



# JOHN FLAMSTEED COMMUNITY SCHOOL EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

**SPRING  
TERM 2026**



## **Mrs Frost-Briggs'** **message of the term**



As we reach the close of another productive and rewarding spring term, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect with parents and carers on some of the many achievements our students have accomplished in recent months. It has been a term characterised by dedication, perseverance and creativity across the school. A few highlights of the term for me ... judging the Oracy competition alongside Mrs Hilton, Tess and Jasmine was an absolute honour, which you'll hear more about in this newsletter as well as welcoming so many children to proudly share work they had produced during our Time to Shine event. We have also enjoyed contacting parents of Year 6 children who are joining us in September to welcome them to the JF family and launching the Easter egg project with Year 5 students across local primary schools; we're starting to get some excellent entries coming in!

I am incredibly proud of our students and of what they continue to accomplish both in and outside of the classroom. They are a credit to their families and to our school, and they remind us every day of the talent, the skill and the remarkable potential that exists within our community. Thank you to our staff and families for their ongoing support, encouragement and partnership in helping our students to succeed and wishing you a lovely Easter break.



**#TeamJFCS will be taking part in this year's Pink Ribbon walk for Breast Cancer at Chatsworth House on 17th May for the 3rd year running. A fantastic cause close to our hearts. Go team go!**

## **Geography fieldwork**

Year 11 have been undertaking a local fieldwork investigation in preparation for their GCSE Geography Examinations this summer. The focus of the investigation is 'Should the Cinderhill development be allowed to go ahead'? The development is a local project of 300 houses and industrial units on the Brownfield site opposite the school. Pupils were gathering a range of qualitative and quantitative data to answer some of their sub questions that included traffic counts, environmental quality surveys, Emotional mapping and more. Despite the torrential rain we seem to be having, all three classes walked for two hours and over 5 km without a drop of rain! We will be conducting more follow up investigations back in the classroom as we prepare our final decisions.



**NEW!  
BookCrossing!**

**Mrs Roberts has launched our new BookCrossing club at JF. The act of releasing books "into the wild" for others to find, then track where they go via journal entries from around the world. Our new club meets once a month to label books, then release them around the local area for the community to find, read, and pass on. If you spy a book in the wild with the logo on rest assured, it's not litter! It's been left intentionally! How far will our JF books travel? We'll keep you updated!**

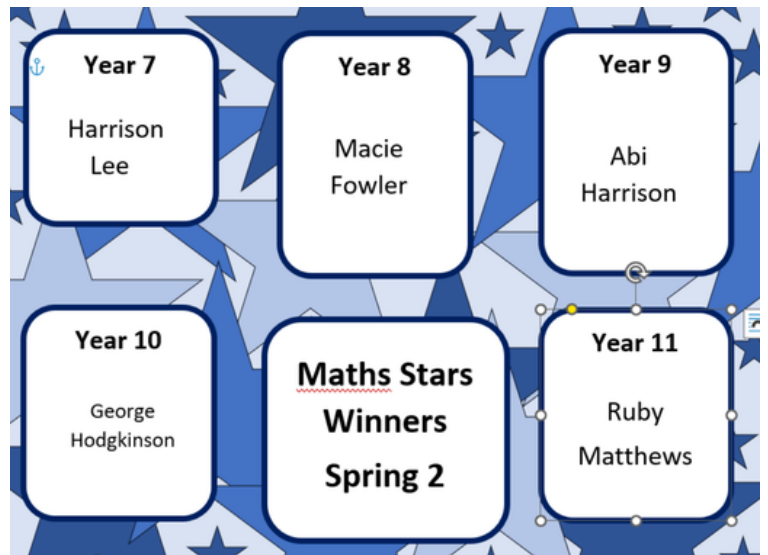
## SHOUT OUT TO UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE WINNERS!

This is a national mathematics competition for certain students in Years 9, 10 and 11, designed to stretch thinking beyond the classroom. 60 minutes to answer 25 multiple-choice questions that increase in difficulty as the paper goes on. The questions are not about memorising methods; instead, they reward logical thinking, problem-solving, precision, and perseverance. Some remarkable mathematicians here!

## WELL DONE MFL STARS!

Every week MFL staff pick one stand-out student to receive a MFL Star of the Week certificate! This year, we have awarded 88 certificates; 18 from Year 7, 25 from Year 8, 26 from Year 9, 15 from Year 10 and 4 from Year 11. This shows just how fabulous are MFL students are from all over the school - a massive well done! We award for excellent language use, but also for students who never give up and always try their best.

Last week's winners were Samaria S from Year 7, Harriet T and Grayson W from Year 8, and Eva D from Year 9. Well done everyone!!



## WELL DONE TO ALL MATHS STARS WINNERS THIS HALF-TERM!

Mrs Newton reports to me that some of our students have been enjoying Brick Club with these creations! Brick Club helps our students build communication skills, team working skills, and provides a safe space where they can build new friendships.



## Year 5 scholars!

We had the pleasure of welcoming over 90 Year 5 students to take part in the Scholars' Programme which consists of an English, Maths and Science lesson all themed around astronomy, linking to John Flamsteed himself. Students wrote about travelling to space, completed an escape room and made and launched rockets.

We were impressed with the students' enthusiasm, work ethic and creativity and we are looking forward to seeing more of them in the next few years!!!



## YEAR 9 MOCK TRIAL

Students have been working on a case since October 2025 and have taken on various roles such as lawyers, witnesses and magistrates, and competed against 5 other schools in Chesterfield. They won the regional heat and have now progressed to the national heat in May! The Derby High Commissioner, Sir Richard Fitzherbert was really impressed with them and it was lovely to see how confidently they performed!



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HISTORY?



The History department were blown away by the creativity, effort and imagination shown in the Year 7 castle competition! The entries were absolutely fantastic, with incredible attention to detail and some truly impressive designs. Well done to all our Year 7s for such brilliant work - you should be very proud! A special well done to our winners:

7J Maeve T for her fantastic documentary featuring two different castle sites and a beautifully presented piece of work.  
7F Charlie C for an excellent castle and impressive detail in project booklet.

7C Graice R for a fabulous Bow and Arrow alongside project.

7S Lilah B's video that interviewed an archaeology Uni lecturer!

7A Freddie L for his super sized, fabulous shield!

7R Daisy Bell for her remarkable knitted castle!

And our overall winner:

Jenson E (7R) - a superb documentary exploring life in a Medieval castle which showed great creativity and managed to combine humour and historical knowledge - well done!

Last week, Year 8 students had an incredible trip to the Black Country Living Museum, and what a success it was! Students fully immersed themselves in their study of the Industrial Revolution, stepping back in time and experiencing history beyond the classroom. From riding on a vintage bus to seeing a penny farthing up close, and exploring the fascinating music shop, there was so much to discover. We were especially proud of how our students approached the day - with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a willingness to embrace new experiences. Their behaviour and engagement were truly outstanding, and they represented the school brilliantly.

A special shoutout goes to CeCe H (8C) and Lily W (8R), who impressed by playing a 1940s German piano during the visit!

Parents may also be interested to know that the museum is a key filming location for the hit series Peaky Blinders. Students unknowingly walked in the footsteps of the Shelby family as they explored "Charlie's Yard" and the historic streets and alleyways used in the show.



## YEAR 10 SPEAK OUT!

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March we welcomed Gabi from the Speak Out Challenge into school to join 10X1 English for the day. Gabi coached the class on the secret to making money, the secret to dealing with anxiety and the secret to not becoming overwhelmed. They started the day by introducing themselves and having to say one thing they believed. At the beginning of the day they were understandably quite nervous and unsure, but they all did it! By the end of the day, they had all stood up in front of their peers and delivered a speech about something they felt strongly about ranging from sport to keeping the arts alive to feminism. They spoke confidently, passionately and with so much enthusiasm for their chosen topics. We ended the session by picking eight 'winners' who can move forward to the next round who then could move onto a national round. Our winners are: Will S, Toby D, Holly B, Flo O, Dougie M, Annie D, Tess G and Ruby G. Miss Hammond is very proud of you all and what you achieved on the day. Well done 10x1 English

## FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Year 11 students have been busy creating their culinary masterpieces in their practical exams. With dishes ranging from raspberry meringue pie to spinach and ricotta ravioli, butter chicken with naan bread, beef empanadas, Tarte Tatin and Mille-feuille. Mrs Alton and Miss Davis are so proud of all their hard work! Well done Year 11!



## SHOUT OUT TO 9C!

Mrs Staley shared with me your tutor notice board where there is everything from crochet, media art, free hand drawing, jokes of the day and even our fantastic Hannah R who represented the England U17 indoor cricket team in India recently! WOW!

From classroom wins to personal achievements, they celebrate it all and encourage students to raise the bar and take pride in their achievements. Some remarkable achievements 9C!



## GEOGRAPHY AND ECO-GROUP CELEBRATE DAVID'S 100<sup>TH</sup>!

The Geography department and Eco group are set to celebrate David Attenborough's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with lots of fun quizzes, games over the month of May. Through Ro F's colourful poster here, the Eco group would like to launch a birthday card competition. This is for students to complete when they have time over Easter, and they can submit the week we return to school. This competition is open for Year 7-10 to try and will then be judged by Eco group and Geography for someone to win a prize for the best birthday card. Good luck!

# JF ORACY COMPETITION

A highlight of the term was the Annual Oracy Competition. Students were given the topic of British Values and had to plan a compelling speech to convince their peers and the judges why their British Value was the most important. Jasmine and Tess from Year 10 (last year's trophy winners!) along with Mrs Frost-Briggs and Mrs Hilton were the judges and were scoring students for their intonation and fluency, compulsion of argument, audience interaction, voice projection, confidence, eye contact and many more.



After much deliberation, first place went to 7S - Euan, Freddie and Noah for their beautifully learnt and rehearsed presentation with poem recital on mutual respect. It was full of kind messaging around the students' responsibility to take care of their school; just beautiful.

A gorgeous 2nd place entry from 10S - Amelia and Millie who explored with us what tolerance really means and how they wanted to reclaim the word, delivered through audience participation, music and a Jenga game!

A worthy 3rd place entry from 8S - Fran, Ella, Hanna and Layla who delivered a well-rehearsed and learnt presentation on the importance of democracy with smiles, clarity and voice projection.

Fantastic runners-up that did so well to get to the final were 9F - Connor and DB who explored a world and a JF without the rule of law, including a humorous video example of why we have rules! And also, 7R - Matthew, Jenson, Hannah and Glendon who presented to us on individual liberty with humour, great links to history and a little drama performance! Fantastic work everyone!



For the third year running, we have invited a hand-picked group of fourteen Y10 students to take part in The Brilliant Club, part of the Scholars Programme, that focuses the students on aspiring towards a place at university in the future.

The programme aims to give the students an opportunity to learn about a topic not usually covered in the school curriculum and this is delivered by a local university PhD student. This involves 6 tutorials on the theme chosen which are delivered in a lecture-type fashion.

This year's topic is on Psychological Skills Training Techniques which will be delivered by Emily from John Moores University, Liverpool and will begin on 25 March to 23 June.

The culmination of the course are seminars leading up to a final assessment where students are awarded a university-type grade based on their efforts and the standard of the work they have produced.



## YEAR 10 CAREERS FAIR

Our Year 10 students recently had the exciting opportunity to attend a local careers fair, where the whole year group explored a wide range of future pathways and professions. Throughout the visit, students engaged confidently with employers, training providers and further education representatives, asking thoughtful questions and gaining valuable insight into the world of work.

The event provided a fantastic chance for students to begin considering their next steps beyond school, and we were incredibly proud of the maturity and enthusiasm shown by our students, who represented the school brilliantly. This experience will play an important role in supporting their ongoing careers education and helping them to make informed decisions about their futures.



# MS WAITE MEANS BUSINESS!

**This term, our Year 10 Business students have been working incredibly hard to develop their exam technique, particularly focusing on how to structure high-quality 9-mark answers. To bring this learning to life, students in 10B took part in a debate-style lesson designed to mirror the decision-making and evaluation skills required in their exams. The class was split into two groups, with students selecting their own team leaders. Tommy J and Tristan R were elected by their peers to lead each side and showed excellent leadership, organisation and confidence in guiding their teams.**

**Each group was assigned a different argument relating to a business decision and worked collaboratively to prepare their case. What stood out most during this activity was the maturity shown by students. They listened respectfully to opposing viewpoints, built on each other's ideas, and challenged arguments in a thoughtful and constructive way. Students demonstrated a range of impressive skills, including clear communication, teamwork, critical thinking and the ability to justify their opinions using evidence.**

**We are looking forward to running this activity with our other Year 10 Business classes, who will also have the opportunity to develop these important academic and personal skills in an engaging and interactive way.**

# WORLD BOOK DAY 2026 AT JF!

Miss Mugridge designed a range of activities over the week to honour World Book Day! Tutor groups were decorating their tutor room doors, students were on a quest to discover who staff were dressed up as, there were celebration lunches, quizzes and treasure hunts! Among the winners were...

Samuel B and Maathav G in Y7 won the competition to identify the most staff characters and 8J won the tutor group door competition for their 'Hungry Caterpillar' design. Well done everyone!



## Duke of Edinburgh

Over the weekend, 37 of our Year 10 students successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expedition, demonstrating resilience, teamwork and determination throughout.

Students planned their own routes and navigated from Bakewell to Birchover, and then on to Matlock the following day, carrying all of their equipment for almost 10 miles, and working collaboratively to overcome challenges along the way. Despite some tired legs and a very chilly overnight camp, spirits remained high and students showed fantastic perseverance. It was wonderful to see friendships strengthened and confidence grow over the course of the weekend.

We were extremely proud of the positive attitude and respectful behaviour shown by all involved. This valuable experience has prepared students well for their assessed expedition in May.



## A WOMAN IN BLACK BY TESS G

I walked into the Nottingham Theatre Royal production of *The Woman in Black*, already anticipating something unnerving, but I left feeling utterly terrified! The play refused to run head first into horror, but instead, the two man cast built a relaxed comedy, even charmingly awkward at times. It was this atmosphere that made me acutely aware of every shadow in my peripheral vision. This performance was the epitome of a traditional ghost story, performed in such a way that I left the theatre still searching for that mysterious black-hooded figure.

As a part of GCSE Drama, we are taken to watch at least one piece of live theatre over our two year course. When I heard my first visit was going to be to watch *The Woman in Black*, I was consumed by both excitement and nerves. Would it be as scary as everyone claimed? Would I scream? Would it be good? The answer to all of those questions was yes! After studying Susan Hill's gothic novel in Year 9, my anticipation was already heightened. But there is something magical about the way live theatre fully submerges you in the story, suspense and spooks, that can't be obtained from reading. I truly felt as if I were alongside Arthur Kipps at the dreadfully haunting Eel Marsh House. Truly, it was terrific.

The two man cast did a superb job of uniquely telling the story and creating gripping suspense. We were initially introduced to the character of Arthur Kipps – bumbling, awkward and haunted by his past. Next, we then met The Actor, a perfect embodiment of theatrical confidence and composure. The two contradicted each other rather pleasantly, and as the play progressed, with The Actor taking on Arthur Kipps's story and Kipps himself portraying each other character, it was fascinating to watch how Arthur became less restrained by his ghosts (literally) and how in turn, they troubled The Actor. It definitely was an effective and unique approach to performing this horrific tale. Similarly, the minimalistic set and high usage of lighting and sound to create emotion, really tangled the audience in fright. Now, I just can't wait for my next school trip to the theatre!