



Head Teacher's Newsletter

SUMMER TERM

Issue No 08 | July 2025



Mrs Frost-Briggs' message of the month!

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another academic year at John Flamsteed Community School, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly significant and rewarding year for our school community.

This year has been filled with many proud moments from celebrating our Ofsted outcome, to inviting in our Arts Stars, to the Celebration Evening, Festival of Education, Transition Evening, and watching students thrive on trips to the Opal Coast, Normandy, Geneva, Greece and on the ski trip to Italy to name but a few.

Our students have continued to excel both academically and beyond the classroom. Year 11 students approached their exams with determination and resilience, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements this summer. Throughout all year groups, students have engaged enthusiastically with school life—whether through sports, performing arts, trips, leadership roles, or charitable events. They never fail to impress us with their passion and willingness to contribute.

As always, I would like to thank you—our parents and carers—for your ongoing support. The partnership between school and home is vital to everything we achieve, and your involvement and encouragement are truly appreciated. I wish all of you a restful and enjoyable summer. We look forward to welcoming students back in September for another exciting chapter at John Flamsteed.

Mrs Frost-Briggs

John Flamsteed Community School



Ambitious Proud Committed

TIME TO SHINE

On Thursday 12th June we were delighted to hold our inaugural Time To Shine event. In the week preceding the event, staff handed out stickers and postcards to students for #remarkable pieces of work. Students were then invited to come along to the event, present their work to our panel and receive a reward. It was a pleasure to welcome Community Governor Mrs Beetham and Mrs Clarke from Denby Free School to join us on the panel, along with members of staff from school. Over 200 students came along to show their #remarkable work! We can't wait to do it all again in the autumn!

BIG ANSWER

British Sign Language Club

Well done to Logan G, Abygail W, Alice C, Eimear L, Izzy F, Harley N who are still attending BSL club and have been taking recent assessments with very positive results!

Big Answer improvement: The cafeteria has been launching new theme meals this year to celebrate events such as Easter, Wimbledon, and "summer at the seaside" fish and chips as a response to what students told us in The Big Ask!!

SHOUT OUT TO...



The Y7 Carnegie Shadowing Group who had a party on the 19th June to mark the winner's ceremony which they saw broadcast live from the Cambridge Theatre, London!!

Outstanding creative work

Mr Allen's DT club have been upcycling laptops to make Arcade Machines. Year 8 and 9 students have really impressed us all by laser cutting each part of the frame and designing the graphics themselves on the computer. Well done!



WELL DONE ARTS STARS!!

Last week we welcomed parents and carers in to award 16 students their Gold award for 3 years of commitment to Arts extra-curricular activities, rehearsals and evening events. We have also awarded 14 Silver award (2 years' commitment) and 25 Bronze (first year of continuous commitment)

Thank you to all the families who came in to support the event and thank you to all the students for their contributions in The Arts. Well done also to Phoebe M for her beautiful piano solo.

Mrs Furniss has 3 competition winners from her 'Do you see me?' competition. Sadie F, Oliver H and Leo V all received prizes and certificates for their brilliant power point presentations to highlight overcoming barriers to disabilities - these are displayed on the top corridor by C1. Well done everyone!



What's new in History?



HISTORY CLUB COMMEMORATES WWII IN STYLE

History Club at JF continues to go from strength to strength, thanks to the passion and dedication of Miss Mason and Mr Goodwright. This term, as Dougie's poster here shows, the club has focused on the theme of World War II, delivering a powerful mix of learning, creativity, and commemoration.

The term began with a sunny May afternoon celebrating VE Day, where students from History Club—along with the winners of the school's bunting competition—were invited to a 1945-style street party held at the Ryknield Rooms. It was a festive and meaningful event, capturing the spirit of post-war celebration.

The highlight of the day came from our very special guests, Kenneth Robinson and Colin Crowder, who shared their vivid personal connections to the Second World War. Their insightful and moving stories captivated the students, sparking a flood of thoughtful and inquisitive follow-up questions.

A huge thank you and congratulations to all the students who helped decorate the Ryknield yard so beautifully. The handmade bunting was both creative and heartfelt, showcasing the students' genuine appreciation for a generation that sacrificed so much to secure our future. To conclude this remarkable term of activities, the club visited the National Memorial Arboretum near Burton in July. The visit provided a reflective and fitting end to the club's in-depth exploration of WWII, allowing students to further connect with the history they've studied.



They said stay in your lane. So, we built the road instead!

Trust-wide History competition

In an unexpected plot twist this term, EMET History Departments were told to put down the dusty textbooks and pick up... captions.

Their mission? Get students to turn a set of mysterious, dramatic and often unintentionally hilarious historical photographs into comedy gold. The aim: be witty, be clever, and if possible, make Henry VIII look even more ridiculous than he already did.

And the students in years 7 - 9 delivered. Entries came in thick and fast, ranging from savage one-liners designed to make Churchill wince, to full-on comedic sagas squeezed into a single caption. Some students opted for satire worthy of a BBC panel show. Others went for straight-up absurdity. The competition was fierce, the humour occasionally questionable, but the creativity? Undeniable.

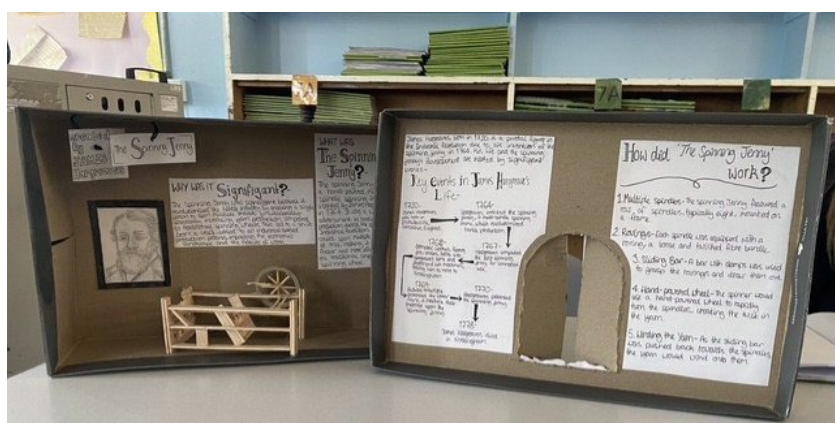
In a hotly contested competition amongst ten secondary schools, we were thrilled to find that taking the top spot and comedy crown was one of our JF year 9 students Ruby G - clearly proof that history isn't just written by the victors, it's captioned by them too!

YEAR 8 STEP INTO THE PAST: MUSEUM DESIGN CHALLENGE

As part of a special history project, pupils were challenged to become museum designers—but with a twist! Using shoeboxes, they were tasked with designing and constructing their very own miniature museum exhibits.

Students explored a wide range of historical themes, from the Industrial Revolution to the lives of key historical figures and innovators. Many chose to recreate significant sites such as Arkwright's Cromford Mill and showcasing not only historical accuracy but also an incredible level of detail, craftsmanship, and imagination.

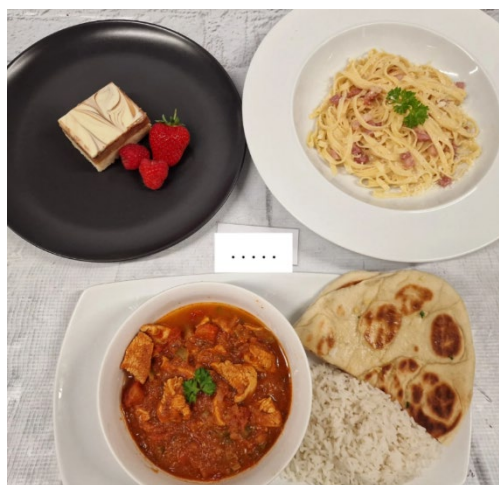
Their designs included intricate model machinery from early factories and even interactive elements to mimic real museum displays. Teachers were blown away by the effort, research, and creativity put into every shoebox. A huge well done to all of Year 8 for their remarkable efforts—your miniature museums truly brought history to life!



Where have we visited?



A group of fantastic Year 10 students joined our Food team Mrs Alton and Miss Davies on a recent trip to Normandy, where they learnt about cheese making, biscuit production, chocolate making, visited a French market, spent an afternoon on the beach and even had a volleyball match between staff and students!



The quality of Year 10s practical assessments have again been absolutely remarkable!

Well done to all the Food and Nutrition students for all your impressive efforts. Everything looked delicious and I hope they were enjoyed at home!



OPAL COAST TRIP

Meanwhile, from the 30th June - 4th July the MFL team took 40 wonderful students to the Opal Coast in France. They got to try out French bread and croissant making skills; goat milking and feeding; buying souvenirs at a local market and visiting a sea-life centre. The staff were so impressed by their effort to use the French language!

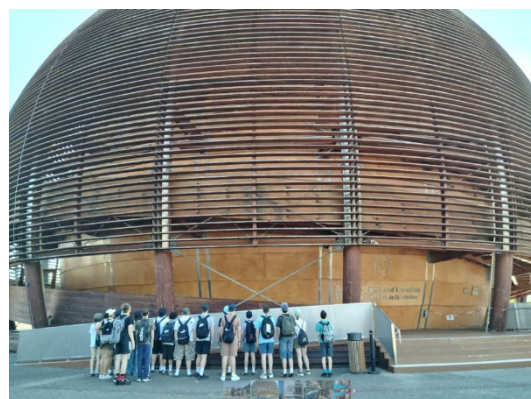


GENEVA TRIP

Over the course of four days, students took part in a packed itinerary exploring science, history, and international culture. Throughout the trip, our students were excellently well-behaved; showing maturity, kindness, and a high level of respect for everyone they encountered. They were a credit to the school and demonstrated responsibility while using various forms of transport, including trams, trains, boats, and even cable cars.

A particular highlight was our visit to CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research. Students were fascinated by the science behind particle physics and enjoyed learning about the origins and purpose of Europe's leading centre for scientific discovery. It was inspiring to see their curiosity and enthusiasm in such a globally significant institution.

A huge thank you to the students for their exceptional conduct, the families who supported the journey and the staff for running the trip.



SHOUT OUT TO...

Henry B and Freya K for representing Derbyshire at the 100th English Schools Track and Field Championships at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham. Henry B ran the 200m and Freya completed the javelin event and together they qualified for the final of the Inter mixed 4x100m relay where they finished 5th overall (achieving a national standard time in the process). 16 championship records were broken that weekend, including some set by GB Olympians, such as Dina Asher-Smith. What a remarkable achievement!



Eco Group launch and Climate Action Week

John Flamsteed Community School is proud to announce the launch of their Eco-group last week that coincided with the nationwide climate action week from Monday 23rd - Friday 27th June. Mr Wood spoke to students from year 7-9 in assemblies to highlight how previous eco groups had managed to make a difference in making our school and wider community are more sustainable space and place. It was exciting to see a good turnout of new members.

Students discussed ideas and a vision for shaping future projects with enthusiasm and creativity. A few ideas included recycling bins, wind turbines, solar panels, mindfulness garden, compost bins, cycling to school, planting trees just to name a few! The Eco-group have promoted and rebranded their club with the logo above that was designed and created by a previous eco group student as part of a competition. As we begin preparing for the new academic year, if any parents or carers have any experience or contacts in areas connected to sustainability and raising environmental awareness, please get in touch at the following email address: ecogroup@jfcs.org.uk

What's happening in Maths?

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UKMT Intermediate maths challenge - 47 students achieved bronze certificates, 14 silver and 4 gold. Special mention to Ethan E, Noah C and Ruben S for achieving best in year awards!!

Our pupils recently attended the *Rising Mathematicians Festival* hosted by Axiom Maths at Nottingham University. The event brought together young mathematicians from across the East Midlands for an immersive mathematical experience. Pupils discovered exciting applications of mathematics both in engineering and data science, connected with like-minded mathematicians from schools across the country and took part in fun problem-solving challenges.

Congratulations to all the young mathematicians who attended. Our Year 7 Axiom Maths students won the 'Think Maths Pi Day Competition' group category. They designed a video representing the different digits of pi.

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Students in Year 7 and 8 tested their logic and problem-solving skills, achieving 44 bronze certificates, 17 silver and 5 gold. Special mention to George G and Albert N for achieving best in year!

Isabelle B got through to the next round, the Junior Kangaroo, and achieved a silver award. This places her within the top 3% of the country! Albert N and Hannah C got through to the Olympiad round, placing them in the top 0.38% of the country. What amazing results!!!

In June, our Year 10 Health and Social Care students were extremely lucky to welcome Kate Hirst, from the University of Derby. Kate is a District Nursing Sister and a Clinical Educator for Nursing. She visited the school twice to provide two highly enjoyable talks to our two HSC groups.

Students explored the skills and values needed to work within the NHS. Our students will be able to use much of the information in their next coursework assessment in the Autumn term.

Kate also explored the role of GP's and other primary care staff. Students also had the chance to examine "mock" cuts and wounds and how to treat them. The talk finished with Kate explaining how our students could gain a route into nursing or other related medical course. We look forward to working with Kate and her team next year.



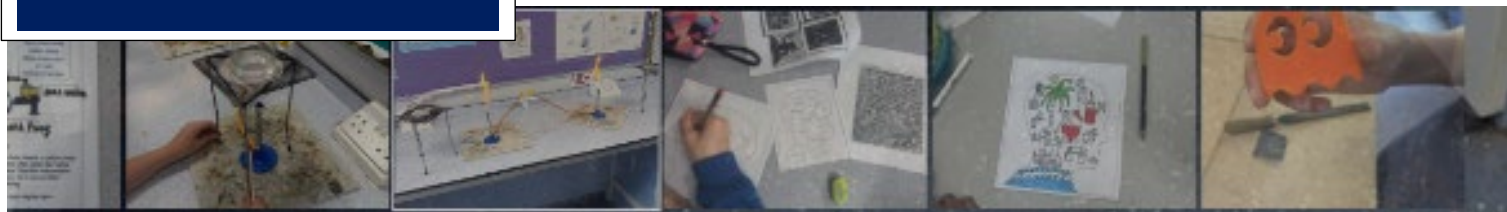
The Brilliant Club!



12 of our Y10 students enrolled on The Brilliant Club as part of the Scholars Programme, which is a course designed to motivate Key Stage 4 students to follow a possible future in Higher Education and provide an insight into university life. The course was led by a University of Derby PhD Tutor and this year's theme was the role of horses in the Great War. The Y10 students engaged diligently in the course, attending the tutorials with focus and commitment and compiling a 2,000-word assignment on the topic! Upon submission of their final assignment, the students were invited to a graduation event hosted by the University of Sheffield, where our brilliant children gathered with 9 other local schools who had also followed the course. We had a tour of some of the university buildings before the final graduation ceremony to conclude the day.

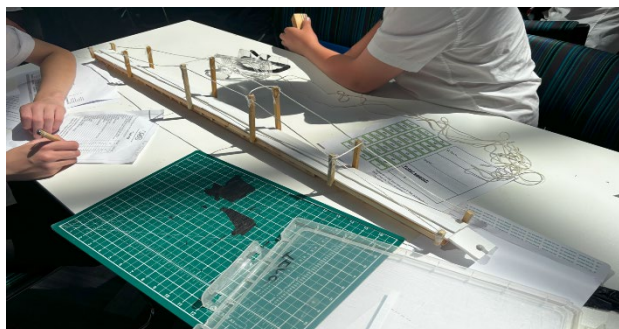
A third of the cohort even graduated with First Class Honours! Well done everyone!

Year 6 Transition



What an amazing week we had back in June as Miss Faulding got to welcome the new Year 6 students for their induction days. They really did show us how remarkable they were with the amount of enthusiasm in their lessons, the kindness towards one another and how polite they were towards JF staff and students. We really cannot wait to welcome them back in September!

Year 7 have enjoyed Steel Drum workshops in July. Each class had an hour-long session with Nic from Pure Steel, who runs the school Steel Band. We learnt lots of new skills, playing as a group and playing music from memory. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it! Students who are interested in the joining the steel band will be given letters in September.



Some Year 9 students attended the Young Engineers and Scientists of Derbyshire annual competition at the University of Derby where they had to build a bridge as part of the 'Mind the Gap' theme to celebrate 200 years of British Railway. All 3 teams successfully built a bridge to transport Thomas the Tank Engine over the gap and withstood a load of 2kg weight. One team (Toby, Finlay and Eddie) managed to achieve second prize for the year 9 and 10 category with their bridge! A fantastic achievement! Well done all!