribute to ongoing school improvement.

A key strength of the JLT is its role as a communication bridge between learners and the Senior Leadership Team. This will establish a clear and reliable channel for feedback, enabling leaders to better understand learners' lived experiences across the school. In turn, JLT members will gain a deeper understanding of how decisions are made and how their contributions can shape whole-school priorities. This reciprocal process is intended to strengthen both trust and accountability.

This work aligns closely with our wider approach to developing character and personal development. Through the JLT, learners will not only learn about leadership in theory, but experience it in practice. They will develop the ability to listen, challenge respectfully and work collaboratively towards shared goals.

As we move forward, we will continue to refine and strengthen the role of the JLT, ensuring it becomes a high-impact mechanism for pupil voice and school improvement.

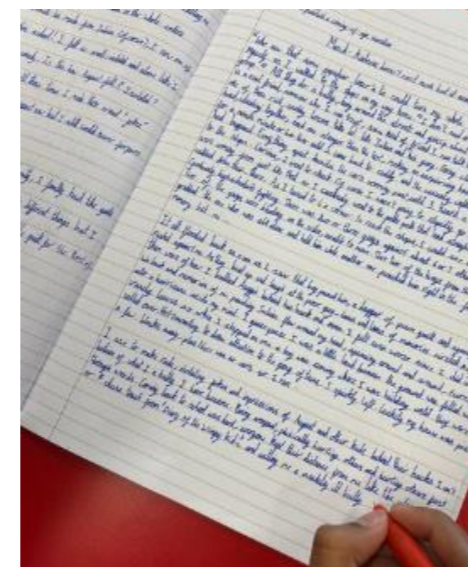
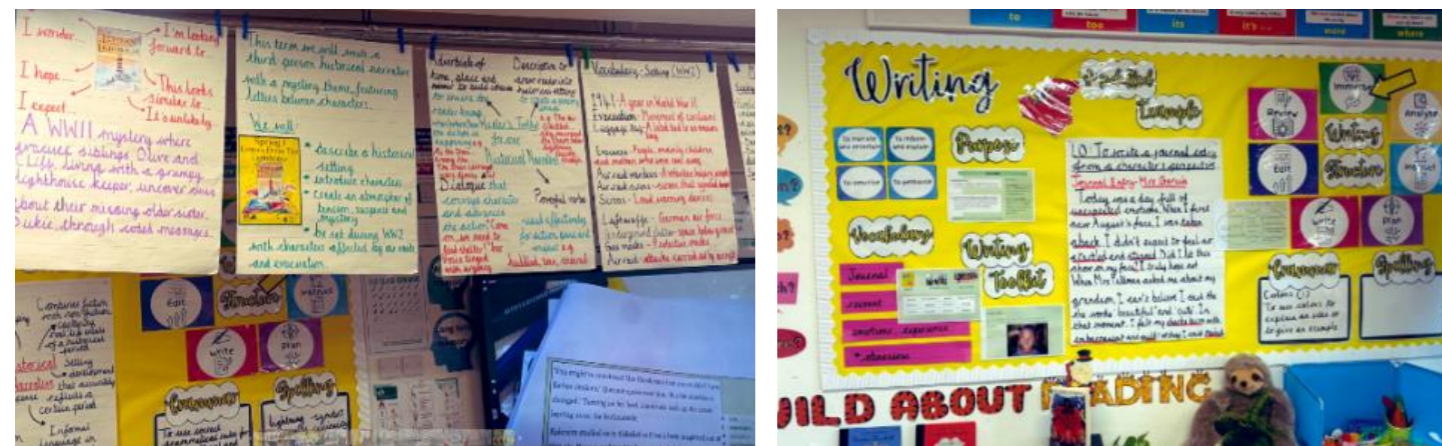
At Pegasus, we are committed to developing not just successful learners, but confident, thoughtful and proactive young leaders.



# Ambassador School and LPPA Accreditation

We are delighted to share some wonderful news from The Oaklands Primary School as we celebrate two significant achievements this term, reflecting our ongoing commitment to excellence in education and community engagement.

Firstly, we are incredibly proud to have been recognised as an Ark English Mastery Curriculum+ Ambassador School. This prestigious accreditation highlights the strength of our English curriculum and the dedication of our staff members to deliver high-quality teaching that inspires a love of reading, writing and language. Becoming an Ambassador School means we will not only continue to refine our own practice but also support and collaborate with other schools and Trusts, sharing expertise and helping to raise standards beyond our own classrooms.



# World Book Day 2026

We had a truly fantastic time celebrating World Book Day at The Oaklands Primary School, with a day full of creativity, imagination, and a shared love of reading.

The Oaklands community came to school dressed as their favourite book characters, bringing stories to life in every classroom and corridor. From classic tales to modern favourites, it was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and effort in celebrating the joy of books.



A particular highlight of the day was that every class took part in a live workshop with a published author. These sessions inspired our children, giving them a unique opportunity to hear first-hand about the writing process and to ask questions about storytelling, creativity, and becoming an author.

Thanks to the exchange of 450 World Book Day vouchers, we were also able to create our very own pop-up book shop in school. This ensured that every child could choose and take home a brand-new book to keep - an experience that truly captured the spirit of the day.

# Year 5 Opera Performance

Our Year 5 learners have had an unforgettable experience this half term, taking part in a remarkable opera workshop as part of our ongoing collaboration with The Transformation Partnership and The Armonico Consort. Through weekly lessons with a professional singing teacher, the children have developed their vocal skills, confidence, and appreciation for opera.

Their hard work and dedication culminated in a stunning performance of The Magic Flute on stage at the prestigious REP Theatre in Birmingham. They sang alongside other schools, professional opera singers, and a live orchestra, creating a truly magical and memorable event. It was inspiring to see our children rise to the challenge, showcasing their talent and passion for music in such a professional setting.

We pride ourselves on our arts curriculum offer and enrichment at The Oaklands and we are incredibly proud of our Year 5 learners for their enthusiasm and commitment to this project. A huge thank you to The Transformation Partnership and The Armonico Consort for their continued support in providing such enriching experiences for our children.

# Loving London

At Ninestiles, an Academy, we are proud to celebrate the success of our recent two-day educational residential trip to London, where 147 of our Year 7 learners temporarily relocated their classrooms to the capital for an enriching programme designed to build confidence, independence, and real-world learning.

The visit formed part of our commitment to offering 16 cultural experiences, that extend far beyond the traditional curriculum, before our learners reach the age of 16 years. Over the course of the trip, learners developed invaluable life skills, strengthened their problem-solving abilities, and deepened their understanding of British history, culture, and heritage.

## Day One: Picnics, Museums and London's Skyline

Upon arrival in London, learners enjoyed a relaxed picnic lunch in St James's Park, taking in the scenery and soaking up the atmosphere of one of the city's most iconic green spaces. This calm and social start set the tone for a day filled with curiosity and exploration.

The group then made their way to the world-renowned British Museum, where learners explored global history, ancient civilisations, and cultural artefacts that support their Key Stage 3 curriculum.

As the group waited for their scheduled rotation on the London Eye, the atmosphere shifted from reflective to energetic, with an impromptu giant game of tag breaking out on the South Bank. The laughter and excitement created one of the most memorable moments of the trip, showcasing the joy and camaraderie among the learners

Learners proceeded to the entrance with tickets ready, joining the boarding queue before taking in panoramic views of the capital from the London Eye.

A short walk along the riverside led the group to Pizza Express, Royal Festival Hall, for an evening meal where learners enjoyed a main course, dessert, and drink - a welcome chance to unwind and refuel after a full day of activity.

The evening concluded with a smooth transfer to the iconic Wembley Stadium, where learners checked in to their accommodation for the night.



## Day Two: Natural Wonders and London's Historic Heart

After a stroll down Wembley Way, learners and colleagues enjoyed a buffet breakfast before beginning their experiences at the Natural History Museum, where they explored exhibits on dinosaurs, biodiversity, geology, and the natural world bringing science learning to life in a dynamic and memorable way.

At midday, the group travelled to Victoria Embankment for a Guided Walking Tour of London, led by expert guides, beginning and ending at the Victoria Embankment. The tour included many of London's most significant landmarks, including:

- **Big Ben**
- **Houses of Parliament**
- **Westminster Abbey**
- **Statues of Parliament Square**
- **The Cenotaph**
- **Downing Street**
- **Churchill's War Rooms (exterior)**
- **St James's Park**
- **The Mall**
- **Wellington Barracks**
- **Buckingham Palace**
- **Clarence House**
- **St James's Palace**
- **Horse Guards Parade**



This immersive experience allowed learners to connect their classroom studies with the living history of our nation's capital.

The two-day residential was designed not only to broaden academic understanding but also to nurture independence, teamwork, resilience, and curiosity — skills that will support learners throughout their school journey and beyond.

Our colleagues praised the learners for their enthusiasm, excellent behaviour, and willingness to embrace new experiences. Parents and carers can be proud of the maturity and positivity shown by all learners throughout the trip.



# Our Annual Iftar Brings Our Ninestiles Community Together

On Friday 6th March, Ninestiles, an Academy proudly hosted its annual Community Iftar, once again opening its doors to families, friends and local residents to come together and share in the spirit of Ramadan. The evening embodied unity, reflection and generosity, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all who attended.

This year's gathering was particularly special as it was learner-centred, with many of our learners playing a leading role throughout the evening. Learners confidently took to the stage to perform and recite, while others supported the event by welcoming guests and serving food. Their enthusiasm, commitment and sense of community were truly inspiring and reflected the values at the heart of the school.



## We were honoured to welcome Shaykh Wajid from the local community, who resides at the Solihull Hub.

He shared a thoughtful and enlightening talk about the significance of Ramadan and the importance of upholding good character. His key messages were both powerful and informative, reminding everyone present of the true essence of this blessed month - compassion, humility, patience and service to others.

The evening was further enriched by a moving performance from a local nasheed group who gather at the Zawiya on Coventry Road. Their melodies of devotional poetry praised the Prophet and celebrated the blessings of Ramadan, creating a moment of reflection and spiritual connection for the audience.

Guests also had the opportunity to support a wonderful cause, with donations collected for Kids Village, a charity dedicated to building the UK's first holiday village for children with critical illnesses and their families.

With delicious food and a hall filled with conversation, laughter and gratitude, the evening truly captured the spirit of community. It was a spectacular gathering that brought together people from many backgrounds to share a meaningful moment during Ramadan.



# A Busy Student Union

On 11th March, members of our Student Union attended the annual Campaign Junction event at Birmingham Council House, to compete for funding to support this year's initiative. They proudly presented this year's campaign, **Reducing Our Carbon Footprint**, to fellow schools, Modeshift leaders and industry experts and were successful in securing the funding.

The presentation was a great success. We even received a special mention from Jenny Royall at Modeshift, recognising us as a Year 4 Legacy School and wishing us the very best as we compete for the National Modeshift STARS Award in London on 18th March. Having already won both the local and regional awards, we are hoping to achieve a hat-trick.

Our work on tackling sexual harassment also continues to grow. We are now involved in two sister projects linked to our current campaign. A professor and trainee architect from the University of Birmingham have specifically invited us to participate in a project aimed at making parks safer, particularly for girls. We have begun contributing to this important work and look forward to sharing feedback with our peers and encouraging wider learner involvement.



## Oxbridge Offers

Six learners from Solihull Sixth Form College are celebrating offers from the prestigious Universities of Oxford and Cambridge this year.

Four of the learners are currently completing their final year of A levels at the College, while two are former students. Gab Galletes, Molly Leatherbarrow Morcillo and Sarah Yousafzai have all secured offers from Oxford, and Faye Woodcock has received an offer from Cambridge. Ex-students Jawariyah Yaqub and Sophie da Silva have also been offered places at Cambridge.



Gab Galletes has been offered a place to study Human Sciences at Hertford College, Oxford. To take up her place, she will need to achieve strong grades in her A level subjects of French, Music and Sociology. Also hoping to go to Oxford is Molly Leatherbarrow Morcillo, who is hoping to read French and Beginners' Russian at St John's College. She is currently studying A levels in Spanish, French and Politics. The third student with an offer from the University of Oxford is Sarah Yousafzai, who is hoping to study Biochemistry (Molecular and Cellular) at Oriel College, after she finishes her studies in A level Biology, Chemistry and Geography.

Hoping to progress to Gonville and Caius College at the University of Cambridge is Faye Woodcock. Her offer is to study Psychological and Behavioural Sciences and she is hoping for high grades in A level Biology, Mathematics and Psychology in order to take up that place. Jawariyah Yaqub is also hoping to go to Cambridge. She completed her two years at the College last year and achieved all A\* grades in Criminology, History and Psychology. She is currently studying A level Sociology in her Gap-year and hoping to take up a place at Gonville and Caius College to study History. Meanwhile, Sophie da Silva left the College in 2023 and after working as a Student Development intern for 6 months, she moved to America to study at Christ For The Nations Institute in Dallas. She has since applied to Cambridge and now has an unconditional offer to study Modern and Medieval Languages.

### College Principal Martin Sullivan added:

*"I was delighted to meet with our Oxbridge hopefuls recently. I know what a tremendous amount of hard work has gone into their applications and I'm thrilled for them that all that hard work has been rewarded. While two of the students already have their offers, Gab, Molly, Sarah and Faye still have exams to sit and I wish them the very best of luck with those. We have hundreds more students still waiting to hear if they have Higher Education offers, as more than 900 students have made applications this year and I look forward to hearing about their offers in due course too."*

## IT Visit to Bletchley Park

IT and Computer Science learners recently visited the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park to deepen their understanding of the history of computing.

A group of 26 students from the A level Computer Science and BTEC IT courses took part in the trip. During their visit, they had the opportunity to see the world's first computer and explore how servers have stored and processed data over time, gaining insight into the evolution of technology.

Bletchley Park, renowned for its pivotal role during World War II as the centre where Enigma codes were deciphered, offered students the chance to engage in hands-on activities related to the Enigma machines. They also explored different types of data storage, learned how the Von Neumann architecture functions through the Harwell Dekatron computer, practised coding in BBC Basic and created a snake game, all of which strengthened their algorithmic thinking through practical application.



## Community Iftar

Learners, families and staff members came together for a celebration of Ramadan in March, as the fourth annual Community Iftar took place on campus.

The event provided an opportunity for those celebrating Ramadan to break their fast, while also offering members of the College community of all faiths or no faith to come together and get a better awareness of Ramadan. Among the special guests in attendance was Mayor of Solihull Councillor Annette MacKenzie and members of the Solihull Faith Forum.

Iftar began with speeches in the lecture theatre as college learners spoke about what Ramadan means to them, providing an opportunity for all attendees to gain a great understanding of the real meaning of Ramadan. Following presentations from students, guests heard the Call for Prayer and then fast was broken with food in the form of chicken and vegetarian dishes, samosas, cakes, dates and other fruits.

The Islamic Society chose the Human Appeal charity, which works in 16 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East and aims to improve the long-term resilience of countries in crisis, so that they can support themselves independently and with dignity.

### Anisa Lokat-Fanning, Associate Assistant Principal, commented:

*"This is the fourth year we have held a Community Iftar at the Solihull Sixth Form College and the event was very well supported. It's fantastic to see our community coming together for a beautiful celebration for Ramadan. Attendance at this event demonstrated our multi-cultural community and was a reflection of the college's commitment to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. Huge congratulations must go to the team in our Student Development Office, who worked incredibly hard, together with learners from the Iftar Committee and Student Council, to organise such a brilliant event."*

# Visual Arts Visit to Oxford

Visual Arts learners visited museums and galleries in Oxford this term to begin their research and visual recording for their examination projects.

Students on the A level Fine Art, Graphics & 3D Design and Photography courses, as well as those learners studying BTEC Art & Design Practice were offered the opportunity to go on the field trip, which saw them visit the Pitt Rivers, Natural History and Ashmolean Museums, as well as the Modern Art Oxford Gallery.

The Pitt Rivers Museum displays archaeological and ethnographic objects from around the world, while the Natural History Museum's collection includes the world's first scientifically described dinosaur (*Megalosaurus bucklandii*) and the world-famous Oxford Dodo, the only soft tissue remains of the extinct Dodo. Meanwhile, the Ashmolean's world-famous collections range from Egyptian mummies and classical sculpture to Pre-Raphaelite paintings and contemporary art. The Modern Art Oxford Gallery not only houses modern art of note, but also hosts creative workshops.



Yarnfield Primary School  
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

# Incredible Enriching Half Term

As this busy and joyful term at Yarnfield draws to a close, it's been a pleasure to look back on the wide range of enriching experiences our learners have taken part in. Throughout the school, children have enthusiastically engaged in new learning, practical activities, and unforgettable experiences that have enhanced the curriculum and brought our community closer together.

What an exciting term it has been across Early Years! Reception have spent the past few weeks 'jetting' off around the world as part of their project Are We There Yet? The children boarded Emma Jane's aeroplane and travelled all the way to Pakistan and Romania. Their adventure took an unexpected turn when the plane broke down mid journey! Reception rose to the challenge brilliantly, writing amazing messages in bottles asking for help to fix the plane. Their creativity and imagination have truly taken flight this term.



Meanwhile, Nursery have been fully immersed in the world of dinosaurs. The term began with a very exciting delivery — a set of mysterious dinosaur eggs! Since then, the children have been exploring all things prehistoric and learning lots of new vocabulary to describe their favourite dinosaurs. Their enthusiasm has been roaring.

Our Year 1 learners have been going wild in their trip to Twycross Zoo. This linked to their 'Paws, Claws and Whiskers' science project. Lots of fun was had by all especially when they went off on a Gruffalo trail – Year 1 don't you know? There's no such thing as a Gruffalo!



As this busy and joyful term at Yarnfield draws to a close, it's been Warwick Castle that provided the backdrop for Year Two's trip this term. During the visit, they learned all about the history of Warwick castle and the names of all of the different parts of a stone castle including the turrets and the dungeon.

Some learners from Year 3 and 4 recently visited London, for the Commonwealth Day celebration. After travelling by train, then by the underground, they arrived at Westminster Abbey. They were able to see both King Charles and Queen Camilla as well as a host of other members of the Royal Family and celebrity circle.

Year 5 have been busily preparing for their grand Opera performance at Birmingham's Rep Theatre. Every Friday, operatic tones drift down the corridor and the result of a term's hard work was seen in their excellent Magic Flute performance in March.

Year 6 have taken part in a WW2 and Victorians history workshop, which has enabled them to have history brought to life. The practical element of these experiences has supported the work taking part in the classroom in the afternoons.

We have seen the opening of our newly-decorated library, which is now used by the whole school throughout the week. From Monday to Thursday, our parents and carers also get to enjoy time spent together reading and celebrating the National Year of Reading.

We have seen the launch of our new and improved Attendopoly board game this term, with learners earning rolls in the game to earn reward for excellent attendance. The streets and locations on the game reflect the local area and has certainly created a buzz around school.

All in all, Yarnfield Primary School has had a fantastic Spring Term with wonderful learning opportunities and experiences. Where will the Summer Term take us?



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