



# Head Teacher's Newsletter

## SPRING TERM

Issue No 07 | April 2025

### Mrs Frost-Briggs' message of the month!



### What's on in Creative Arts?

Drama has seen the year 11 pupils perform their scripted examination piece to the GCSE examiner last week.

It was the Easter Concert this week with fantastic performances from the steel band, concert band and school choir.

Year 8 and 9 art club students had great success at the Belper & Duffield Rotary's You-Create competition, receiving three first prizes, two second prizes and one highly commended.

Year 7 students have developed their sewing skills creating sock monkeys, pigs or monsters!

The spring term at JF has been one full of memorable moments, hard work, innovation and fantastic achievements from our students. The amount of articles to pack into this newsletter is demonstrative of how much the students have been throwing themselves into their work, their lessons and all enrichment activities; so many of our students have shone in a variety of areas. Whether it's in the classroom, in the Food room, or through creative arts, our students have consistently demonstrated their commitment to excellence and personal growth.

One of my favourite moments of this term was being asked by Miss Davis to judge the JF Bake Off! Incredible entries from students across Year 7,8 and 9 made it virtually impossible to pick between them...I had to taste some again ....and again...and again!

**Congratulations to all students Alisha-Rose, Evie M, Tess, Eva-Rose, Cecilie, Ella K, Thomas B and a special mention to the winner Evie B for this fantastic Easter nest chocolate cake with chocolate mousse creation!**



In MFL we have been so impressed by the remarkable work our students have produced this term and we have been delighted to award certificates to our MFL stars each week. Those winners have been invited to a special MFL Stars recognition lunch and will have received an invite with all the details! We look forward to celebrating our remarkable MFL students in the last week of term!

## British Sign Language Club

The BSL Club started in February with the aim of teaching students basic BSL, including introductions, finger spelling, deaf awareness, colours, numbers and conversational phrases. Students also have the option to study an online course where they can gain a qualification in Introduction to BSL. Some staff members are getting involved too and it's been a great way for students from across the school to build new friendships!



## What's happening in Maths?

### Pi Day – 14<sup>th</sup> March (3.14)

We challenged students to memorise as many decimal places of Pi as possible. Congratulations to all those who took part!

In particular: Alice C who remembered 50 digits and Ellis H who remembered 119 digits! Our winner was Sophie M, who remembered 122 digits of Pi and earned herself a trophy!

### UKMT Team Maths Challenge

Back in March, we took 4 students to David Nieper Academy to take part in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge.

Our students were a credit to our school and deserve lots of praise for showing their ambition and commitment.

Congratulations to Ethan E, Gemma C, Isabelle B and Albert N who showed they were #nothingshortofremarkable



## Year 9 Mock Trial

Year 9 students have recently taken part in the Mock Trial. Students prepare a fictional legal case - in this instance it was the use of a glass bottle as a weapon at a football match. They then spend weeks studying the evidence and building arguments. Each student takes on a courtroom role; lawyer, witness, clerk, usher, magistrate, or juror. They then compete in a real or simulated courtroom, presenting arguments, questioning witnesses, and responding to counterarguments. Judges assess their legal knowledge, speaking skills, teamwork, and persuasiveness. The students were absolutely amazing and did the same and Miss Grace proud.

## World Book Day 2025



On World Book Day in March, students were challenged with designing a new book cover for Peter Frankopan's Silk Roads book. We had some truly brilliant entries, and the judging was very difficult! Many congratulations to Skye S, Lydia C, Thomas B and Sam B for their winning entries!! They each received an Easter egg and a history themed book to encourage them in their reading at home.



More WBD celebrations saw special lessons and activities in English and Maths, students taking part in a live online author event with Stephen and Anita Mangan, a form group competition to decorate their form room doors and a competition for students to identify the most number of staff characters when they dressed up on Friday 7th March.



Winner of the form group door competition was 9R with their Charlotte's Web themed entry. Winner of the staff dressing up competition was Tobiaz L in Y7.



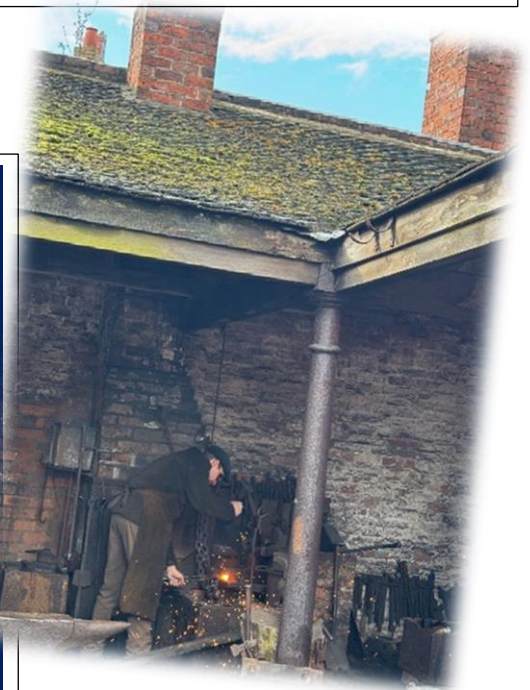
Meanwhile, elsewhere...in History!



### Year 7 castles project

Year 7 returned to school armed with their castle projects. They had upcycled a variety of materials and created a wide array of castle styles. In addition to the delicious cake and biscuit bakes we saw some Lego inspired pieces and even knitted efforts. The detailed research projects to accompany these were the best we have seen in the ten years this competition has been running! Huge thanks to our parents for supporting us with this annual competition. Well done to Katie W, Arthur S, Abygail W, Letty B, Meredith, Harriet H and Ella K who received history themed books and chocolate prizes. 7R efforts, in particular, were outstanding!!

Back in February, Miss Mason took Year 8 students to the Black Country museum in Dudley to support work in lessons on the Industrial Revolution. One of the highlights of the trip was going into the reconstructed mine where students learned about the challenging and dangerous work of miners in the past. The guide shared insights into the history of mining in the region, explaining how it shaped the local community. Students also explored various historical exhibits, including traditional houses, workshops, and shops, giving them a deeper understanding of the Black Country's industrial heritage. The trip was both educational and immersive. Some students even spotted that this was the location for the filming of Peaky Blinders and were able to stand on the very spot that Cillian Murphy had been filming a new series only a week before! A huge thank you to the students who attended as we were inundated with compliments over how fabulous they were. You continue to be #remarkable!



## LGBTQ+ history month



To help celebrate LGBTQ+ history month, Mr Goodwright organised a National Archives session for year 8 students. They focused on the life of Anne Lister, a British woman who lived in the 1800's, who has become known as the "first modern lesbian". They decoded some of her famous diaries (which were written in code at the time to protect her from discrimination and prejudice) and looked at her will too. Finally, pupils had the chance to ask their questions about Anne to an expert from the National Archives in London via video call. They were brilliantly behaved and got a lot out of the session. Many thanks to the National Archives for putting on such a brilliant workshop! Further collaborations with the National Archives are planned for later this term.

## History Club!

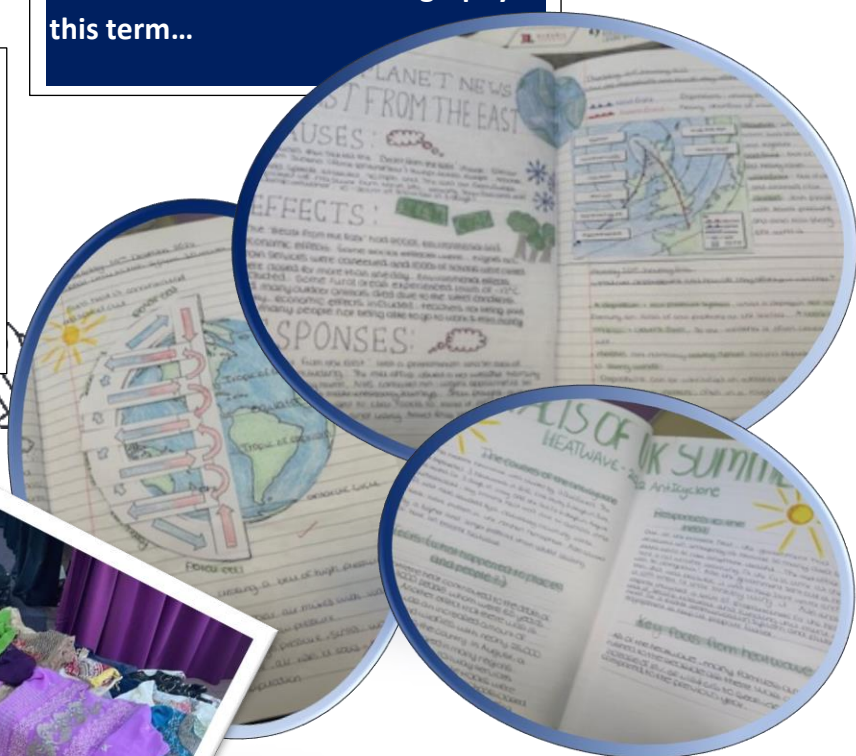
In History Club, students have worked together to build detailed models of a Supermarine Spitfire and a tank, led by club president Sam from 9R. The project, which took around two months to complete, from completing the basic structure, to painting base coats and adding camouflage patterns, and including fine details like insignias and weathering effects to give the models a realistic appearance.

The project required patience, teamwork, and attention to detail, with students working together to perfect their models. Their dedication and enthusiasm for history are reflected in the finished pieces, which serve as a testament to their hard work and passion for the subject. A special thanks goes to the DT department for kindly allowing Sam to create a display case, allow the history team to display the completed models, giving the whole school a chance to appreciate the effort and craftsmanship behind them. You are #remarkable!

## Year 7 Faith Trail

Year 7 students have had the opportunity to take part in a Faith Trail, visiting a Temple, Mosque and Gurdwara where they have learned all about different faiths. Students had the chance to try on religious clothing, taste some Indian food and witness one of the religious prayers.

## Some beautiful work in Geography this term...



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