

LVS OXFORD
SHOUT OUT

MARCH 2025



LVS Oxford: A Month Full of Achievements and Exciting Opportunities!

A message from
Mel

Once again, LVS Oxford has been **buzzing with activities and adventures** over the past four weeks!

Welcome to Our New Team Members

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest staff members:

- **Zoe**, our new **Math's teacher**, who brings a wealth of experience to the team.
- **Lara**, our **Horticulture teacher**, who is already guiding students in producing some fantastic fresh produce.
- **Chris**, who has joined our **administration team**, ensuring everything runs smoothly behind the scenes.

Work Experience Success

Our work experience program continues to thrive, with even more placements being offered at Blenheim, Soho, and Fairytale Farm. A huge congratulations to **Abi** and **Taylor** (Year 11), who have both secured apprenticeships following their work experience!

- **Abi** will be joining the **Soho team**.
- **Taylor** will start her apprenticeship at **Begbroke Nursery**, where she has spent the past year gaining hands-on experience.

These incredible opportunities wouldn't be possible without the fantastic support of our dedicated partners. A special mention to Zack, who continues to develop his skills at Blenheim Palace. Excitingly, Blenheim has nominated Zack for the **National Apprenticeship of the Year Award**—I'll keep you updated once the results are in!

Science Triumph at Begbroke Science Park

A massive congratulations to our Science Department, led by **Gladies**. Our students triumphed at the Begbroke Science Park Innovation Showcase—a truly outstanding achievement! You can read all about their success in this Shout Out. To celebrate, they enjoyed pizza and pop upon returning to school. We are incredibly proud of both the staff and students!

Celebrating Our Culinary Program

A special mention to **Debbie**, our Cooking teacher, who has made the subject so accessible and engaging for our students. Cooking is an essential part of our curriculum, teaching students' valuable life skills. Their talent is truly shining through, and I'm sure parents are loving their delicious creations!

Sporting Achievement

We can't forget **Chris Childs**, our Deputy Head, who triumphantly completed a loop of the demanding Beast of the Blacks Trail Race in Wales—a truly inspiring achievement. I might even join her next year!

Wishing You a Wonderful Easter

As we head into the break, I hope you all have a fantastic Easter—fingers crossed for some sunshine!

Best wishes,
Mel

BEBROKE SCIENCE INNOVATION SHOWCASE

LVS Students Triumph at Begbroke Science Park Innovation Showcase!

In March 2025, Year 9 and 10 science students from LVS took part in the Begbroke Science Park Innovation Showcase, competing against other local schools in a test of creativity and problem-solving.

The Challenge:

- Students were randomly assigned a topic—LVS students received: "**New wood nanofiber biomaterial steals strength record from spider silk.**"
- Their task was to transform this cutting-edge scientific concept into a viable business or commercial product.
- With just **45 minutes** and no access to phones or laptops, they had to rely entirely on creativity and teamwork.

The Competition:

- Teams pitched their ideas to an audience and a panel of judges, followed by a Q&A session.
- They also explored the Engineering and Applied Science research laboratories, gaining further insight into real-world innovation.

The Winning Idea:

LVS students conceptualised an advanced **armour** made from the groundbreaking material and named it "**INVINCIBLE.**" Their ingenuity, teamwork, and presentation skills impressed the judges—securing **first place!**

The Outcome:

🏆 **LVS students were crowned winners!**

📄 Each participant received a certificate.

🏆 The team proudly brought home an **impressive trophy.**

🍕 To celebrate their success, the winners enjoyed **pizza and pop** when they returned to school!

A huge **well done** to all involved—your hard work and creativity truly shone! 🎉

Year 9: Evan Davis and Raymond Gregory

Year 10: Joscelyn Goffey, Jake Payne, Serene Touma, Jasmin Shah, Seb Wehbe, Harry Wigginton

Not forgetting their science teacher Gladies Jayaraman Nair!



Congratulations To Our Worthy Winners



MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMEBERS



Hi, my name is Zoe. I have spent the past five years teaching Mathematics and Computer Science in mainstream secondary schools, and I am now thrilled to be joining LVS as a teacher of Maths and ICT. I am passionate about making these subjects engaging and accessible for all students. Outside of school, I enjoy getting outdoors for walks and making the most of the sunshine whenever possible. I also have a creative side and love spending my free time working on crochet, cross-stitch, and embroidery projects.

My name is Chris Jaques. I started with LVS on 6 January this year. I am enjoying my new role at LVS and have been made very welcome. I have three grown up children and enjoy spending time with them. I am a big football fan and I enjoy swimming and tennis. I very much enjoy reading and music and I am a keen traveller. A change of scene, even if it's just down the road, always seems to help. This year I am aiming to enjoy my garden as much as possible and debating whether to concentrate on geraniums or begonias.



Work Experience – Blenheim Palace

Student
WORK
EXPERIENCE

Recently, students participating in a work experience program at Blenheim gained valuable hands-on experience by carrying out essential health and safety checks on the mobility scooters provided for visitors.

As part of their training, they ensured that the scooters were in proper working condition, helping to maintain a safe and accessible environment for all guests.

In addition to their role in safety inspections, the students also worked in the customer service department, where they assisted visitors in upgrading their day tickets to annual passes. Through this experience, they developed key communication and problem-solving skills while gaining insight into the importance of excellent customer service in a busy visitor attraction.



Student
WORK
EXPERIENCE





Brayden Year 8

Brayden's confidence in the kitchen has grown significantly since he started cooking at LVS. He is now independently preparing meals for his family at home, demonstrating excellent kitchen safety and hygiene. He uses proper cutting techniques and follows colour-coded chopping board guidelines. Additionally, Brayden has even baked a birthday cake for a family member. Well, done, Brayden! This is an amazing achievement, and I'm so proud of you!

Debbie



YEAR 9 ENGLISH



SHOUT
OUT

Year 9 have recently completed their unit on the non-fiction autobiography *Touching the Void* by crafting their own mountaineering stories. Here are the openings of two particularly impressive pieces:



SHOUT
OUT

It was my first time climbing a mountain. Climbing was something I always knew I was going to do as I promised to follow in my father's footsteps. This was because he went to climb this mountain, he had wanted to reach the top of for his whole life and failed by dying from a combative and aggressive avalanche. And before he went, he said if he failed, he would want me to achieve his goal for him.

So that is what I will do today. I can't tell yet if making the decision to go alone is the wrong move. But I can't go back now as I have already committed. I had somehow slept silently without a single nightmare through the night. I woke up in the morning faced with a bright sun and a cerulean, blue sky. My surroundings made my confidence ascend really high. I then knew I could do this, and I would do this.

I left base camp and began to stroll over to the mountain desperately trying to get rid of hesitation. I reached the mountain and glared up at it. My heart felt like a fist punching and punching trying to break out of my body. I took a deep breath and began to climb. I felt the wind on my face getting more forceful and making my eyes water as I ascended higher. I got to a couple of points where I thought about going back down again because my face was briskly getting frostbite, and I almost did go back down but I managed to drag myself out of that thought.

CARA

The sky was a startling azure blue in the year 2010. when we awoke at base camp on top of the k2 mountain in China. Levi had been snoring all night and I felt apprehensive. Later, into the morning we set off for the top of the mountain's peak looking below we saw a crevasse that had opened, and I remembered the devastating fatality that happened 5 years back.

when my father attempted to save me after my foot got stuck and I was hanging upside down for hours. He left to go get a fire truck to climb up and rescue me when he got to the top of the ladder and got me down with people at different points of the ladder then life slowed down. Everything just came to a halt; I could see each individual snowflake slowly fall. When the ground gave way from the weight of the truck my father jumped over and threw me out of the way. Just as I turned around to see him, he was gone.

Shortly after the cave in the mountaineering police showed up and started looking for any survivors. A while later They found everyone's remains except his. So, after days of searching, they finally brought the case to a close and my mother was devastated by the loss of her husband.

RAYMOND

Year 10 Students visiting the Begbroke Community Coffee Morning



In January, some of our students had the wonderful opportunity to meet and engage in meaningful conversations with members of the local community in the warm and welcoming setting of Begbroke Village Hall. This relaxed environment allowed them to connect, share experiences, and build relationships, making it a valuable and enriching experience for everyone involved.



Maths Term of the Week – 7X

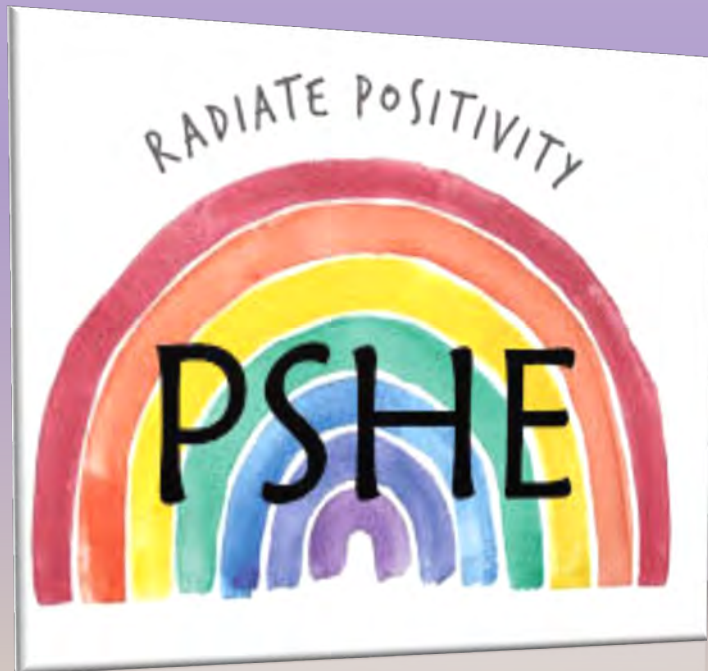
7X practice their maths term of the week through the mini white board challenge. Last week they hunted for examples of perpendicular lines around the school building, finding more than 100 between them. This week they sought out polygons and drew some of the different shaped polygons they identified.



Pancake Day



All lower school students have applied their learned skills to make pancakes. As they worked with hobs and hot oil, they remained vigilant in following health and safety guidelines in the kitchen. The best part obviously was the tasting!



Year 11 will be working on **Module 9: Financial choices** where they will learn about different types of bank accounts, credit and debit cards and debt / how to avoid it or manage it.

Year 10 will be working on **Module 4: Alcohol** where they will learn about alcohol content in drinks, the effects of alcohol on the body and mental health.

Year 9 will be working on **Module 2: Keeping Safe and Healthy** where they will learn about what constitutes a healthy lifestyle and personal safety

Year 7/8 will be working on **consent and boundaries and understanding our identity.**

As a whole school we will also be introducing the topic radicalisation and extremism.

Tash

THERAPY TEAM
Health and Wellbeing
“It doesn’t have to be a barrier to learning”

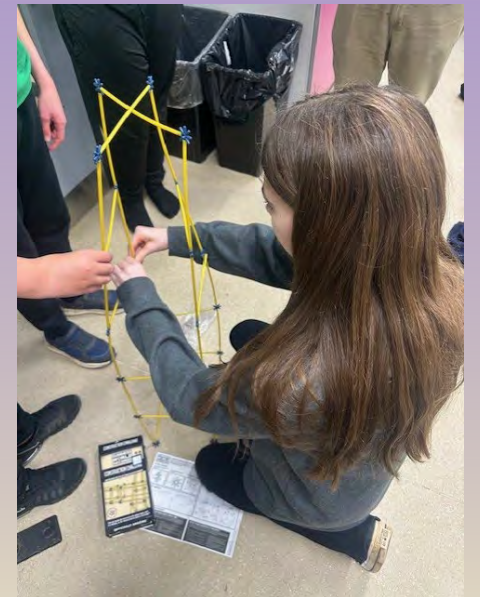


The therapy team have recently put together a programme of therapeutic activities for the Health and Wellbeing lessons. Helped by Tash Tillyer, Bruce Strouts (Therapy Assistant) has worked on developing children’s fine motor and communication skills using Lego and a barrier. The children had to:

- Use a variety of functional hand grips with the aim of using these grips in other tasks, such as handwriting and feeding, just to name a few.
- Communicate verbally to a partner the building of a Lego construction. The children had to consider concepts (over, under, through etc). The listener on the other hand had to follow the instructions.

The overall aim of a barrier game is that when the barrier is removed everyone has identical results.

Following on from the barrier activity the children had the opportunity to work on developing their team building skills. Bruce and Tash facilitated an activity where the children had to build a tower with straws and connectors. Who could build the biggest tower? The children had to work effectively as a team. They also worked on developing their fine motor skills. All in all a great session.



MATHS TERMS OF THE WEEK FOR SCHOOL TERM 4

Maths Term of the Week TERM 4 2025 WEEK 1 **MATHS TERMS**

Tell me what it is:
Two lines are **perpendicular** if they form (or will eventually form) a right-angle.

Tell me more:
The lines can be any length. They do not have to be horizontal and vertical.

Show me what it is: **Perpendicular**

Show me what it isn't:

Parallel

Maths Term of the Week TERM 4 2025 WEEK 2 **MATHS TERMS**

Tell me what it is:
A **polygon** is a 2D shape which has three or more connected straight lines.

Tell me more:
Polygon means 'many angles'. A polygon can have any number of straight sides.

Show me what it is: **Polygon**

Show me what it isn't:

Maths Term of the Week TERM 4 2025 WEEK 3 **MATHS TERMS**

Tell me what it is:
Reflection is a type of transformation where all points of the object and image are the same distance from a mirror line but in the opposite direction.

Tell me more:
It can be thought of as 'flipping' an object over a mirror line.

Show me what it is: **Reflection**

Show me what it isn't:

Maths Term of the Week TERM 4 2025 WEEK 4 **MATHS TERMS**

Tell me what it is:
A **regular polygon** is a polygon with equal side lengths and equal sized interior angles.

Tell me more:
The sides must be straight. The sides must be connected.

Show me what it is: **Regular Polygon**

Show me what it isn't:

Maths Term of the Week TERM 4 2025 WEEK 5 **MATHS TERMS**

Tell me what it is:
Rotation is a type of transformation where the points of an object are turned by a given angle, in a given direction, around a specific point.

Tell me more:
It can be thought of as 'turning' an object around a point.

Show me what it is: **Rotation**

Show me what it isn't:

Maths Term of the Week TERM 4 2025 WEEK 6 **MATHS TERMS**

Tell me what it is:
An object has **rotational symmetry** if it looks the same as its original orientation whilst being turned.

Tell me more:
The 'order' of rotational symmetry is the number of times the object looks the same throughout a full turn. Order 1 means no rotational symmetry.

Show me what it is: **Rotational Symmetry**

Show me what it isn't:

YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY – ORIENTEERING SKILLS

To consolidate their map reading skills across term 3 – the Year 7s undertook some orienteering challenges around the school site.

Firstly, the students took turns to hide a straw behind the trees. They then guided their partner to the straw using only the verbal commands ‘forwards’ ‘backwards’ ‘left’ ‘right’ and ‘number of paces’. Excellent teamwork skills were seen across the board.

Armed with a site map of the school, the groups then used the map to locate orienteering flags around the site, matching the corresponding number on the flag with the letter on the map. They showed great perseverance and observation skills in locating the flags and helping each other along the way.



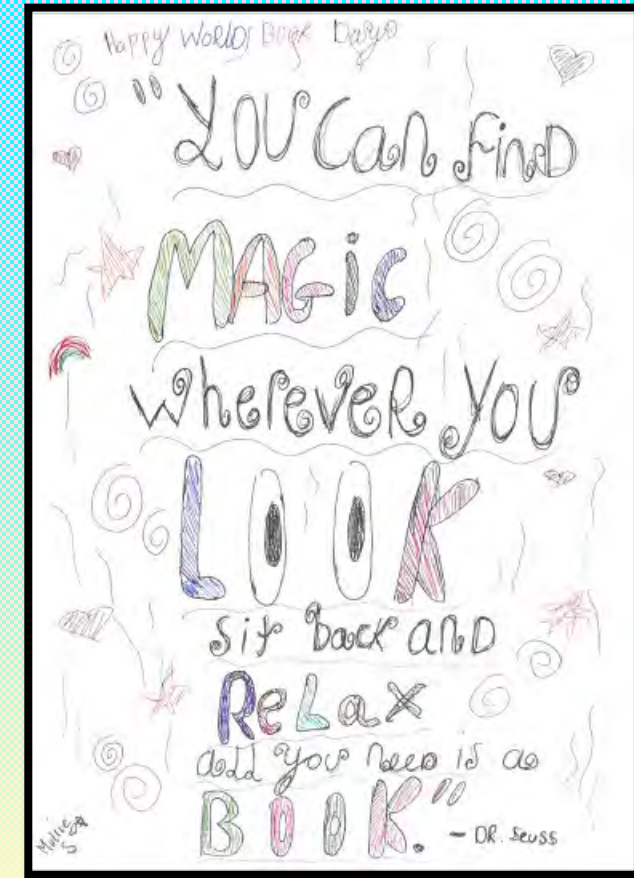
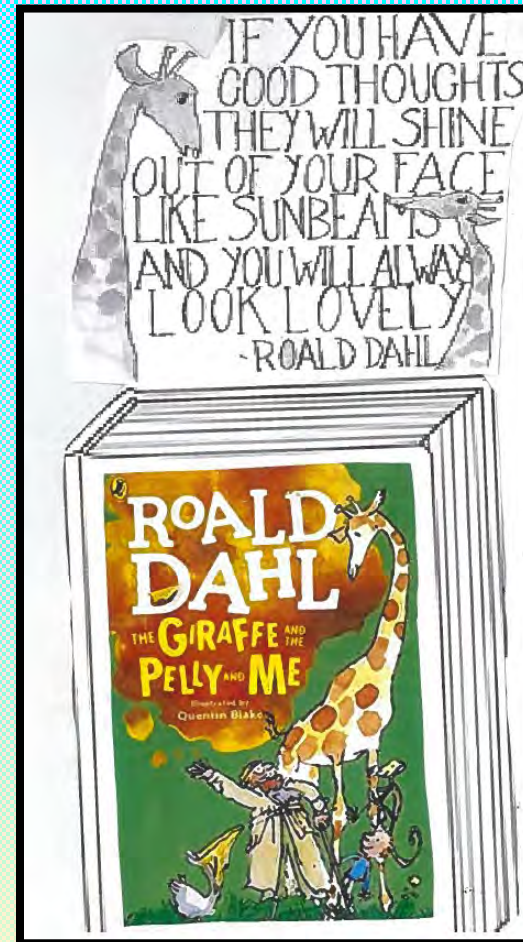
BOOK QUOTE COMPETITION WINNERS

Thank you to all the students who took part - I have certificates for all of you.

The winner was Logan, and the runner up was Mollie S
Congratulations!

Well done everyone.

Chris



YEARS 8Y & 9Y – OUTDOOR LEARNING

8Y and 9Y Outdoor Learning Students Shine at the 'LVS Commonwealth Games'!

Students from **8Y and 9Y Outdoor Learning** enthusiastically took part in the **LVS Commonwealth Games**, an exciting event designed to foster teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal growth.

Throughout the activities, they actively applied their knowledge of **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)**, demonstrating respect, fairness, and collaboration. They also practiced using their newly learned **EDI-related vocabulary**, reinforcing their understanding in a dynamic, real-world setting.

Beyond the educational benefits, the day was filled with **energy, laughter, and fun**, giving students the chance to develop both their **social and physical skills** in an inclusive and supportive environment.

Well done to all who took part! 🍷



CAREERS WEEK 2025

What is National Careers Week?

- It's a chance to focus on careers guidance and education
- It helps you to understand, realise and fulfill your career goals
- It helps you to feel confident about the future and focused on what you need to do now



Why Think About Careers Now?

- Discover what interests you
- Learn about cool jobs
- Get inspired for your future
- Speak to family about their careers
- Think about colleges and courses that may interest you



What should I be doing?

Reflect

What makes you, you? Think about what is important to you. When you imagine the best version of you in the future, what do you see? Try a personality quiz.

Be Curious

Find out about people's jobs and careers. Start by asking the adults you know about what they do at work and how they ended up doing the jobs that they are doing.

Get Involved

You will only find out what you are good at by trying lots of new things. Be okay with failing, be prepared to learn from mistakes

To kick off our Careers Week, running from Monday, 17th to Friday, 21st, students attended a careers assembly. The assembly highlighted the importance of career guidance in our school, emphasising why it's valuable to start thinking about future careers as early as Year 7. It also introduced how Gayle and our staff are here to support students throughout this journey.

Students will engage with a range of career-focused activities, including worksheets and informative videos shown during tutor periods. Earlier this week Upper School students attended CareersFest at the Kassam Stadium, where they had the opportunity to connect with both local and national employers. Next week, we are excited to welcome Lorraine Wing from Blenheim Palace, one of our key work experience partners. As our dedicated work experience mentor, Lorraine will share insights about her career journey.

How Do I Help You?

- **Cool work Experience** – Teaming up with businesses to help you try out jobs to develop employability skills and roles that match your interests and future goals.
- **Parent Involvement** – Getting your parents involved in finding great work experience and colleges that suit you
- **College and Career Info** – I will keep you and your parents updated on college open events, courses and what is next after LVS
- **College Visits** – In upper school we will visit local colleges to check out the campus and chat with tutors
- **Career Events** – School activities like assemblies, invite colleges in to help you explore different career paths and get excited about the future
- **Advice from Past Students** – Hear real-life stories from former students that have moved on to colleges, apprenticeships etc
- **Meet Employers** – At careers days such as CareersFest
- **Meet Employers** – Invite people in to talk about their specific careers
- **Career Chats** – one to one career chats with me and your tutors to help plan your future and to set goals to help you achieve this
- **Interview Practice** – Once you have applied to college we can help you prepare for college/apprenticeship interviews with mock interviews
- **Extra Support** – I will arrange extra visits to colleges if you need a little extra help to make the move to college easier


KEEP CALM AND LET ME HELP YOU

YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES

Thoughtful Thursdays



For '*Thoughtful Thursdays*' during tutor time, students are encouraged to *think hard* and talk about interesting quotes or images.

This provides an opportunity for our students to develop their thinking skills and explore values.

"Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought."

John F. Kennedy



Thrills ... and Terror at The Beast of the Blacks Trail Race – 8th March 2025

I triumphantly completed a loop of the demanding **Beast of the Blacks Trail Race** in Wales, earning a medal for my achievement. Battling across tough terrain, I ran most of the course alone, navigating the steep climbs and descents of the rugged mountain range.

As part of the race's compulsory kit, I carried specialist running gear and emergency supplies. At the highest elevations, the wind was so intense that I had to use poles for balance—an essential factor in maintaining stability in the gusty conditions.

Although I made excellent progress through the second loop, I made the wise decision to retire from the race before attempting the steepest and highest section: the ascent to **Waun Fach** (pictured). The risks of getting lost or injured at that stage were too great, especially as I had already secured a **Finisher's medal** and earned an impressive **4th place in my age category**.

My determination and tactical thinking on the day were key, and even though I didn't complete both loops, I embraced the true spirit of a tenacious trail runner.

Chris Childs





WOW Libby Year 10



On Saturday 1st March Libby played Captain Patrick Parmalot in two Youth Theatre productions of Death on Deck - a Poirot style play written by her director. With two murder attempts, long lost family members, deception and forgery on the Nile, the 13 young actors entertained the audience for 90 minutes with not a forgotten line in sight. Libby joined the Haddenham Youth Theatre back in September and has been working hard since then to improve her acting skills and learn her part. Libby's hard work paid off as she was given the prestigious award for 'Super Stage Presence', Libby is looking forward to next chance to show off her acting skills.



HADDENHAM.NET

For more photos and to read the full review please click on the link above



Year 8 science practical experiment: Reflection of Light

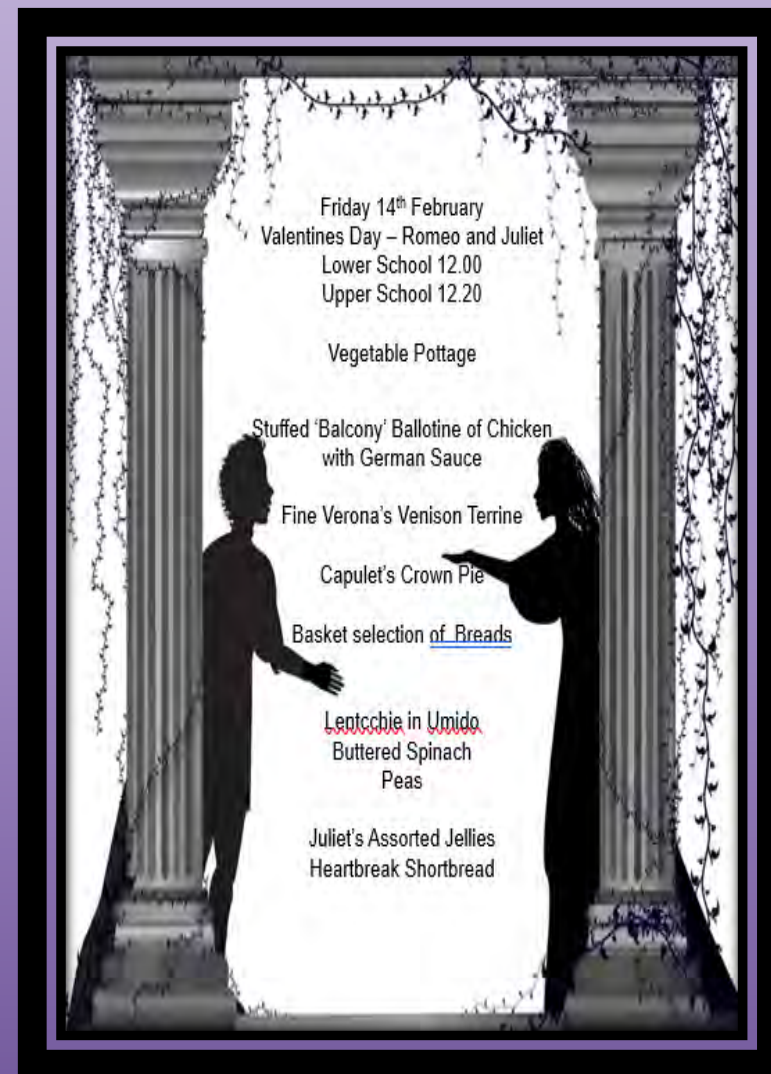
Year 8 students conducted a practical experiment on the reflection of light, where they explored how light bounces off different surfaces. Using mirrors, ray boxes, and protractors, they investigated the relationship between the angle of incidence and the angle of reflection. This hands-on activity helped them understand the fundamental principles of reflection and how light behaves when it encounters a reflective surface.





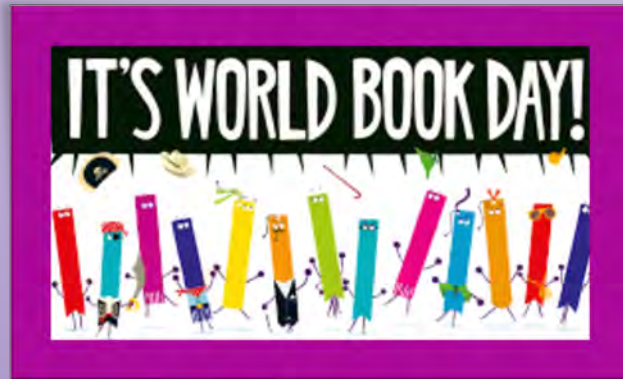
On the final day of term, which coincided with Valentine's Day, our fantastic catering team, **Sodexo**, treated students and staff to a special dining experience. They designed a **Romeo and Juliet-themed menu**, inspired by the timeless Shakespearean love story, featuring a selection of delicious dishes.

This thoughtful gesture from Sodexo brought an extra touch of joy to the end-of-term celebrations, making the day even more memorable for everyone!

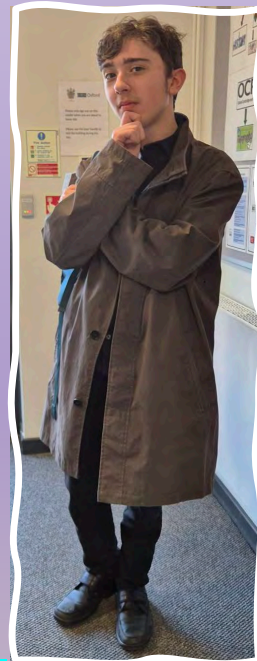




WINNERS
STUDENT – BRODY
STAFF – DEBBIE



Students and staff fully embraced the excitement of World Book Day on Thursday, March 6th—just look at those amazing costumes!

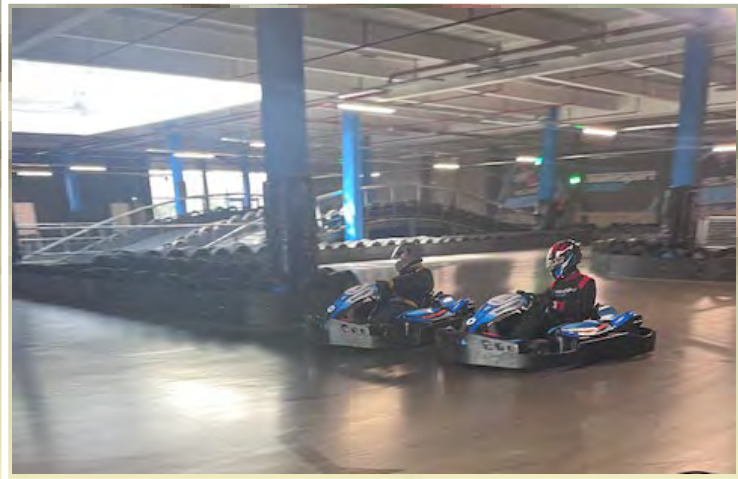


Tiama also received a prize from Mel.



BRODY YEAR II

Brody recently had an unforgettable day out! He reunited with his old friends, Joel and Toby, who headed off to college in 2024, and together they hit the go-kart track for an action-packed afternoon. With high speeds, plenty of laughs, and a bit of friendly competition, it was the perfect way to catch up!



Identify (Exam Word)

Verb



Meaning: to recognise someone or something and say or prove who or what that person or thing is.

'Using Figure 2, identify two features of Hurricane Dorian. (2 marks)'

Week commencing 17th March

Outline (Exam Word)

Verb



Meaning: to give the main facts about something.

'Outline one way that planning can reduce the impact of tropical storms. (2 marks)'

Week commencing 24th March



A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS LACEY – EXAMS OFFICER

Functional Skills and GCSE exams 2024-2025

- We are already booking in functional skills exams for our year 10 and 11 students. In preparation for exams, there are range of qualification policies that we are required to adhere to for all entry level, functional skills and GCSE exams.
- These can be found by going to <https://www.lvs-oxford.org.uk/learning/exam-results-coping-tools/#page-row-5>. Please take the time to visit and look at the policies by the JCQ and the LVS Oxford policies for exams.
- On the exam dates, there are planned functional skills exams – these, however, can be subject to change. What cannot be changed are the actual GCSE exam dates set for May and June 2025. The art exam is set for March before we break for Easter, enabling students to have additional revision time with subject teachers for GCSEs.
- In addition to the policies and exam dates, are some coping tools for both students and parents.
- If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact.

Chris Lacey